

Whether Common or Not

I Ain't th' Littlest Girl No More.

My papa called me sweetheart till it came,  
An' jus' played with me nearly all th' time;  
But now he's jus' forgot my baby name  
'Cause there's another baby now, an' I'm  
Told 'at I mustn't run an' sing an' play  
'Cause it might wake it up an' make it cry.  
An' 'stead of bein' petted ev'ry day  
I'm tol' I'm such a bother when I'm nigh,  
That's why I'm feelin' so drefful poor—  
I ain't th' littlest girl no more.

'Fore baby came my papa used t' say  
'At I was jus' th' sweetest girl in town;  
An' 'at he'd ruther sing an' romp an' play  
Wif me 'an any little girl aroun'.  
An' he would sing me sleepy songs at night  
An' tuck me in my little cradle bed;  
But 'at was all before he caught a sight  
Of 'at new baby's little fuzzy head.  
An' now I's feelin' so mighty poor—  
I ain't th' littlest girl no more.

It's so drefful hard for a girl like me  
'At ain't no bigger 'an a pint o' sand  
T' have t' stan' aroun' t' wait an' see  
A baby gettin' pats from mamma's hand.  
I can't see why they wanted 'nother one  
While I was here an' jus' a wishin' I  
Could see my papa so 'at I could run  
An' s'prise him till he had to say, "O, my!"  
But baby come an' I's drefful sore—  
I ain't th' littlest girl no more.

A Little Fable.

A Benevolent Assimilation walking along the Public Highway met a Deep Longing mournfully wending its Way.

How now!" exclaimed the Benevolent Assimilation. "Why this Pensive air?"

"Alas, I have in my Possession something I treasure Highly, but which I am in Danger of Losing."

"What can it Be?" asked the Benevolent Assimilation.

"It is my Right to Live."

Thereupon the Benevolent Assimilation seized the Deep Longing by the Nape of the Neck and felled it to the Ground.

"Why am I thus Assaulted?" wailed the Deep Longing.

"I am merely seizing your Right to Live so that I can make you my servant," said the Benevolent Assimilation.

"Alas and alack!" moaned the Deep Longing. "I was deceived by Your Appearance."

"Perhaps," said the Benevolent Assimilation. "That's why I'm called by that Name."

Moral: But there is nothing Moral about It.

Sure.

Now comes the bore with airy mien  
And loudly whistled tune,  
Who surely leaves ajar the door  
He always closed last June.

A Fatal Mistake.

The legislators-elect were engaged in caucus, considering the names of gentlemen who had been mentioned in connection with the senatorship.

"I suggest," remarked the gentleman from Squedunk, "that we invite all who are candidates to appear before us, one at a time, that we may question them."

"If the gentleman from Squedunk will put his suggestion in the form of a motion I will second it," said the gentleman from Squee.

The gentleman from Squedunk hastened to act upon the suggestion and the motion was duly made and carried. Thereupon several candidates were ushered in, one at a time, and cautiously questioned. It took several hours to exhaust the list of avowed and known candidates, but finally the end was reached and the gentleman from Southville asked:

"Are there no more candidates to question?"

Before the sergeant-at-arms of the caucus could reply there was a knock at the door, and upon the

door being opened a gentleman walked in and addressed the caucus, saying:

"Gentlemen, I understand that this caucus is citing senatorial candidates to appear before it to answer certain pertinent questions. I have decided to be a candidate, therefore I come to submit my candidacy to this body."

The members of the caucus were stricken dumb for a moment, for the man was well known as a friend of the people and an advocate of clean politics. Finally, however, the chairman of the caucus said:

"The gentleman is welcome. We will now proceed with the inquiry. What is your politics?"

"I am a member of the party represented by this caucus."

"Have you always voted the straight ticket?"

"Yes, when the candidates were clean men."

"Do you appear as a candidate favoring the interests of the X., M. & Q. railroad?"

"I do not. I do not appear in the interests of any railroad corporation."

"Have you proper references from the Slambang Oil company?"

"I have not. I do not admit that the Slambang Oil company, nor any other oil company, has any interests superior to the interests of the general public in this senatorial contest."

"Then you are properly vouched for by the Saccharine trust, I suppose?"

"You suppose wrong, sirs."

"Then perhaps you will be kind enough to inform this caucus whose interests you pretend to represent as a candidate for the high and honorable position of senator of the United States."

"I appear in the interests of the whole people of my state. I am not backed by any corporation. If elected I will represent the whole people and oppose corporate domination, public extravagance and governmental collusion. If elected I—"

But at this juncture the sergeant-at-arms, acting upon a signal from the chairman, seized the presumptuous fanatic and threw him over the transom.

"This," said the chairman, after the dust had settled, "seems to be a case for the lunatico inquirendo, not for this caucus. If there are no objections the candidate who gently hinted that he could do a few things with the Slambang Oil company will be recalled for further questioning."

There were no objections.

W. M. M.

Subsidies.

Senator Vest of Missouri was right in declaring, at the close of his speech opposing the Hanna ship-subsidy bill, that the measure was certain to pass the Senate. "Drunk with victory," said Mr. Vest, "the republican party will now stop at nothing."

It will be well for the people of this country to read with the closest attention the full report of Senator Vest's speech. Its revelations are significant to a degree. He shows that the ship-subsidy bill is the boldest and most shameless piece of syndicate legislation ever attempted in Washington. The utter and contemptuous disregard of the people's interests shown in the ruthlessness with which it is being jammed through the National Congress against popular protest is ominous.

Senator Vest clearly points out that there will be no general benefit to American shipping from the operation of this bill. It will impose upon the American people a tax burden of \$180,000,000 to be paid within the short period of twenty-five years. Of this total, \$42,000,000 will go to the International Navigation Company, whose president was appointed by Senator Frye as chairman of the Committee of Promotion of the ship-subsidy bill. Its next leading beneficiary will be the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, which will receive \$550,000 a year from the subsidy. Its third beneficiary in importance will be the Standard Oil Company—and it is these monopoly interests that have prepared and pushed the bill, the American people having no voice in the matter from beginning to end.

The republican party, under the direction of Mark Hanna and Mr. McKinley, is certainly paying its debts to the syndicate interests whose millions brought about Mr. McKinley's re-election. It is doing this by putting its hands in the people's pockets and extracting the money necessary to such payment. A filching of \$180,000,000 at one snatch is going it pretty steep, however. Will the people be able to stand this sort of thing for four years more?—St Louis Republic.

Miscellaneous.

Attorney-General Griggs, in the course of his argument for the policy of the Government and the action of Congress in enacting the Porto Rico tariff law, is reported as saying that if we cannot govern the peoples of new territories according

to their customs, then this country will not take any territory which is not capable of government, except under the laws of the Union as it now exists.

Congress may legislate for territories according to their needs within constitutional limitations, but there can be no safety in legislating for distant islands and peoples "according to their customs" outside of constitutional limits. If we cannot govern them inside of the Constitution, which Mr. Harrison so firmly holds should operate "always and everywhere" in territorial legislation, it would be the part of wisdom to renounce our rule over them. Polygamy, slavery and other forms of savagery prevail in portions of our newly acquired territory. We have deferred to the barbarous "customs" of these people to win their precarious allegiance to the American Government and to induce them to keep the peace. We are ruling them upon the theory that even the fundamental rights of personal liberty can be withheld within our dominions.

By the treaty with the Sultan of Sulu and by the yearly stipend the President has agreed to pay him, we have legalized polygamy and slavery and the rule of an absolute, though petty, monarch within the territory of the United States by direct contract and by the protection of our arms. Thus the Constitution in its vital features and the Declaration of Independence, too, have been made to yield to the "customs" of Sulu. To what extent that instrument must be fashioned to meet other difficult situations and exigencies involved in our recent expansion remains to be seen. Perhaps Attorney-General Griggs will be able to enlighten the country on these points.—Philadelphia Ledger.

It was never intended to trust to the good intentions of the President, hence the numerous constitutional limitations on his power. Mr. McKinley has shown remarkable aptness in the abuse of discretionary powers. The papers of the whole country are now ringing with severe criticism of his recent appointments of the sons of two justices of the Supreme Court to lucrative and responsible positions in the West Indies. The first Congress did not deem it any reflection on George Washington to withhold from him discretionary power over the size of the regular army. Why should not McKinley be restricted in the same way? The only reason is the spread of the imperial idea.—Pittsburg Post.

Secretary Root is unable to discover signs of the joyous peace that was to accompany the election returns to the Philippines. He assures the Senate that if more troops are not sent promptly we shall have to abandon large portions of the islands where we have been giving the Filipinos "the best self-government that is possible." "Self-government" is a new name for military occupation, and the credit of its invention belongs to the secretary of war.—Philadelphia North American.

According to Solicitor General Richards the treaty of Paris never intended to make the Philippine islands "a part of the United States in the constitutional sense, and just as certainly did make them a part of the United States in the international sense." This is another instance of to be and not to be. Our colonial policy requires curious reasoning and strong army support.—Denver News.

Japan has made greater progress in the past decade than any other nation in the world, her exports having increased from \$16,000,000 to \$167,000,000, while her imports have increased from \$26,000,000 to \$443,000,000 in the same period of time.—National Watchman.