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OBSERVATIONS.

Mrs. Martha More Avery's recognition of the service which trusts are doing humanity indicates that socialists are not for long to be scared by words. She said that the trusts were proving the economy, teaching the method and establishing the rationale of co-operation as opposed to competition. In nearly all cases where a trust has assumed the control of any manufacture the price of the product has been reduced to the consumer. Socialism only asks that the people receive back again the profits that they have made. A few men should not absorb the profits arising from the universal taste for sugar or the need of artificial light when the sun has set, or the taste for wall paper. The financiers who have organized trusts to supply the commonest needs of living have shown the people the way to get back part of their birthright; and the latest socialism instead of railing at them, is willing to give them the credit due inventors.

Until the expert divers have made their report it is useless to conjecture whether the blowing up of the Maine was an accident or an overt attack of the Spanish government. It is difficult to believe that the sophisticated Spaniards, who were diplomats before this country was discovered, could have been ignorant of the complications which such a cowardly attack would cause without any adequate compensation to Spain. But

neither the premature bluster of the street, nor that of the newspapers should have any effect on the executive heads of the two nations who must declare war or ignore insufficient reasons for it with equal inattention to jingoism, which is as rampant in Spain as in America. If the divers find that the Maine did not blow up, but was blown up, the United States will be in a position to make reprisals for the lives lost, and Spain is bankrupt and such a mistake will have put her on the wrong side of international sympathies. Except for the brave, dead sailors whom no money nor territory can pay for, the exploded boat (if it were exploded) has put the United States in a place of vantage. If Spain be guilty, the United States can dictate terms of peace or war and annex Cuba to boot.

In the days of the Roman Empire, when an aqueduct system brought the water from the hills to Rome, anyone who was guilty of poisoning or obstructing the water supply would have been immediately sentenced to death. There is no record, even in the days of Nero, of anyone willing to cause sickness and death by interfering in any way with the splendid system of water works. Not until modern times when a cruel and mercenary despotism is disguised under the name of democracy, have men been discovered who were willing for the sake of a bribe to interrupt the flow of fresh water to quench a people's thirst. The awful wickedness and criminality of such a bribe giver and bribe taker would have shocked Nero and everybody who has read Quo Vadis knows what a tough old rat he was. Besides that the Roman people, accustomed to wickedness as they were, would have torn to pieces such foes of humanity. But in Lincoln, local self government has made possible such men as Graham and those whom he serves who tamper with the water supply without exciting any particular abhorrence, though the slaughter of the innocents caused thereby is far greater than the number of Christians that Nero burned and skinned and broke on the wheel.

Members of the Hamilton club will use their influence to get the full vote out at the primaries. If the overburdened and robbed tax-payers do not care enough about relief to turn out in strength at the primaries, they ought forever after to hold their peace. Under the revised Lincoln system it will be extremely difficult for the gang to control nominations if decent republicans take enough in-

terest in the preliminaries to go to the primaries without waiting for a carriage and pair, as Mr. Thomas Kennard says, to haul them there. The worst results of the control of municipal affairs by the gang is that it destroys the interest of the good in politics and makes the term politician one of reproach instead of high honor. As the good housewife takes pride in orderly housekeeping, so the good citizen should be able to congratulate himself on his city keeping or the application of economy and unselfishness to city affairs. The city central committee has advised two primaries and a preliminary republican registration, the two primaries to be held on March 11 and 17 respectively. These means for securing a better representation of the people's interests will be negated unless the republicans of this city forget their disgust of the old regime in the hope of the future which can be realized only with their support.

Miss Frances Willard, the president of the World's Christian Temperance Union, was one of those rare individuals who can inspire multitudes with perfect confidence in her ability and highmindedness. Wherever she went on this round world she inspired the same feelings. She was in every sense of the word, a leader. Her foibles, which are the results of long continued and unquestioned leadership were of small consequence when compared with what she accomplished for temperance and purity. There is no one to take her place. The financial complications arising from the Woman's temple at Chicago which have introduced great differences of opinion into the union and at several meetings threatened to disorganize it have been at those times, if not dissipated, at least hopefully arranged by Miss Willard. The woman who takes her place will probably have the support of one faction, but she cannot be the idol of all, as Miss Willard was. The cohesion which really exists between the different societies of the Temperance Union the world over is the result of Miss Willard's political sense and devotion to a principle. There are plenty of others with just as much sense and just as much devotion, but they are lacking in those qualities possessed by one in a hundred thousand, qualities that compel obedience, faith and devotion to the cause in their followers.

The historian who writes the history of today will need to read the papers. They will inform him of what the people were doing and learning. The reports of women's clubs and their courses of study, which embrace every-

thing except science and the languages, will explain the intellectual accomplishment of the twenty-first century.

Colleges are all very well, but only a small percentage of the people are graduated from or influenced, except indirectly, by them. But all the women, excepting some of the very rich and elegant, have begun to study in clubs assembled. When two women stop to have a morning conversation, over a back fence, it relates to the special branch of literature or history or music which their especial club is studying. The elevation of the mind which results from association with lofty creative minds, is eliminating gossip and backbiting, and teaching charity and toleration. Mental culture is the least important of the results of association with the really great ones of the earth. That gentle Christian, Shakspeare, teaches love of kind, unselfishness and purity, and the intelligent study of history is like living and learning for a thousand years. Membership in any of the larger clubs is unrestricted. In many places it is composed of those who need it most—poor women who have known little but toil and no sympathy from or association with more fortunate women who have been able to buy culture. The advantages of scientific study of the problems of child raising and home keeping are making a change in the lives of the poorer middle class. There are in Lincoln small clubs that the larger ones know nothing of; they are unfederated and unknown, but their members are patronizing the city library in increasing numbers, and the eventual result will raise the tone of the city to an unforeseen dignity.

The self respect of the republican party revived when Eugene Moore received his sentence from a republican judge. The people and the newspapers of the state acknowledged the justice of the decision and the verdict of the supreme court is a disappointment to all lovers of justice, as well as an injury to the republican party, which, as a party, subscribes to high principles, and as a party insists that they be carried out. The verdict illustrates the difference between exact justice and the technical interpretation of the law, which, in this case, is about as far apart as the two often get. If justice and the law are so irreconcilable, if there is no indictment that will hold that can be brought against an auditor who takes the state's money and puts it in his pocket, what recourse have the people of the state? Auditors from this day forward have free access to the treas-