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OBSERVATIONS

The Vanderbilt divorce and the Vanderbilt-Marlborough marriage were not enough. They must be followed by the Vanderbilt-Belmont matrimonial scandal. The three together are a *fin de siècle* triumph. A little while ago an epidemic of social depravity in London, or rather an epidemic of disclosure, gave socialist writers an opportunity to pronounce the impending doom of England. It was said that England is today beset by the same vices in society that undermined the Roman empire, and that the prevalence of this degradation would overthrow the strongest nation on earth. Possibly the Oscar Wilde school of vice has not so many devotees in this country as in England, where many centuries of in-breeding have not increased the moral vigor of the race; but the gloomy socialist can readily convince himself that the social conditions in the United States, this supposedly lusty, rugged nation, are full of threatening import. The gloomy socialist can look upon New York, the very heart of the country, and there see closing in upon the institutions of power and influence, a tide of luxurious sensuality marked by a miasma of immorality, a tide that has, apparently, made serious inroads in the last ten years. Peering again the gloomy socialist can see a class of people numbering 400 or 4000, calling themselves the elect of the elect; having vast wealth at their command and without the healthful necessity of industry; men and women living in steamed palaces and blossoming like flowers under glass, and through the hot house existence losing all the invigorating influence of the real world, dropping into a state of tropical sensuality in which considerations of propriety and morality are lost sight of, and

he can, as the gloomy socialist often does, read in it all disaster for the nation. Possibly the gloomy socialist might be justified in his premise that this country is being consumed or will be speedily consumed by dry rot, were the class against which he breathes anathema larger. It is not to be denied that this country would be in serious danger were the class from which come the Vanderbilts and the Belmonts in control or likely to be in control. But it is a small class. It does not in any way represent the American type, and because newspaper correspondents tell of its pomp is no reason to believe in its power.

Fortunately Mr. and Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont do not represent any considerable

friendship for her husband, he paid court while yet a wife. There can't be any large amount of self respect in the Belmont household.

It has all along been supposed that the Nebraska delegation to the national republican convention would support McKinley for president. The candidacy of Mr. Houtz has suggested the idea to some that possibly Senator Thurston would like to have the vote of the Nebraska delegation for president. Again it is a fact that recently there has been an effort to have ex-Senator Manderson announce himself as a candidate for first or second place on the republican ticket. Manderson has received letters from prominent men all over the country urging him to stand as a candidate. A citizen of Lincoln who was permitted

Manderson might be nominated for president. His chances for the vice-presidential nomination would be as good, if not better than those of any other man in the country. And it would certainly be to Nebraska's interest to have a Nebraskan vice-president. Manderson is supposed to be affiliated with McKinley and he would undoubtedly be glad to have the delegation from this state co-operate with McKinley, and if the latter were nominated and Manderson failed to be placed on the national ticket he would be almost certain to be chosen for a cabinet appointment.

But McKinley has a strong hold on Nebraska, and it will be strange if the state convention does not instruct for him. It is a noticeable fact that several of the announced candidates for delegate to the national convention are Harrison men. Occasionally there is an effort to make Allison sentiment in this state, but the effort is not carried very far. Senator Allison has done nothing to enlist the good will of Nebraskans. He has frequently been invited to make addresses here, but he has never found it convenient to accept Nebraska invitations, and he has given little consideration to this state. On the other hand Governor McKinley has made many trips and has personal friends in half of the counties.



element of society. Any denunciation of the Belmonts must not include the whole of New York society. There are undoubtedly persons inside the charmed circle in Gotham who would resent the imputation that this couple is even in Society. One may spend ones summer in Newport and Tuxedo and marry ones daughter to a duke and yet not be, strictly speaking, in Society. Some of the Vanderbilts are decent sort of people, and they are not necessarily implicated, because William K. married Alva Smith. Belmont is the idle son of a money-making father. He was a member of the European party that ended in a row, and is popularly supposed to have been the cause of the unpleasantness between Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt. Now, within six months after Mrs. Vanderbilt was divorced and on the heels of the marriage of Consuelo to the fag end of the Marlborough family, this gay bachelor espouses the woman to whom, under the cover of

to see some of these letters the other day was surprised at some of the names attached and at the urgency of the requests that he be a candidate. The ex-senator has thus far made no move, but he has a large following in this state, and there are many influential republicans who would like to see a Manderson delegation to the national convention, perhaps not an instructed delegation, but one favorable to the ex-senator. There are several reasons why this would be a good move. In the first Manderson is a strong man. He is the kind of man Tim Sedgwick and the rest of the Nebraska editors who have been demanding bigger men for political preferment in Nebraska, would accept with pleasure. He is a big man, not only in Nebraska, but all over the country. Then if the Nebraska delegation went to St. Louis unpledged, but supporting Manderson, it would have an importance that a pledged delegation could never get. There is a bare possibility that

Emperor William is the most unique figure in European politics. His mental equipment is peculiar. He is often brilliant. He is never conservative. Some of his acts are called eccentric. In any other person but a king they would be taken as an indication of insanity. Undoubtedly the feeble mind of this imperious young man is stirred by Napoleonic ambitions. He would extend the boundary lines of German domain and increase his personal supremacy. The itching spirit of conquest has taken hold of him, and it will be a miracle if he does not sooner or later involve Germany in a serious war or land himself in an imperial insane asylum. The emperor of Germany is lacking in equilibrium.

As mayor of the city of Lincoln Frank Graham is the paid servant of the people. It is his duty to be frank and honest with his employers. There are certain things his employers, the people,