The Times.

THE TIMES COMPANY.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1900.

THE DUTY OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE.

We have no idea of allowing the discussion of a great principle in our civil government to degenerate into a mere criticism of an individual.

A crisis arose in the administration of the government of the State at Emporia on last Friday and Saturday, when a mob assembled there and were about to take the law into their own hands. The representatives of the State opposing this mob, and sworn to uphold her peace and dignity, were the judge of the County Court, the sheriff of the county, and the Governor.

The mob had its way and two men were hung. The question has been raised from the reported facts, whether the Governor exercised the powers he has under the law to prevent that mob violence or not.

The Governor says he did all he could. We say he did not. There is no personal attack on the Governor, because we have a high personal regard for him, and would under no circumstances do him an injustice or wound his feelings; but he occupies a very high and important official position, and his acts are the subject of fair criticism. The case should be fully reviewed for the sake of public interests, and we should know what we have to rely upon in the event of an outburst of popular frenzy and ferocity like that at Emporia.

Governor Tyler pleads that he did not know the true condition of affairs at Emporia. We reply to that that it was his business to know. The judge of the County Court had telegraphed him that the presence of troops was necessary to prevent the mob from lynching a prisoner confined in the jail. The troops were sent, and we do the Governor the justice to say that he responded with commendable promptness to Judge Goodwyn's request for soldiers. The situation was so serious that the Govenor at first determined himself to accompany the troops, but for some reason changed his mind and remained at home. He knew, we say, that the situation was very grave, that there was danger of mob violence. He had even been informed that threats were made against the life of Judge Goodwyn. Therefore, we say, it was the Governor's duty to satisfy himself beyond peradventure that there would be no breach of the law before he consented to withdraw the troops.

But, with all due respect to the Governor, we insist that he did know that if the troops should be withdrawn there would be a lynching at Emporia. Major Cutchins, the officer in command of the troops, telegraphed him in plain language: "Without protection the prisoner will be lynched to-night. Shall I obey the sheriff's orders and leave?" He did not say there might be, or there would probably be. There were no "ifs" or "ands" about it. He said as plainly as he could that the prisoner would be lynched if the troops should be withdrawn at the dictation of the sheriff. It was right here that the Governor made his fatal mistake. What did the Cutchins telegram mean? It meant, and the Governor ought to have understood it, that the sheriff was either unwilling or unable to defend the jail against the mob and uphold the law, and in either event it was the Governor's duty to take matters into his own hands. The Governor says that he had been "given to understand that protection would be given the prisoners." But Major Cutchins said: "Without protection (military protection) the prisoners will be lynched to-night. Shall I obey the sheriff's orders and leave?" In other words, "No matter what the sheriff tells you, if I obey his order and withdraw my troops, the prisoners will be lynched to-night, and the sheriff knows it."

There is also this significant admonition in the same message to the Governor: "Hold company at the armory." That referred to the reinforcements which Major Cutchins had previously asked for. How could the Governor have misunderstood this? "Hold company at armory" meant keep the men armed and ready to move at a moment's notice. Major Cutchins said as plainly as he could, without appearing to dictate to the Governor, "I know that you will wire me to remain, and I want that other company from Richmond to start for Emporia the moment I telegraph for it." Major Cutchins has been very guarded in all that he has said since he was first ordered to Emporia, and he has spoken in the kindest terms of the Governor. But his meaning in the telegram, above cited, is so plain that it cannot be misunderstood. Therefore, it must have been a great surprise to him when the Governor's reply was received. "The sole responsibility," said the Governor, "is on the sheriff. If he orders you to withdraw you can do nothing but obey. We have done everything possible to uphold law and prevent mob violence and are still prepared to render any aid necessary. Have recalled train with Captain Cheatwood's company, and will again dismiss them."

There never was a more unconditional surrender. Troops at Emporia ordered home; troops at home "dismissed"; the State's prisoners abandoned to their fate, and before Major Cutchins and his men reached Richmond the first victim of the mob's fury had been swung up. Governor Tyler knew, as well as he could foreknow anything, that there would be a lynching. He did not question the positive statement made to him by Major Cutchins. His reply, in effect, was that the "Executive was exhausted," and the mob would have to do its worst.

We do not mean to shield the local officials at Emporia, but we do say that the Governor of Virginia is responsible for the savage breach of the law at Emporia on Saturday last, and he cannot clear his own skirts by shifting the blame to the county sheriff. If he had wired Major Cutchins to hold his ground and defend the law, there would have been no lynching, and all men, save such as were in sympathy with the mob, would have praised the Governor for his courageous devotion to duty.

We would not appear to pursue and harrass the Governor. It is very far from our disposition to give him pain, but a great principle is involved, a principle in which the people are vitally concerned. The surrender of the Governor of Virginia and the Greensville County authorities to the mob, the lynching of a negro by white men and the lynching of a white man by negroes, as a matter of compensation, have done more than any similar group of outrageous acts since the war to rally the lawless element and bring the law into contempt. Yet the Governor, in defending his course, seems to serve notice that hereafter if a mob in any county can manage to intimidate or deceive the sheriff, or make him drunk, and intimidate the judge, it may have its own way for any intereference it may meet at the hands of the Chief Executive. We are unwilling that such a precedent shall be established. The Governor of Virginia is clothed with sufficient authoritiy to suppress riot and preserve the peace whenever and wherever the local authorities cannot or will not uphold the law. We say that Governor Tyler has at his command the entire military force of the State, and that he should have called out every soldier in the State, and that he should have exhausted every resource, both civil and military, before permitting the mob at Emporia to break into the jail and hang men who were in the State's custody. Our plea is for law and order and the courage to maintain it at all hazard and at any cost.

SOME MORE YELLOW JOURNALISM.

We can candidly say that in our judgment there is no demoralizing influence now operating upon the public mind in these United States more potent than that part of the newspaper press called yellow journalism. The thing was hardly known of twenty years back, and it owes it commencement and fruition to Pulitzer, proprietor of the New York World, who conceived the idea and worked it most persistently until he had made the World synonymous with almost everything vile and odious in public affairs. He has been most ably seconded by the proprietor of the New York Journal, until that sheet is fairly entitled to dispute the infamous pre-eminence to which both aspire with the World.

No issue of the World or Journal is without evidence of the character of announcements to which both are dedicated, but we copy from last Sunday's World the following special telegram from London as a specimen:

LONDON, March 24.—The War Office is doing all it can to stave off inquiries into the scandals over war contracts.

In one case Messrs. Kynoch supplied a million cartridges without any nickel coating on the bullet. These cartridges were passed by the War Office and only rejected on reaching Cape Town.

Kynochs' factory is virtually owned by the Chamberlain family. Arthur Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary's brother, is chairman and managing director, with a salary. He holds 3,326 shares. His daughters have 1,000 more. Austen Chamberlain, M. P., Civil Lord of the Admiralty and son of the Colonial Secretary, owns 1,000, while other members of the family and their connections have large parcels of Kynochs' stock. The total present market value of the holding of the Chamberlain family in that company is close to a million dollars.

Bribery in connection with war contracts is known to be rampant in the War Department, but, with its chiefs regarding the continuance of corruption as a lesser evil than its exposure and cure, every obstacle will be thrown in the way of those who demand the latter.

This is a mere specimen. There were special telegrams of the same nature from every capitol in Europe in that issue of the World. It is by no means certain that they are even special telegrams. Those who remember the World's part in the "Col. Replippe W. Thenuz" incident will have no difficulty in suspecting that these "specials" are all manufactured in the World's garret along with the other garbage that it daily dishes out to prurient appetites.

We have no idea that there is one word of truth in this pretended "special." The English War Office is an antiquated machine, and most injuriously under the influence of red tape and officialdom, but no one ever charged that there was corruption in it. Indeed, no one ever thinks of charging corruption in any part of her Majesty's service, and the reason is that her officers are all appointed by the Queen or by her responsible ministers, and not elected by the corrupt practices of politics. That is the point where our institutions contrast so unfavorably with English institutions, and if ours ever break down it will be through the injury done them by corrupt elections.

During our war with Spain, as every one will recollect, it was the daily practice of the World and the Journal to charge upon our War Department every vice and job they could conceive of, and we are very sorry to say that they produced some effect even upon our own mind. We are now satisfied that a great part, if not all, of their libellious charges were slanders, conceived in their own vile imaginations and put out before the world as a means of selling their villianous sheets. We say this because we fear we were ourselves led into giving some currency to their criminal accusations and thereby doing innocent parties a wrong.

EMPORIA'S PLEA.

We printed in yesterday's paper a communication from citizens of Emporia in reply to an editorial article in The Times of Sunday, in which this remarkable language is used:

But we, knowing the situation, the outraged feelings of the neighbors and friends of the two murdered men, and how incensed they were against the troops being here, and their objections to the removal of the prisoners, and their indignation increasing all the time, we thought it a certainty if the troops remained there would be useless blood shed through a conflict between the troops and the friends and neighbors of the murdered men, for there was every indication of an attack being made on the troops to procure the prisoners and to prevent their being taken away from here.

We are informed that representatives of the mob waited upon Major Cutchins to inquire of him if he really intended to "shoot to kill," in the event that the mob should make an assault upon the jail, and they actually seemed to be surprised when Major Cutchins told them that he was there to defend the State's prisoners and would do so to the last shot and the last man. "Would you shoot old friends to protect a murderer?" they asked. "Not to protect a murderer," he replied, "but to protect the law."

Subsequently a citizen of Emporia saw Major Cutchins, so we are informed, and advised him that it would be reckless for him to make any stand against the mob should an assault upon the jail be made. That if he resisted, the mob would slay every one of his soldiers and that it would be a needless sacrifice of life. Therefore the prudent thing for him to do was to fire over the heads of the mob and then gracefully retire!

This communication is shocking to us. The soldiers were sent to Emporia by the Governor of the State to uphold the law and to see that there was no mob violence. It was the same thing as if they had been mobilized in the Capitol grounds at Richmond to protect the written laws of the State from the sacrilege of an enemy. Yet, Major Cutchins was seriously advised, and those citizens of Emporia, who addressed the signed card to The Times, take the same view, that it were better for the soldiers to retire and leave the mob in possession of the field than that human life should be sacrificed in resisting the mob. Was ever such a humiliating pronouncement from representative citizens of Virginia? This comes from no lack of courage. We know the men of Greensville county. We know several of the men who signed that card in The Times. We know the stock from which they came. We have known them for years and years, and we know that they are brave men and would never run from an enemy. But they utterly failed to grasp the situation. They did not seem to see that there was a contest between representatives of the law and a howling mob, that the fair name of old Virginia was involved and that if there ever was a cause since the world began when Virginia soldiers were called upon to stand firm and to fight and, if need be, to die in defence of principle, it was then and there at Emporia on Saturday last. Run away from a mob rather than shoot? Run away from a mob rather than be shot? Surely the brave men of Greensville county were beside themselves. They did not grasp the situation. They did not know of what stuff Sol. Cutchins and his men were made.

God forbid that we should do the people of Emporia an injustice. There are men there whom we have known and loved from childhood, and there are no better and truer men anywhere than are to be found among the representative citizens of that county. But the mob ruled at Emporia on Saturday. It was a mad, infuriated, blood-thirsty mob, and it committed acts which The Times as a public newspaper is in duty bound to condemn and denounce.

SOUTHERN NOTES.

Rev. Arthur Crane, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Charleston, S. C., preached a sensational sermon there last Sunday on vice and sin in that city. During the previous week he had visited the "blind tigers," gambling houses and questionable resorts, and his sermon was a tirade against these places. He told some amusing stories, and had the congregation in a flutter of merriment. The sermon made a sensation.

* * *

Here is another story about a South Carolina preacher: Rev. J. E. McManaway, pastor of the First Baptist Church at Greers, S. C., went into his pulpit Sunday with black eyes and a swollen face, the result of a fight with Louis Cannon, a young man well known in the community. There was a dispute as to whether or not a certain lot in the cemetery belong to David Cannon, one of his prominent members. Young Cannon, hearing that the preacher had made some slurring remarks about his father, called on Mr. McManaway and demanded an apology. The preacher disclaimed the remarks attributed to him, but, on being attacked by Cannon, made a good fight.

* * *

Atlanta did not invite Admiral Dewey to partake of its hospitality during his recent Southern tour. The reason assigned is that Dewey promised to visit Atlanta on the occasion of the Brumby celebration, and after the fact had been well advertised, he sent a telegram saying that he could not come, but never gave any satisfactory reason, and the Atlanta people think that he treated them badly.

* * *

Captain John Hurley, of Macon, died from injuries received in a runaway on Friday afternoon of last week. He had been riding in the Dewey parade, and was on his way home when his horse became frightened and ran. He was thrown violently to the ground, and was so badly injured that he never regained consciousness.

AFTERMATH.

Letters have been received from Samuel L. Clemens, "Mark Twain," saying that he and his family would soon return to Hartford, and take up their permanent home their.

* * *

A vein of anthracite coal has been found in the Lehigh coal field near Hazleton, Pa., which promises to be richer than any yet worked in that region, both as to quantity and quality.

* * *

Farmers in the western part of Kansas will attend the National Democratic Convention in large numbers. They will form delegations from counties, fit up old-fashioned covered wagons and move in caravans across the State to Kansas City, where the convention is to be held.

* * *

The New York Tribune relates this interesting story: In the eighties the late Dr. Thomas K. Beecher, of Elmira, was nominated for Congress from his district, and the politicians had about conceded that he would be elected, when his church people found out that his prospects were good and set out to defeat him. One of the most singular campaigns in the history of American politics resulted. All of Mr. Beecher's personal friends and church friends worked like beavers against him and voted solidly for his opponent, with the result that he was defeated by a narrow margin. The attitude of the church people was that they could not afford to lose their minister, and they won the fight.

* * *

A blossom festival was held last week at the little town of Saratoga, in the Santa Clara Foothills, Cal. Six carloads of visitors went from San Francisco and other places, and spent the day driving through prune and other orchards in full blossom, and in admiring the lavish display of flowers in all the farmhouse yards. The festival was so successful that it will probably be made a regular feature.

The Veteran.

Nuthin' but fightin' an' fightin'! I'm
gittin' too old fer it now
But when I hear bullets a-whizzin', I
want to jine in anyhow!
Jest readin' the news in the paper o' how
they are blazin' away
Makes me cut up the queerest o' capers,
an' hooray the old-time hooray!

Nuthin' but fightin' an' fightin'—guns from
the East to the West,
An' me on a furlough that's left me forever an' ever at rest!
Step sorter haltin' an' feeble—eyes that air
lackin' the light,
An' my heart keepin' time to the drumbeat when I see the boys hep to the
right!

Nuthin' but fightin' an' fightin', an' nuthin' that's left me to do;
An' yit I'm as willin' as ever—an' yet I
wuz raised to it, too!
I tell you, my eyes they git misty when
I'm hearin' the news o' the fray,
To think I kin only jest hear it, an' stay
home an' holler "Hooray!"

Didn't I face it with "Stonewall?" Didn't
I foller "Bob" Lee?
Didn't he say fer a-many a day there
warn't any fighter like me?
An' now, whilst they're rippin' an' rearin',
an' doin' their deadliest do,
I can't take a han' in the scrimmage
with the boys in the jackets o' blue!

"Laid up!" Them's the words I'm a-sayin' all o' the days an' the years:
Laid up! whilst the ban's air a-playin'—
laid up on the shelf fer repairs!
An' I hear how they're fightin' the battles—I see the boys marchin' away,
An' all I kin do fer my country is to
stay home an' holler "Horay!"

—Frank L. Stanton, in the Saturday Evening Post.

Mobocracy and Its Baleful Fruits.

Editor of The Times:

Sir,—The value of The Times to the material and moral welfare of our State can scarcely be estimated. Its spirit is heroic, and heroism is the need of the hour. A time-serving, self-seeking journalism in the midst of such evils as confront us to-day is not only worthless, but contemptible. Your fearless and burning phillipics against the Greensville county disgrace will live when every cowardly apologist for it is buried and forgotten.

The bravest and noblest men are fallible. In their zeal for a great cause they sometimes misjudge others. I am sure that The Times will allow me to say that, after a careful study of all the facts in the case, I am convinced that it has made a mistake in fixing the responsibility for the withdrawal of the military from Emporia upon the Governor. I am confident that when the matter is thoroughly ventilated, the verdict of the public will be that Governor Tyler did all that the laws of the State would permit him to do. He has shown himself to be a courageous man. We cannot name any occasion on which he has shirked responsibility. He has dared to do things which he knew were unpopular, because he believed his oath of office required him to do them. His conduct in the Emporia matter was directed by the law as interpreted by the best lawyers of the State. If he could not meet the exegencies of the hour it was because the law which he was sworn to obey would not permit him. The radical error is in the law, which makes the authority of the sheriff in such a case superior to that of the Governor. If that foolish law had not been in existence the Governor would have instructed the military to defend the Emporia prisoners at all hazards, and the brave Richmond boys, led by their gallant commander, would, if necessary, have laid down their lives in the discharge of their duty to the State. Let the responsibility for the disgrace rest upon the man who had the authority to control the military force which the Governor placed at his disposal, and by whose order that force was removed from its position around the jail.

I applaud the righteous indignation of Professor Mitchell. I admire his spontaneity and brilliancy. He is a man who never hesitates to do what he believes to be right. But he is like other good and gifted men whose noblest impulses sometimes mislead them. His summary disposition of Governor Tyler will not be supported by the conservative people of the State. His hasty words will not relegate the Governor to political obscurity.

I trust, Mr. Editor, that this outburst of law-abiding sentiment against mob-violence, will result in such legislation as will enable the Chief Executive of the State to uphold the majesty of civil government.

Something must be done speedily to inspire more confidence in the ability and purpose of our civil authorities to protect life, liberty and property. We are making great efforts to encourage emmigration to our State.

We are urging men of brains, energy and capital to locate upon our soil. We are advertising the beauty of our climate, the fertility of our lands and the vastness of our undeveloped mineral wealth. But how easy it is for our competitors, in other quarters of the country, to neutralize these attractions, by advertising our moboracy and by reminding the public of the thousands and tens of thousands of Virginia boys and young men who carry pistols in their hip-pockets and take human life even for comparatively trivial offenses. We look to such newspapers as The Times to educate our people, and to lead them to the adoption of such measures as will wipe out the disgrace which we have incurred and convince the world that we can and will give adequate protection to human life and property.

J. B. HAWTHORNE.

Richmond, Va.

The Constitutional Convention.

Editor of The Times:

Sir,—Why is it that the politicians and press are so reticent about the call of a constitutional convention Judging from the unfair official ballot to be used, and the continued silence of those advocating the convention, is it not fair to presume that they are on a "still hunt," hoping in this way to accomplish what they could not accomplish by free and open discussion? The people are called upon, yea assisted by an unfair ballot, to declare in favor of a constitutional convention without being told the changes that are contemplated. Why not turn on the light and let the people have premises upon which they can predicate intelligent conclusions? If the organic law needs revising, then point out its defects and offer the remedy, and let the people decide whether or not they prefer the present law to the contemplated change. The fact that this convention, if called, will have the power to declare whatever they formulate to the Constitution of the State without referring it back to the people is sufficient reason for demanding of the leaders of the movement a full disclosure of their purposes in order that the people may consider them and register an intelligent verdict. This is Democracy. To vote on a measure without having any idea of its character is mobocracy, plain and simple. Which shall it be?

A. F. THOMAS.

Lynchburg, Va., March 23, 1900.

THE SHIPYARDS.

Complimentary Mention Made in Army and Navy Journal.

The following paragraphs are taken from the Army and Navy Journal of the 24th instant:

"Work on the torpedo boats and destroyers at Richmond, Va., is being pushed with much vogor, and it is believed that at least one, and perhaps more, of these craft will be ready for trial at the date originally contemplated. Reports from these boats are to the effect that the workmanship going toward their completion is of a superior quality and there seems to be a strong feeling that the experience gained in these contracts Richmond mechanics will stand among the leaders for future bids on government work."

"The arrival of the sub-marine torpedo boat Plunger at the works of the W. R. Trigg Company, Richmond, Va., last week, was an event of much local importance. The work of changing her type of motive power from steam to some form of gas actuated machinery will be at once taken in hand by the Trigg Company. The proposed work is mainly tentative, and as a consequence it is feared that progress will be very slow, but hopes are entertained for her completion by early fall if possible."

Transfers of Property.

Richmond: George L. Cary to George M. Reid, 18 feet on south side Pulliam Street, 92 6-12 feet west of Price's Alley or Prentiss Street, $600.

Alfred S. Cary and wife, Conway C. and John A. Upsher and Shirley C. Gentry to George M. Reid, 16 feet on south side Pulliam Street, 110 6-12 feet west of Price's Alley or Prentiss Street, subject to deed of trust for $300, $600.

Joseph E. Glenn and wife to James C. Harwood, 25 feet on south side of Leigh Street, 107 feet from east side of Norton Street, $500.

W. A. Roberson and wife to L. D. Shackelford, 28 6-12 feet on east side Twenty-first Street, 111 3-12 feet north of Clay, $1,350.

Henrico. Daniel Grinnan, special commissioner, to T. K. Sands, lot 18 in block 20 in plan of Barton Heights, $260.

W. H. Gathright to John Washington Hughes, 71 4 1-2-12 feet on east side Twenty-seventh Street, 102 5-12 feet south of R Street, $1,500.

D. J. Martin to Henry E. Mills, 30 feet on Thirty-fourth Street at northeast corner Clay Street, $330.

T. K. Sands and wife to Frederick H. Vincent, lot 18 in block 20 in plan of Barton Heights, $235.

W. T. Wood's trustee to J. D. and R. S. Christian Company, 75 feet on a new street near the eastern limits of Richmond, just north of the National Cemetery Road; 40 feet on Curtis Street, just south of National Cemetery Road, and 30 feet on Wiltshire Street, south of the National Cemetery Road, $150.

M. E. Walker to Henry K. Ellyson, Jr., 60 feet on south side Taylor Street, 184 6-12 feet west of Foushee Street, $5.

Boy Very Ill.

Rev. J. Sidney Peters has a very ill son at his residence in Barton Heights. His friends are quite anxious about the lad, who is about ten years old, and a very bright boy.

FRESH GOSSIP FROM GOTHAM

A Man Saved From Death by Oxygen.

MISS GOULD'S GOOD WORK.

Husband Withdraws Divorce Suit and Apologizes—The Appleton failure—If the Prince of Wales Should Come.

NEW YORK, March 27.—Special.—Medical science has made rapid strides within the past fifty years, and many a man owes his life to-day to that fact. One of the most interesting cases that the Brooklyn doctors have had for a long time is that of Leon Cole, twenty-one years of age, who for three weeks one of the bravest fights for life against an attack of double pneumonia within the recollection of some of the most prominent physicians of that city. He was taken ill on March 7th, and the disease made rapid progress. It was found necessary from the start to resort to oxygen. The amount needed then increased so rapidly that on one day the contents of twenty-four cylinders, each containing one hundred gallons of gas, and costing $110, were used to keep life within his body. It is said that during that twenty-four hours the tube bearing the life-giving element was not away from his mouth and nostrils not over one-half hour. He is now convalescing, and unless complications set in, he will within a month or so be able to resume work in his uncle's office in Manhattan.

DIVORCE SUIT WITHDRAWN.

The suit for absolute divorce which W. Sumners Blackinton recently began against his wife has been withdrawn. Blackinton says that he has discovered that his wife was entirely blameless, and exceedingly regrets the unpleasant notoriety in which he has brought a prominent yachtsman. He says that he did this gentleman a grave injustice, and apologizes to him and to all persons who may have been in any way injured by the controversy.

If the Prince of Wales should come to New York he will receive a hearty welcome, and New Yorkers will make him proud of himself.

SANG FOR SAILORS.

Yesterday afternoon Miss Helen Gould with a party of friends, including Mrs. Russell Sage and Mrs. McCormick, visited the Navy Yard.

Miss Gould is taking a keen interest in the naval branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, for which she is erecting an expensive building near the Navy Yard. She and her party sang for the benefit of the sailors gathered in the branch, and afterwards inspected the battleship Massachusetts.

The suspension of D. Appleton & Co., following so closely that of Harper & Brothers, has occasioned more or less consternation among authors whose books were published by these firms. They have already begun to file their claims against D. Appleton & Co. so as to be protected in the reorganization of the firm. The most popular novel of the year, "David Harum," was published by this house.

Rev. Dr. George S. Baker, who has for twenty-three years been associated with St. Luke's Hospital, and pastor and superintendent of the hospital for twenty-two years, will retire from active service on and after May 1st. Thereafter he will act in the position of pastor emeritus. Dr. Baker declined when asked to give the exact nature of the "troubles" which caused him to take this course.

EMBRACES DIVORCED HUSBAND.

Mrs. Louise V. Simmons was divorced from her husband yesterday. After the decree was granted she embraced him fondly, much to the astonishment of the spectators who had just listened to her story of his misconduct.

"Oh, Peter!" she cried, "if you had only done as I asked you, this would never have happened. It's your fault, and I'm so sorry. Take good care of mother and yourself, and please, please don't drink."

William Zogel, of Flushing, L. I., was suddenly stricken blind during a thunder storm June 12th last. He has not been able to distinguish light from darkness for nine months.

Dr. Nelson, of Flushing, recently performed an operation to relieve the paralysis of the nerves which resulted from the blinding flash, and Zogel can now see. His eyes are still weak, but eventually, it is said, this will not bother him.

In Favor of the English.

Editor of The Times:

Sir,—Education without experience and culture without observation have been shown to be very incompetent guides to the correct solution of the moral and political questions involved in the causes of the war of England with the Boers and the United States with the Filipinos.

Great Statesmen and learned journalists who have not made personal observations of the people, places and environments in the far off countries where the scenes of the troubles existed, have, in some instances, formed very wrong conclusions on account of very inaccurate or imperfect premises.

It is a great pity that Gladstone had not sojourned a while in South Africa before he championed the cause of the Boers, and that Hoar had not spent some time in the Philippines before he took sides with the Filipinos.

Adding to their education and culture the experience and observation thus obtained, Gladstone and Hoar would not have committed the errors of judgment which, on account of their venerable greatness, were so prolific of trouble to their respetive countries.

President Schurman said: "I went out to the Philippines with a theory of government of my own. I left it there. It did not harmonize with the facts."

It is very unfortunate that so many people in the United States have jumped at conclusions as to the merits of the two wars now waging, without a careful study of the facts as observed by those on the grounds. There is too much at stake for hasty judgment.

It is a safe rule for all citizens, irrespective of parties, to back the government in times of war. It is traitorous to do otherwise.

It would be braver and much better for their country if the disgruntled would take up arms and go into battle instead of "aiding and abetting" by abusing their own government and glorifying the enemy. The war would be ended sooner, and peace would be more permanent.

In a war betwen the weak and the strong, it is no kindness to the weak to encourage them to reckless persistence, and it is useless to harass the strong by harsh denunciation.

The warning recently given by the re-elected President of the French Chamber of Deputies, Paul Deschanel, against demonstrations of Anglophabia in the press and on the part of the public in connection with the war in South Africa, was timely, and received the applause of his constituents, when uttered at a banquet given in celebration of his re-election.

His words were: "When one does not aid the weak, even though they be admirable and heroic, it is both puerile and imprudent to torment the strong, and more especially to insult them."

The maudling sentimentalists who love to proclaim their charity by saying: "I am always on the side of the weak," or, "I am for the under dog," are not always willing to get into danger alongside of the weak.

The observation of the writer is that the weak are oftener in the wrong than the strong. In most cases, if they were better they would be stronger. Such is the doctrine of "the survival of the fittest."

The majority of the political leaders to-day are merely mouth pieces for the blustering, bigoted, ignorant populace.

Things have come to a pretty pass when this republic of ours, with the perplexing problems of State requiring expert knowledge, which comes only of honest, patriotic, unselfish and untiring special study, must be controlled by the ignorant and presumptuous rabble, influenced more by prejudice than patriotism.

Correct comprehension of the science of civil government does not come by intuition. Statesmen are made, not born.

The "fool-killer" is very much needed in the world to-day, and old England is nobly responding to the demand.

English-Americans have cause to be proud of the old mother country. The empire of England extends over one-fourth of the population of the world, and it is extremely foolish to think for a moment that her army and navy are not sufficient to resist interference by any European nation and at the same time prosecute to a successful issue the war with the little Dutch republics in South Africa.

How much better for those people to be under the guiding and protecting care of an enlightened nation than to plod along in ignorance and superstition.

On one occasion the Boers sent a memorial to the Raad, "praying that the Raad would pass a law to prohibit the sending up of bombs into the clouds to bring down rain, as it was a defiance of God and would most likely bring down a visitation from the Almighty." The Uitlanders in Johannesburg were the parties charged with the sin of sending up dynamite into the clouds during a drought.

After some discussion Mr. A. D. Wolmarans, a prominent member, moved: "that this Raad, considering the memorial now on the order, resolves to agree with the same, and instructs the government to take the necessary steps to prevent a repetition of the occurrences referred to."

General Cronje believes with Jasper that "the sun do move," and when one whom he met in Johannesburg remarked in his presence that the earth revolved around the sun, and not the sun around the earth, he exclaimed: "How can this be when the Bible tells us that Joshua caused the sun to stand still that he might slaughter his enemies?" He is also said to despise art in all its forms and to allow no picture to hang on the walls of his house.

Such are the people whom some American citizens are clamorous to keep in power, when two-thirds of the best white population in the Transvaal are opposed to their administration.

Hollins, Va. G. W. DRAKE.

ELECTORAL BOARDS.

Commissioners of the Members are Made Out.

The clerks in the office of the Secretary of the Comonwealth were yesterday busily engaged in sending out the commissions to members of the newly elected electoral boards for the several counties and cities of the Commonwealth.

They were sent to the clerks of the courts because there was no way of obtaining the addresses of the members.

At the recent session of the Legislature the law in regard to electoral boards was changed so that they shall be elected at each regular session of the General Assembly, and the terms of the present boards will terminate on April 1st, when the new boards go into office.