

she be caught again she will be again liberated, for is she not subject to emotional insanity? Murder is murder whether committed by a man or a woman. Dinsmore's crime in intention was no more heinous than Miss Horlocker's. At least he did not try to kill a whole neighborhood. His victims were the two people who interfered with what he thought his happiness. A great deal of horror was expressed when the autopsy confirmed the doctor's statements that Guiteau, the murderer of Garfield, had a diseased brain. His execution was better than an acquittal. For the latter course would have meant the sure death of one or more healthy, human beings with a better title to life. A case of homicidal mania in man or woman, when once discovered should be isolated. For against a maniac society has no protection unless the patient is confined.

A Melancholy Man.

In "The Story of a Country Town," the author fails to express any of the joy of life and there is joy as well as misery in living. There is great satisfaction in watching the development of life, even though it be our own. It is like listening to an interesting story whose denouement is always unexpected, whose finale can never be determined in advance, a story with a plot laid by villains and thwarted by the good, a story set in prairies or mountains or by the sea. Rich or poor, ignorant or wise, black or white none know what is going to happen. The men and women of Mr. Howe's story are not interested in life. They have no curiosity. They do not enjoy the prairies or the sky. They betray no recognition of themselves as a part of the drama. They fall in love lifelessly. From youth to the grave they are depressed. A good business, and a good and pretty wife does not cheer up the hero who is still haunted by the accumulated griefs that have afflicted him since his birth. Life as Ed. Howe sees it is certainly not worth while. In summing up the joys and sorrows of existence almost everyone forgets to include the surprises and the newness of every day—the absolute impenetrability of the plot. The unconfessed, perhaps unrecognized interest with which Mr. Howe observes men and women, and affairs is what induced him to write a book in the first place. The gloom of his temperament is unrelieved. None of the characters have to prove their guilt. The hero's father is taciturn and the hero never recovers from the childish mood of believing him a criminal and suspicion finally drives the father to his foreordained crime. A sincere cynic, Mr. Howe neither in his books nor in his newspaper attempts to conceal his distrust and dislike of humanity. His recent announcement of disbelief in the Christian religion is somewhat superfluous. So cheerful an hypothesis of life and death and immortality is not calculated to attract a mind that loves darkness rather than light, sees evil to the exclusion of good temperamentally and crystallizes it in epigrams: "There is only one grade of men; they are all contemptible. The judge may seem to be a superior creature so long as he keeps at a distance, for I have never known one who was not constantly trying to look wise and grave, but when you know him you find there is nothing remarkable about him except a plug hat, a respectable coat, and a great deal of vanity; induced by the servility of those who expect favors. "We are sometimes unable to understand why a pretty, little woman marries a fellow we

know to be worthless; but the fellow, who knows the woman better than we do, considers that he has thrown himself away. We know the fellow, but we do not know the woman."

A Naive Announcement.

Admiral Dewey at six o'clock on Tuesday evening said to a "World" reporter: "I realize that the time has arrived when I must definitely define my position." Since studying this subject I am convinced that the office of president is not such a very difficult one to fill, his duties being mainly to execute the laws of congress. I should execute the laws of congress as faithfully as I have always executed the orders of my superiors." When the reporter asked him on what platform he stood, the Admiral replied that he had already said too much.

Admiral Dewey has not asked President McKinley's opinion about the difficulties of the presidency. Mrs. Dewey has apparently convinced the confiding and unsophisticated Admiral that a president's duties and difficulties are not complex but consist entirely in the execution of the laws passed by congress. With the directness and sincerity exhibited by all great soldiers from Alexander the Great to Ulysses Grant, Admiral Dewey has accepted the hundreds of letters which he has received from friends asking him to become a candidate for the nomination as a genuine and upartisan invitation from the country, to accept the presidency of the United States. It is doubtful if he cares what party nominates him. From his standpoint it does not matter, because according to the Admiral he can do only what congress instructs him. The almost unlimited power of initiating legislation, the negative power of the veto, the appointing power, and the absolutism of the executive in war time were not referred to by the Admiral. Politicians, old stagers in society and everyone with enough experience of society and politics realizes that Mrs. Dewey has been reflecting upon the advantages that pertain to the only royalty in America. Suspicion of such an influence and the Admiral's refusal to announce any convictions will make his nomination more difficult than the hasty impression gathered from the enthusiasm Dewey's name still produces, would indicate.

The Machine.

A good machine that can be depended upon, that works easily and rapidly is as indispensable in politics as it is in commerce. The political machine is nothing but organization in charge of a sleepless engineer. The people are often restless when the machine is working the most easily and irresistibly.

The political engine is now at work to make a United States senator from Nebraska, and the chances are that it will again demonstrate the superiority of cog-wheels, rods and oil to unorganized and diversely directed man power.

There are old-fashioned believers in the fiction that this is a government of all the people, who distrust all machines and disbelieve still in their efficiency. But for large contracts there is nothing so useful and reliable as a machine in perfect condition and in charge of a competent operator. American boys are taught by their mothers and fathers and in juvenile literature that the power of the ballot is absolute in this country and that when they grow up they with their schoolmates are to make and unmake presidents, senators, and

other exalted officials. When the boys begin to vote they are influenced by these early teachings, they consult their consciences, and consequently these first votes and the purity of the men who deposit votes have come to be a distinct element in nominations. The youngsters find out by the time they deposit their second presidential vote that their vote is frequently only a choice of evils, and that the voter is to the machine as one man to a colossal engine. The Chicago Record endeavored to advise the citizens of Chicago what councilmen to vote for in the recent city election. After many names were printed "Don't vote," and the editor explained that the candidates were corrupt, but supported by so powerful a machine that it was not worth while to vote. The older, larger, richer cities, of course possess the largest and most perfect machines, but for a place of its size Lincoln has a very creditable, handsome, and most effective machine.

Puerto Rico.

There are very few papers in this country whose editors are not denouncing the Puerto Rican tariff legislation. Puerto Rico either belongs to the United States or it does not. The federal government might as justly discriminate against Nebraska as against Puerto Rico. It is difficult at any time to learn the wishes of the people. Demagogues announce that the people want this or that and fail to prove it. But when the newspapers all over the country, republican and democratic denounce any action or lack of it, it is good politics for the president and congress to listen. For all the papers, not this one or that one, but all the papers are the great folk-meeting of the people. When the north, south, east and west shout denunciation in one voice so that the words can be distinguished, congress and the president must listen on peril of immediate and overwhelming disfavor. The United States made certain representations and promises to the government of Puerto Rico. If a republican president and congress break those promises, for the sake of protected industries in this country, no machinery and no men can put the president back again when his time is up. The tariff is unrighteous and the attempt to impose it on helpless Puerto Rico, has profoundly shocked the moral sense of the whole people. The republican cartoonists, leader writers and political essayists are trying to counteract the influence of the trusts before it is too late. Most of them believe that it is not the time for apologies but for arguments and evidence that the country at large is opposed to injustice and bad faith. The tobacco and sugar dealers of this country are alarmed for fear their profits may be decreased. All the rest of the people resent the assault on the dignity of America.

Senator Cushman K. Davis of Minnesota, chairman of the committee on foreign relations is bravely and consistently opposing the tariff. He said that from the time the measure was reported to the house until today a tide of protest had risen against it and that protest had culminated in righteous indignation. It had come from every part of the country and from people in every walk of life and it was based upon the principles that Puerto Rico, in all the circumstances should have free trade with the United States.

"I think," said Mr. Davis, "I would be as firm as anybody under a sudden, transitory, public manifestation of feeling, but when that sentiment speaks to us week after week in con-

stantly swelling volume, we must take heed of it. This question is well understood by the people. Supporters of this bill cannot lay the flattering unction to their souls that the editors of the great newspapers do not understand it quite as well as we do. The people understand it, too, and understand it well."

The Queen's Overtures.

A very old lady and yet how serenely the Queen opposed the ministers who objected to her trip to Ireland and to the privilege of the shamrock. She should have gone years ago, though she knew Irishmen did not love her. It is human to avoid an unfriendly atmosphere, but if the Queen had gone to Ireland before and more frequently the misunderstanding between England and Ireland might not be so deep. The Irish troops with their Irish officers fought for "the widow" so well that the still impulsive Queen wanted to do something to express her gratitude. Irishmen appear to love Ireland better than themselves, so the Queen's womanly plan of honoring that which they honor and love most is sound. Friends of the English and Irish are hoping that this visit may be the beginning of a reconciliation between them whose interests are so nearly identical. The Irish-American hatred of England has always seemed more rhetorical than real. Their very iteration of grievance suggests, that they fear that they will forget it. In the successful occupation and direction of another country, the Irish-American has to blow on his disapproval of England all the time to keep it alive. For old injustice loses strength and the Irishman on alien soil is still an Englishman.

Calvinism.

The letter of the Reverend Newell Dwight Hillis of Plymouth church, Brooklyn, resigning from the Chicago presbytery and from the Presbyterian church, on the ground that he could no longer subscribe to certain leading Calvinistic doctrines, expresses his belief that business men are drifting away from the Presbyterian church. Rather than give up the Westminster confession the church is losing from its ministry, absolutely honest men like Doctor Hillis and from its lay membership men and women who are not creatively as distinguished as Doctor Hillis and who have his characteristic of exigent honesty. To subscribe solemnly to a confession that no one believes in, is revolting to the fastidious conscience. Business men in general know very little about the higher criticism, but if they are successful it is because of their conformity to the rules of common sense and the higher criticism is only that and science and history applied to Bible understanding. Business men will not subscribe to what does not seem reasonable and their withdrawal, if the confession is insisted upon will be felt more and more in the next hundred years by a church which has a most noble history.

SHE'D FIND IT.

"Doctor, my wife has lost her voice; what can I do about it?"

"Go home late some night."—The Bazar.

PREPARATORY.

Bookkeeper—Your wife is at the door, sir, and would like to speak to you a moment.

Mr. Sellers—Yee; just see what my balance at the bank is, will you?—The Bazar.