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OBSERVATIONS.

The discovery that Mr. Thompson was willing to join the populist party or any other which would elect him to the senate undermines his influence with the professional politicians who, whatever their vices, are loyal to the party which has given them place and a certain amount of power. These are shocked by his offer to be a little American, to oppose the policy of the administration, in short, to accept, more or less succinctly, the Chicago platform.

They were not shaken by the evidence in regard to his use of the city water, while he was supposed to be using well water, and were unmoved by evidence in regard to his orders to the Mayor to plug the Mockett well. Nor were they aroused by his connection with the Capital National Bank scandal. All such conduct, or worse, may be expected of a ward boss. But an offer to sell out the party is quite another thing. It is impossible to have the friendship and support of two opposing parties. Nor does a traitor ever fully gain the confidence and respect of the party he trades allegiance with. It is human nature to remember, and the man who has been willing to renounce long-time friends and associates, may in turn find it expedient to renounce the new associates and break faith with them, for the gain of pelf or power.

In the case of Mr. Thompson, inquiry even among the humblest and least particular of those he has counted upon to work for his schemes, discovers a lack of enthusiasm for their former guide, philosopher, and friend.

In consequence, Lincoln republicans are no longer divided into Thompson and anti-Thompson factions. Men of the former faith, who will avow it, are hard to find, and the city schism is in the way of being healed.

A statement of the results of Mr. Thompson's unsuccessful campaign would be incomplete without a recognition of the removal from city politics of this heretofore schismatic influence. His place will be taken, sooner or later by someone else; but in the meantime, if the citizens really want an epoch of good government, they can secure it with less exertion now.

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The testimony before the government court of inquiry investigating the beef controversy has convinced those who have read the reports, that an army going into a tropical country should be victualled with special regard to the effects of heat upon foods, and especially upon fatty foods. Now the Cuban army commissariat was the same as if it had been an expedition to the North Pole, where the human fires must be fed almost exclusively upon fats, oils, and foods which make heat. It is because we have not had much of an army, and because we have kept what we had in the temperate zone, that a daily beef ration is considered indispensable. Inhabitants of the tropics do not subsist on a meat diet, but if meat had not been furnished the soldiers we sent to Cuba, the terrifying howl of the carnivora would still have startled the secretary in his office. The silkworm is not more prejudiced about the necessity of the mulberry leaf to his existence than is the ordinary American man, convinced that his strength and working capacity depend upon the meat he eats three times a day. Therefore it would have been hard to convince the soldier of the tropics that he did not need meat.

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Chicago began it by twitting Kansas City and Missouri about acquitting Jesse James for train robbery. Kansas City answered by saying that her butchers had not formed the habit of boiling their wives in the sausage vat. Country people cannot see much difference in the quality, enormity and number of the crimes committed in any large city. Wherever people are herded together in unassorted crowds, the abnormal and the degenerate seem to be more frequent than the healthful, just as it seems as if there were more accidents and murders than there were fifty years ago, when the world was not sifted every twenty-four hours of everything except the unexpected and the morbidly interesting. The morning paper is a chronicle of the degenerate. We should be greatly encouraged that yesterday, among a billion people, only a few committed murder, arson, and robbery. Every morning we read the minutes of yesterday's world, kept by the Associated

Press. Neither Chicago nor Kansas City nor New York, nor London, nor Paris is as bad as it is good. But the bad get into the police courts, and from there into the papers. Thus the record is a very black one, and members of the W. C. T. U. and other societies which were organized to hinder the evil and help the good, frequently become exasperated and discouraged because they do not see life whole. Kansas City is black in spots, and so is Chicago. Neither is entitled to call names and throw stones. Though, to the outsider, the indignation of all Missouri when Jesse James was accused of train robbery, and the peculiarly cold blooded wife murders committed by the Chicago butchers, Luetgert and Becker, seem characteristic of Kansas City and Chicago crime, both cities resent the conclusion so decidedly that we are forced to withdraw the charges.

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Public speakers who attack the administration are running risks of losing their audiences. The President has moved slowly, and most of the people have kept up with him and the inevitable progress of events since the declaration of war against Spain. The boys who are fighting the treacherous insurgents in the Philippines are quite likely to have friends and relatives in every audience, and the criticism of conceited preachers and of politicians whose popularity wanes because the people have small interest in a panacea which failed, may be printed and reach the insurgents, and encourage them to assassinate the brave young soldiers standing guard around the American flag in the Philippines.

Most preachers profess to believe that the Lord rules. They believe He led the children of Israel into bondage and out of it—was with Rome as long as the Empire represented the highest civilization, was against the Saracens at the battle of Tours, helped the Pilgrims to establish themselves on this Continent, was on the American side in the Revolution, and was on the Union side in the Rebellion. They profess to believe that in every struggle of the past where right triumphed and a less spiritual religion than the Jewish was discouraged, it was because of an overruling providence which was leading men by the most direct path to a higher development. Now, since the war began, there surely has been a leading, and it is a daily cause for gratitude that the President of this country has prescience enough and humility enough to remember that he is only a man and, in consequence, can take orders and hints from a higher intelligence. There are many who believe that Secretary Alger is a mistake, and that the commissary system was unequal to the demands of a suddenly increased army upon it, and that untrained quartermasters made a mess of it; but nevertheless the President, since the war began, has made no mistake in policy or prudence,

and while the American soldiers are fighting the battles of civilization for America across the ocean, it is fendishly, selfishly inconsistent for Americans to instill a distrust of the administration into savage breasts. The President has said nothing and done nothing to give even the professional orator reason to say that he means to destroy autonomical impulses in the Philippines, and it is treasonable and silly to preach rebellion against a policy as yet unannounced. The Philippines must come to order before any policy can be announced, and Uncle Sam is just the speaker to enforce it. If he retired from the howling, disorderly mob headed by Aguinaldo, he might have trouble to keep his possessions in North America, let alone the Philippines. He would be scorned by England, Germany, and even Italy.

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From present appearances, it will take several years before we can turn over the Philippines in good order to the inhabitants who will have learned a system of government. In the meantime the heads of the commissary department might profitably study the foods of a tropical climate and their fitness to sustain the life and strength of an American soldier brought up on beef and pork—a soldier whose father, grandfather, and great grandfather were also fed on meat. An elastic menu composed of an assortment of foods to suit the temperate and frigid zones and the equatorial belt would produce greater harmony in the army and tend to the diffusion of that satisfaction which sets in after a cooling and delicious meal on a hot day, and a warming and delicious meal on a cold one. The only trouble is, that the army seems to have a system which, whether it conform to the needs of the officers and privates or not, is fixed, and can be changed only by legislation. The fixity of certain things which should be flexible is illustrated by the army rations under consideration. It is meat and beans for an expedition to Alaska. It is meat and beans for Cuba and the Philippines. It is meat and beans for the stations in the United States, in spite of the degrees between Dallas and Manitoba. There is little scientific adjustment between climate and diet in the army. Government contracts with the packers are made on the basis of so many men to feed, and the beef is sent to the different posts regardless of climatic conditions, usually, it must be confessed, in a good state of preservation.

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Secretary Alger has decided that the new law in reference to the canteen simply provides against liquor being sold by an officer or private. The admirable system of turning back the profits of the canteen into the regimental fund would be interrupted if the canteen should be destroyed. The control of all liquor sold to soldiers should be vested in the commandant,