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## OBSERVATIONS

In the case of Senator Thurston Major McKinley is relieved from one embarrassing aspirant to a cabinet position, and every little helps. The Chicago Tribune explained last week that even if there were no other reasons why Senator Thurston should not accept a portfolio his own specific unfitness for it would embarrass the president.

He could not be secretary of state, for he has had no experience nor practice in statesmancraft. He could not be attorney-general, on account of his connection with the Union Pacific. The navy, the postoffice department and the treasury require a man of exceptional business ability, and the secretary of agriculture should have had at least a theoretical experience with the earth and growing things. Whereas, for the past seven or eight years Senator Thurston has not even seen the earth, his flights above the clouds have been so continuous. As minister to a foreign country his muscular chin might do good work for America, but according to the words of the prophets all the desirable posts are promised. What is England's loss is our gain. So long as Senator Thurston starts on his aerial flights from the floor of the United States senate Nebraska will not be forgotten.

Of all the men who are mentioned as the successor of Judge Dundy, none are so well qualified for the place, in the opinion of The Courier, as Mr. John H. Ames of Lincoln.

He has, with a judicial mind, a vast store of legal knowledge. His integrity

is established beyond a question. His decisions as United States judge would have more weight because of the man and the scholar who delivered them. To know the law, to deliver and to apply it with perfect wisdom and impartiality is not given to man. But when a man with Mr. Ames' acumen studies a subject for twenty-five or thirty years, he gets so far ahead of the ordinary practitioner his knowledge and ability seem unlimited.

A sense of humour will keep a man from making much of little. It clears his mind as an egg does coffee. It prevents him from making sophomorical speeches or from posing before a peaceful, non-belligerent country as a hero of heroic size. It teaches him values. He is not so apt to be decided by the distortion of a near view. Thus humour and justice are allied. The biographies that are filled with the *bon mots* of judges and advocates prove my statement. The man that can put a great truth into a few words so new and so striking that it makes people laugh, can see the essential truth in a case obscured by years of litigation, and seeing it, can show it to others by the use of his own perspicacity. Mr. Ames' *bon mots* are quoted all over the state. He is a lawyer's lawyer, and by this sign he should be their judge.

Bryan's in Missouri hunting with vim.  
McKinley's in Ohio and the cabinet's hunting him.

McKinley's days of peace are o'er.  
Bryan's have just begun.  
McKinley's friends are at the door  
From frosty morn till set of sun.

'Tis very honorable to be  
the president-elect, O!  
But yet he looks at end of day  
Like the president deject, O!

The horse show has stamped out politics in New York city. At least politics is neither seen nor heard on the street or at functions. Of course there are offices and saloons whose reason for being is politics, and where nothing can stop office seeking short of the destruction of the human race in North America, or of what would amount to the same thing in a spoilsman's eyes, the actual instead of the theoretical enforcement of civil service reform rules. But these people and places do not affect the general aspect of city life. The New York horse show this year has been more successful than ever, in spite of politics and poverty. "From the horseman's point of view, the feature of the show has been the success of crossing American trotters with the hackney. The results of such a cross were shown in the ring for the first time this year, and all the experts are talking about them. They say that to the style, action and toughness of the hackney the trotter

has added speed, without sacrificing the strong points of either class."

As a beauty show the gathering at Madison Square garden last week was probably never surpassed, for all the belles of New York and New England and in fact from the Atlantic and middle states, were there in the most stunning toilets. It has become the fashion for the New York women to save their new gowns for this occasion, and one of the morning papers paid reverence to this custom by employing experts to determine who were the best dressed men and women that appeared in the crowds each night and sketch their pictures and write descriptions of what they wore. Although there were pinks, blues, greens, scarlets and orange gowns in an infinite variety of shades and tints, purple seemed to be the prevailing color in the human kaleidoscope. When you watched the procession that moved slowly and incessantly around the ring, in which the horses were exhibited, it seemed as if the solar spectrum was in motion. Several women seemed to be wearing purple throughout—that is, so far as the eye of the beholder could penetrate, including gowns, bonnets, wraps, ribbons, stockings and gloves. Mrs. Potter Palmer was arrayed in a plum colored velvet gown with a front corsage of cream satin and renaissance lace, with a small bonnet to correspond and aigrettes and jewels. Mrs. Fred Grant was in violet velvet, trimmed with point lace and banded with fur. Miss Julia Grant was in a pale purplish silk, with chiffon, and Mrs. James P. Kernochan of Newport, who shared a box with them, was resplendent in purple velvet with a front of lace and jeweled passementerie.

Mr. Bryan's address to the Mary Bryan club at the Funke last Saturday afternoon packed the house. The aisles were filled and all the standing room. The audience was in such sympathy with the speaker, they applauded him with hands and at times with squeals. And they listened with the most vivid interest to all that Mr. Bryan said.

This campaign has revealed to women the interest that they themselves take in politics. Hundreds, who heretofore have thought a woman's rights woman a most uninteresting and tiresome creature, now wish to vote. They recognize that the obstacles to woman suffrage are only those of imagination and prejudice. None of the women who so ardently and prayerfully wished for McKinley's or Bryan's election, and were willing to do anything to help it along, was less of a woman, less devoted to home, husband and children for the wish to help their candidate who represented principles upon which she considered that prosperity rests, and therefore the continuance of the home. The comic papers have never given women the credit of devotion to a principle. This campaign has shown the fervor and strength of her devotion to opposing theories. Neither of the men who represented the two financial methods was a bad man.

They had nothing concrete to rally around or against. It was a theory, not a man, which confronted them. And they accepted the situation like men. Though, I must say, when confronted by Mr. Bryan, they forgot free silver in their devotion to the man.

A few years ago such a meeting of women would have been as impossible as among the wild Indians, idiots or lunatics, with whom women are classed. Today it excites little remark. If an amendment to the Constitution might be voted on now it would stand much more chance of being carried than if it should be sprung a year or two hence in the apathetic interim between presidential campaigns.

A year ago the very men who urged their wives to take an interest in this campaign; to join a club, wear a badge or look interested when they discussed the silver question with the neighbors, these same men said if they ever caught their wives taking an interest in politics they would get a divorce. Verily, the Sun do move. The only question is "Is a male gold bug broad enough to allow his mate to vote for free silver, or vice versa, without danger of apoplexy to him?" Unless his spiritual growth have proceeded thus far the reform would better wait for him to catch up. It is better to be peaceful and united than advanced and antagonistic or incompatible.

A discussion is going on, in the newspapers of course, concerning the best method for a wife to use in making home attractive and to keep her husband in it nights. Most of the feminine authorities consulted agree that it is wise for the wife to meet her husband at the door with a kiss when he comes from his business. Some of the men dissent from this opinion. They say when they are tired and hungry and dirty they do not wish to be greeted with a kiss or with anything but silence, warmth and food. They want to slip into the house, wash their face and hands and brush their hair and perhaps change their coat without attracting any attention. Silence after contention and no questions asked is what they want.

Another set favors the introduction of cocktails and light opera songs with an occasional dance by the wife and children, where the consort and offspring are gifted. Outcault of the New York Journal is in favor of the latter plan. It should not be tried unless the wife and mother is willing to spend time training the children, and in practising on cocktails before she offers one to her husband. She must be especially careful the harder it is to keep him home "nights," for an old rounder knows talent when he sees