

wanderer. To be true to life the picture ought to represent the ex-president as the prodigal son in the act of inviting the father to share a dinner of husks.

++

The fifteen thousand dollar dinner to be given by James Henry Smith, of New York, who inherited fifty millions from his uncle a year ago, will not create any hostility toward the inheritance tax. So long as heirs and legatees indulge in expensive entertainments the public generally will be able to tolerate a law which makes large estates contribute to the revenues.

++

A Corollary of Imperialism. The Chicago Times-Herald refuses to endorse the practice of deportation. It says:

Deportation is a proceeding which Americans condemn unreservedly in other governments than their own, and we imagine that there are very few people in this country who can take the slightest satisfaction in the banishment of Filipino prisoners to the Island of Guam.

Deportation is one of the corollaries of imperialism. So long as we insist upon a policy of imperialism we must not be sensitive when we find it necessary to adopt all the un-American habits essential to maintaining that un-American policy.

++

The Height of Absurdity. Of all the absurdities suggested by administration politicians with relation to the Cuban constitution, the most thoroughly absurd is the statement, attributed to several republican United States senators, that before Congress takes any action with respect to retiring from Cuba, a clause must be inserted in the Cuban constitution "expressing gratitude to the United States."

Cubans say they are willing to adopt an independent resolution thanking the United States, but that it would be ridiculous to incorporate in their constitution an expression of thanks. In this they are eminently correct. We did not place "God" in our constitution. With what reason shall we insist that the United States shall be placed in Cuba's constitution.

++

The Utah Situation. The Salt Lake Tribune is charging that Mr. Kern's election was the result of a bargain made with the leaders of the Mormon Church.

If this is true, the situation is greatly to be deplored. Both religion and politics suffer by a union of the church and the state. The Salt Lake Herald, which speaks for the democrats, refers to the charge and says the Tribune has profited by such combinations in the past and was willing that its candidate should reap the fruits of the bargain this time. Whether the Tribune will be able to support its indictment with sufficient proof, or whether its complaint arises from poignant disappointment, the injection of such a question into politics is sure to make trouble. When religious prejudice enters a contest, reason retires from the field.

++

A Sound but Neglected Doctrine. A correspondent of the Chicago Tribune suggests that the phrase, "government of the people, by the people, by the people," as used by Mr. Lincoln, was derived from Thomas Cooper's "Thoughts Concerning Americans,"

published in 1795. Another Tribune correspondent says it is more than probable that Mr. Lincoln obtained this phrase from Daniel Webster's famous reply to Mr. Hayne wherein Mr. Webster spoke of "the people's government, made for the people, made by the people, and answerable to the people." This same correspondent further points out that at the New England anti-slavery convention, held in Boston in 1850, Theodore Parker referred to the "American idea" as being "a government of all the people, by all the people, for all the people." It is not vastly important—although the discussion is interesting—where Mr. Lincoln obtained this phrase, but it is important to note that the republican party—the party of Lincoln—is disregarding the doctrine more and more.

++

A Manly Surrender. The students at West Point, at the close of the investigation, handed to the Congressional Committee, through the Superintendent of the Academy, the following pledge:

Having become cognizant of the manner in which the system of hazing as practised at the military academy is regarded by the people of the United States, we, the cadets of the United States military academy, while maintaining that we have pursued our system from the best motives, yet realizing that the deliberate judgment of the people should, in a country like ours, be above all other considerations, do reaffirm our former action abolishing the exercising of fourth-class men, and do further agree to discontinue hazing, the requiring of fourth-class men to eat anything against their desire, and the practice of "calling out" fourth-class men by class action, and that we will not devise other similar practices to replace those abandoned. Respectfully submitted. For the first class, W. R. Bettison, president class '01; for the second class, B. O. Mahaffey, president class '02; for the third class, Quinn Gray, president class '03; for the fourth class, Joseph A. Atkins, representing class '04.

This manly surrender to public sentiment has done much to soften the criticism which hazing had aroused. Their prompt recognition of the right of the people to regulate the conduct of cadets who are being educated at public expense is in every way commendable, and, it may be added, shows moral courage as well as sense of duty.

++

Looking for a New Insurrection. It is significant that the republican newspapers insist that the United States must be suzerain to the Island of Cuba.

The New York Tribune declares that the United States acquired suzerain rights because Mr. McKinley in a message to Congress asked that body to authorize him to proceed "to secure in the island the establishment of a stable government, capable of maintaining order and observing its international obligations."

The Tribune is pleased to overlook the fact that subsequently Congress declared "that the people of Cuba are and of right ought to be free and independent;" and in behalf of the United States Congress disclaimed "any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island except for the pacification thereof."

Cuba's right to freedom and independence is not affected by anything the United States said. Our declaration that the Cuban people of right ought to be free and independent was simply a

recognition of a right possessed by those people against Spain, and a right that would continue to exist even against the United States.

But when we have expressly recognized the rights of the Cubans to freedom and followed that recognition by a promise that we would not seek "to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island except for the pacification thereof," we are estopped from making any pretense to suzerain rights or any other authority in that island.

The Washington correspondent of the New York World attributes to the administration a deliberate purpose to prevent the Cuban Republic from having that complete independence that must belong to a successful republic. One paper aptly describes the situation when it intimates that the administration is "looking for a new insurrection."

++

The Working Democracy. The Democratic National Committee has, during the past two years, been perfecting a precinct organization which is self-supporting and through which literature is being distributed. It is a happy solution of the difficult problem of continuing work between campaigns.

The committee issues weekly a paper called the Working Democracy which is in itself worth to the members of the organization all that the organization costs. The committee is to be commended both for its effort to extend organized work beyond the campaign period and for the determination to defray the expense of such work by contributions from the rank and file of the party. There is a fact which the voters of the country ought to know and it is this, that a party organization must be supported by the people if the people are to control it. If the great corporations furnish the funds to carry on campaigns and to circulate literature among the people, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to prevent these same corporations from controlling party nominations and party administrations.

++

Mrs. Nation's Crusade. Mrs. Carrie Nation, as her name would indicate, has succeeded in making herself more than a state affair. Her attempt to cure lawlessness by lawlessness has aroused discussion everywhere. She has already reached a degree of eminence which has excited the attention of cartoonists, and hatchet brigades are being organized in various cities in her honor. Kansas has a constitutional amendment as well as a statute prohibiting the sale of liquor, but, as is well known, prohibition is not enforced in communities where the local sentiment is against it. Mrs. Nation acts upon the theory that the saloon is an outlaw in Kansas and that saloon keepers cannot invoke the protection of the law when they themselves disregard it. While no defense can be made of lawless methods in enforcing law, those who condemn Mrs. Nation must, in order to be consistent, also condemn the violation of the liquor laws. The Kansas crusade has already served a useful purpose in that it has brought out the fact that prohibition is a dead letter in that state, and now that public attention has been directed toward the subject, it is probable that the law will either be enforced or the question resubmitted. A law that is not enforced breeds contempt for law.