

able knowledge of economic tendencies, with the result of throwing a flood of light upon the causes of the so-called "depression of trade" which has so long perplexed men of business. He demonstrated that the enormous improvements in production and in transportation had necessarily displaced great amounts of capital by rendering former appliances obsolete, so that every new enterprise, it might almost be said, was able to produce its results more cheaply than those previously in operation, the general result being a rapidity of change in business conditions that disconcerted all the calculations of the adherents of conservative methods. Nor was the light that it threw upon the past the only merit of this book, for the bewildering possibilities of the future were considered with a calm and rational forecast that furnished a substantial basis for the most sanguine expectations.

Mr. Wells married twice; first in May, 1860, Mary Sanford Dwight, and in June, 1879, Ellen Augusta Dwight, both daughters of James S. Dwight of Springfield, Mass., and Elizabeth Lee, of Norwich, Conn. He had one son by his first wife, David Dwight Wells, who survives him.

Physically, Mr. Wells was of slight build and medium height, and of highly nervous temperament. During recent years the precarious condition of his health had caused him to live a retired life, but scarcely checked his intellectual activity, which was facilitated by the possession of one of the best economic libraries in the world.

Whatever the attainments of our surviving statisticians may be, they lack the prestige which Mr. Wells derived from his distinguished services at a critical period in our history. There may be men living who possess his familiarity with fiscal legislation and economic theory, with the laws of trade and the conditions of industry, but if so they are not known to the public and their knowledge is unavailable. In practical affairs, especially in the affairs of government, the great difficulty is not the lack of capable men, but the fact that they are unknown. Between proved and unproved capacity the difference is infinite.

It is impossible to avoid the painful reflection that this man, perhaps the best entitled of all Americans of his day to be called a statesman—if we define a statesman as one who has an acquaintance with economic history and the logical power of applying this knowledge to the solution of the practical problems of legislation—that this man was excluded from the office of legislator. If he had been an Englishman, it would not have been possible that he should not have been a member of parliament, and a member of the cabinet if his party were in power. As it was, his opportunities for public service of an official character came by appointment and not by elec-

tion. Doubtless the peculiar environment of his residence had something to do with this, but it is to be apprehended that his ostracism was mainly due to the same cause as that of Aristides—to his glaring superiority, which the narrow mind of ordinary men meanly resented as disagreeably emphasizing their own inferiority. But it is probable that the slavery of a party name, when he became a candidate for congress, influenced many to oppose him who would have been glad to bestow their suffrages upon him had his ticket borne a different heading.

His influence, however, was not of a kind to be dependent upon official position. He was an admirable example of the best kind of self-made man—the man who has by his own exertions accumulated not wealth, but knowledge. His acquaintance with economics was not derived from schools, but from actual contact with affairs, and he could therefore appeal to men of affairs with peculiar success. He proved his capacity to them upon their own ground, and having thus overcome the stock objection of business men to "mere theorists," he was able to secure attention to the principles of economic science. While much good is to be expected from the study of these principles in our institutions of learning, it is probable that legislation in this country will be mainly directed—so far as it is directed wisely—by men possessing the combined knowledge of theory and practice for which Mr. Wells was distinguished, and on this account the lesson of his life is of peculiar value to young men whom the spirit of patriotism does not permit to be indifferent to the cause of good government.—New York Evening Post.

BISHOP POTTER ON EXPANSION.

The proposition before us today, whether in the farther or the hither islands that are this moment within our grasp, is substantially this: Here are certain subject races. Come and rule them, enfranchise them, ennoble them. What now are the indications that we have any single qualification for such a task? The question ought not to be difficult to answer, for in a comparatively short space of time—less than a century—three subject races, so to speak, have been dropped into our lap, and the record of our dealings with them may be known and read of all men. One of them is the Indian race, another the negro race, and another the Chinese. If any honest man, by any ingenuity—and in spite of our tardy efforts in connection with one of them, the Indian, to redeem the dishonor of our dealings with him—can extract any ground for anything else than shame and confusion of face in view of our dealings with these races, I congratulate him upon his ingenuity. The story in every case, in greater or less degree, has been one long record of cruelty, rapine,

lust and outrage. "The best Indian," an army officer has been quoted as saying, "is a dead Indian;" and the best negro or Chinaman, apparently, is one who has been strung up a lamp post or grilled alive on a village bonfire. And this is the nation, with such a record to demonstrate its capacity to deal with subject races, which is to give a new and more benign civilization to the Spanish West Indies and the Philippine Islands.—Harper's Weekly.

POETRY?

It is admitted that Mr. W. Whitman, who died not long ago in Camden, New Jersey, was an American, and that he wrote things; but some claim that those things are poetry, while others hold that they are not, and prove it as follows: poetry is stuff that rhymes; his stuff does not rhyme; therefore it is not poetry. This is not only criticism, it is logic.

Here are two short specimens of his product, both probably written somewhere between the days of gold-hunting in California and the Civil War, in both of which he took part.

"Others may praise what they like;
But I, from the banks of the running Mis-
souri, praise nothing in art or aught
else,
Till it has well inhaled the atmosphere of
this river, also the western prairie-
scent,
And exudes it all again."

This is a pat on the back to Nebraska City, Atchison, Omaha and the other river-towns where there are people trying to exude it the best they can. The other touches a matter that a good many people are thinking about.

"With all thy gifts, America,
Standing secure, rapidly tending, over-look-
ing the world,
Power, wealth, extent, vouchsafed to thee—
with these and like of these vouchsafed
to thee,
What if one gift thou lackest? (the ultimate
human problem never solving.)
The gift of perfect women fit for thee—what
if that gift of gifts thou lackest?
The towering feminine of thee? the beauty,
health, completion, fit for thee?
The mothers fit for thee?"

AN IDEA FROM GREECE.

Two Greeks, real Hellenes, from Sparta, have come to Nebraska City. Their eyes are full of black fire, their hair as black as their eyes, their hands not nearly so black. They are not here to give readings from Homer, nor instruction in athletic games, nor lectures on the correct shape of the human body; they are here to open a candy shop. In this branch of industry the Greeks are rapidly supplanting the Italians, who are moving up a notch in all the cities, and applying the savings of twenty years' thrifty tending of fruit-stands to higher lines of trade. Whereas a short time ago there was no Italian but sold peanuts, you are now more likely to find them barbers or restaurant-keepers; there are even Italian