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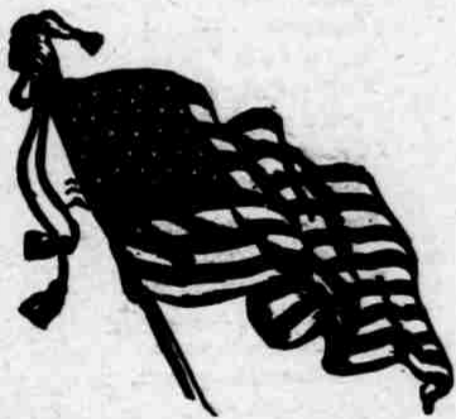
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## OBSERVATIONS.

To repeat a remark of a few weeks ago, it is not possible for a man, however distinguished himself, to provide a halo for his whole family. By way of cheap newspaper cuts the family of a hero, a statesman or a writer can become known to the world. But such fame is shared by murderers and freaks. Fame worth having is more exclusive. To be known as a brother of General Merritt is a distinction possessed by a Nebraska farmer. It is his only refulgence. He has allowed the opportunities of his life to pass him by trusting to his brother's generosity for a living and to his fame to gain him his neighbor's respect. The

one has not kept his weeds down, nor has the other given him the possession that makes life supportable—self respect. This fable would not be urged if the example of men and women who beg to remind one of the obligations this country is under to an ancestor of theirs long dead and gone to dust or of the deeds and intellect and possessions of contemporary kinfolk, were not so recurrent. Strangers only can be impressed by our relation to something which, when it was blood and bones and flesh, thrilled the heart of the world. To the small circle of our acquaintance we are futile or precious because of our deeds and hearts—the rest is vanity.

Judge Comstock is trying to administer the law according to the statutes and his own conscience. He was elected to the office of police judge by the people, who had confidence in his judgment and integrity, to try the petty malefactors brought before him by the police. A writer on the News advises the judge to listen to what the chief of police says in regard to the prisoners brought before him and to follow his recommendations in disposing of them. Now, if the police judge is to be the mouthpiece of the chief of police, the functions of the two might as well be united in one man and the municipality be saved the judge's salary. If the law relating to vagrants is too general it can be revised, but the advice given the judge by the flippant daily is unworthy serious consideration and THE COURIER is very glad to note that Judge Comstock is still self-reliant and bent on exercising that judgment which the votes of the people have declared sound. The police and judiciary were separated by the founders of our democratic system of government. There are many obvious reasons why the man who makes the arrest is unfit to award the punishment for the petty offense or suspicion of offense, for which the ragged beggar was run in. The statutes concerning vagrancy and kindred offenses were made by the well fed and warmed and temperate for the hungry and freezing and ill-born. They are not too merciful, and when, perchance, a judge is elected who is willing to hear the vagrant's side of the question and who has sworn not only with his lips to do exact justice, then forsooth, the penny-a-liners advise him, out of their ignorance of law and the institutions of our country, to turn his back upon the people and justice and do his worst to the cringing results of an improperly adjusted society, which the men with the club have cast before

him. Such advice is worthy of a paper which attacks a wandering crippled soap merchant and attempts to destroy his reputation and the reputation of his wares because the merchant will not advertise on that self-same page. But the judge will gang his gait. He is content to wait for the verdict of that time, when he shall have turned over his office to a successor, who, let us hope, will be equally anxious to do no one, however helpless, an injustice.

The deaths of Gladstone and Bismarck will stimulate the professional biographers, memoir compilers and editors of letters to a feverish industry. Gladstone might have been eminent in the church or in literature if he had not been prime minister. He had the memory and the minute painstaking habits of a scientific student. It may be noted, however, that specialists in science concede his eminence in literature and statesmanship, that the masters of literature are willing to admit him a profound scientist and only politicians and statesmen admit that he was a pre-eminent statesman. It is therefore fairly to be concluded that he was a dilettant in literature, an amateur scientist, and head and shoulders above the politicians of all parties. With an unlimited capacity to assimilate all kinds of knowledge to be used on demand, Mr. Gladstone was, first of all, a great speaker and special pleader. Added to this qualification were ambition, love of applause and a capacity for affairs, and that desire to direct events which has induced men of even inferior ability to seize a lucky chance leading to eminence. Bismarck cared not for literature or art. They were well enough for effeminate men and women. He cared only for power over men and kingdoms. Like the knights of old who despised monks and clerks who knew how to write, Bismarck's trust was in the army, though occasionally, for the sake or making a period in the Reichstag, he would say that he trusted in God whom he believed held all Germans in the highest esteem. What he really believed in was the strong arm and in making combinations to force the hand of the weak. His doctrine of the divine right of kings ended fatally for him. The young William learned it so thoroughly, that as soon as the coronation services were over, Bismarck began to learn that the emperor thought there was none greater, no, not one, not even Bismarck who made Germany and himself, and revived and strengthened the doctrine of the divine right of kings. Never was a more apt pupil than William II. Bismarck, exiled

from court these eight years, must have thought of the doctrine he has taught the German people and three generations of Hohenzollerns so well. And then while he smoked his long pipe has he not reflected that he should have taught the Hohenzollerns the exception to the rule? Germany has so many exceptions, no system can be truly Teutonic without them, not even the one that the Iron Chancellor was twenty years in teaching the Hohenzollern family.

The long widowhood and retirement from society of Queen Victoria works hardship to the merchants of England. The queen avoids London and if it were not for the voluntary assumption by the Prince of Wales of the tiresome and burdensome functions of royalty, the mutterings of the shopkeepers and tradesmen of England might have become a serious menace to the crown. The Prince of Wales has entertained his mother's guests, has patronized the theatre and art, has been a liberal patron of the sports which all Englishmen love. Without a king's revenue and a king's influence and a king's reward, he has not flinched, for the glory of England, to do a king's part. When Queen Victoria finally lays down the sceptre, and none can say she has not ruled wisely, King Edward VII will not be found wanting in those qualities which have distinguished the best of England's monarchs.

The queen has not visited Ireland for many years. When the Prince is king those who know his views in regard to Ireland say that he will reside in Dublin a part of each year. Such a residence would increase knowledge and friendliness and strengthen the unity (which is now only diversity) between the two islands under one king. Union is as essential to England and Ireland as to this country. The Irish do not hate the English any more than the south hated the north twenty years before the war, which forcibly and unsatisfactorily united the two sections. Nor are they any the less united by commercial interests, tradition, proximity and race than the people of the north and the south. Disunion and separation would be unwise for both and in the case of the smaller island would destroy government and injure commerce. However much the Irish may object to the overlordship of England such an alliance has kept all other nations off and provided the islanders with politics up to their eyes and the latter is no small favor considering the tendencies of the Celts of Ireland.

It is not contended that Ireland has