

OBSERVATIONS.

Miss Stone.

The robbers who have captured Miss Stone demand a ransom of one hundred thousand dollars for her return. Ours not to reason why or enter into a debate with men who will not observe the rules. Miss Stone should be ransomed immediately and the bandits punished afterward. Miss Stone says in a letter to Mr. Peet, treasurer of the Turkish mission at Constantinople, that she was captured by some forty armed men as she was traveling in company with about twelve students and teachers from Bankso to Diumaala. She says further that this capture was made "entirely with the knowledge of the Turkish and Bulgarian governments." One of the advantages of belonging to a strong government is its ability to protect its citizens. Miss Stone is entitled to protection by this government from the unspeakable Turk. Whether she will get it in time or not is still a question. Republics are slow and Turkish cruelty and lawlessness is of so old a growth. The American Board of Missions can not or will not provide the ransom, though it sent Miss Stone over there and is an old and much vaunted corporation. That story of the Englishman imprisoned by robbers in a don-jon keep across the ocean somewhere far, far away, has occurred to a number of her countrymen since the capture. England sent a warship and landed a small army near the keep for the English man, who was an Irishman. The English marines, most of them Irish, marched up the hill, down into the don-jon and they did not march down again without their man. It cost something over a million dollars to rescue this one blundering, poor man. It was worth it, though. Since that time nobody has thought it profitable to capture an inoffensive Englishman and detain him against his will. And since that time every Englishman has been prouder of his English citizenship and more confident of what it means and of the invincible dignity and power of a great nation. If neither America nor the American Board can rescue Miss Stone and that other woman with child who is with her before they are tortured to death by the savages who captured her, we have not so much cause for pride as the Irish Englishman, who for once in his life was thankful that "home rule" did not prevail. The Bulgarian and Turkish monarchs, having observed the slowness of this government and the length of time and of red tape it requires to collect a bill or exact compensation for an injury or an injustice done an American, decided to capture a good American by the aid of the bandits whose craft is recognized and respected for by the governments of Bulgaria and Turkey.

If Miss Stone had been employed by a railroad company to civilize the Turks and prepare the social way or public sentiment for a railway, and while in the discharge of her duties she had been captured by the unspeakable Turks who should demand from the railroad a ransom of one hundred thousand dollars, what a roar of immitigable rage would issue from seventy-five million red, wide-open American throats about soulless corporations. But a railroad company has more sense of personal responsibility towards its employes and emissaries than the corporation of the American Board which is now trying to satisfy the public and Miss Stone's family by arguing that if it accede to the bandits' demand for one hundred thousand dollars, all their missionaries may be stolen.

After making this statement, which is true concerning the payment of all ransoms, the American Board promulgates a petition to the people of this country to raise the ransom money by subscription.

The Turk does not care a jot whether the money comes out of the treasury of the Board or directly out of the American people. He loves neither. In sending Miss Stone to Turkey, the Board is responsible for her. To evade the responsibility in the way the members of it attempt, is most unworthy any corporation, and if they continue to shirk responsibility until Miss Stone and her companion are harmed, contributions to American missions abroad should hereafter reach the missionaries through some corporation or board which does recognize responsibility to its agents. If the American Missionary Board does not immediately send the ransom money to the agent of the Bulgarian Bandit company who has demanded it, gifts to that Board for missions will inevitably be lessened.

Aside from humanity and the common responsibility of a company to its agents, it is very bad business policy, considering that the Board makes constant appeals to the public for funds. If the Board pays the money other missionaries may be abducted; but if the money is not paid and Miss Stone is killed, retribution for the Board, and every haggling member of it, is certain. Mr. Cudahy did not stop to consider the dangers to his other children when Pat Crowe demanded twenty-five thousand dollars for the return of his son Eddie. And if Miss Stone were the daughter of any member of the Board they would not thus calmly deliberate. But the Board is hopeless.

When President Roosevelt announced that the American government would demand from the Turkish government the full amount of the ransom paid by Americans for the ransom of Miss Stone, it seems to me he admitted that the Turkish government is responsible for the safety of an American citizen to the American government and not to individual Americans or to any timid, shirking board. What is one hundred thousand dollars to the consciousness in every American breast that the government is strong and able and willing to protect every citizen, man or woman, high or low in a foreign country whose liberty is restrained or whose person is attacked? How quickly England would effect the delivery of Miss Stone and collect the money afterwards with costs.

Reciprocity.

Steel billets are selling in this country from \$26 to \$27 per ton. The steel trust delivers, or can deliver, steel billets in London at \$16.50 per ton. It costs the English manufacturer not less than \$19 a ton to make steel. Considering these facts and that American steel-workers are paid twice as much as British workmen, The Mirror inquires "why the Englishmen should get his steel cheaper from us than he can get it at home or than we can buy it in America? Where does it help the American workmen? The latter gets high wages but he must eventually give up what his employer charges other people. Why should our tariff shut out English steel when English steel can not possibly compete with our steel on English soil? How does America profit by paying more for steel than it can lay steel down for in England? The tariff helps the foreigner but soaks the American every time." "Prices are fixed with mathematical

precision by supply and demand. The world's selling prices are regulated by market and club reports. Market prices of products and of securities are hourly known in every commercial mart, and the investments of the people extend beyond their own national boundaries into the remotest part of the earth. No nation can longer be indifferent to any other. We have a vast and intricate business built up through years of toil and struggle, in which every part of the country has its stake, which will not permit of either neglect or of undue selfishness. No narrow, sordid policy will subserve it. The greatest skill and wisdom on the part of manufacturers and producers will be required to hold and increase it. Our capacity to produce has developed so enormously, and our products have so multiplied, that the problem of more markets requires our earnest and immediate attention. Only a broad and enlightened policy will keep what we have. No other policy will get more. In these times of marvellous business energy and gain, we ought to be looking to the future, strengthening the weak places in our industrial and commercial systems, that we may be ready for any storm or strain."

"By sensible trade arrangements which will not interrupt our home production, we shall extend the outlets for our increase surplus. A system which provides a mutual exchange of commodities is manifestly essential to the continued and healthful growth of our export trade. We must not repose in fancied security that we can forever sell everything and buy little or nothing. . . . Reciprocity is the natural outgrowth of our wonderful domestic development under the domestic policy now firmly established. What we produce beyond our domestic consumption must have a vent abroad. The excess must be relieved through a foreign outlet and we should sell everywhere we can and buy wherever the buying will enlarge our sales and productions, and thereby make a greater demand for home labor. The period of exclusiveness is past. The expansion of our trade and commerce is the pressing problem. Commercial wars are unprofitable. A policy of good will and friendly rivalry will prevent reprisals. Reciprocity treaties are in harmony with the spirit of the times; measures of retaliation are not."

"If perchance some of our tariffs are no longer needed for revenue or to encourage and protect our industries at home, why should they not be employed and promote our markets abroad?"

These are the words and this the final conclusion of President William McKinley, uttered in his noble address at Buffalo, September 5th, 1901, the last day of health he was permitted to have. His words, addressed as they were to all-America and to men and women from all parts of the earth gathered at the great exposition, express the culminating wisdom of the first American, a man who had had the largest opportunity to learn what is best for America. The republican party cannot afford to disregard this advice. The manufacturers cannot afford to disregard it. A narrow, selfish policy will limit our own selling, will decrease our own production. Anything which tends to impoverish or cripple buyers is bad for the sellers. We cannot for long sell to Germany, England, France and exclude Germans, Englishmen and Frenchmen from our markets. This last speech of President McKinley's should be put in the text books that the children might learn it and thus remember it all their lives as we only remember those first halting syllables we learned in school readers.

CLUBS.

The meeting held at Wayne October 8-11 was one of the most successful in the history of the federation, and in point of number and interest exceeded the expectations of the members, and it was conceded that the committee had made no mistake in choosing Wayne as the place of meeting. Wayne is a beautiful town, and the federation brought many, for the first time, to enjoy the hearty reception and hospitality that was in evidence on every hand. Many have felt that this was a critical time, an important epoch in the history of the federation, but anyone holding pessimistic views in regard to the future success of this organization must, in the face of such a meeting as this, relinquish them and give credit to the federation for more than it claims.

The address of welcome by Mrs. Bressler of Wayne was most cordial and Mrs. Gertrude McDowell of Fairbury gave a hearty response.

The address of the president, Mrs. Draper Smith, was clearly and concisely given, and was full of practical thoughts and suggestions for the work of the clubs. Some of the projects worthy the support of the clubs were the woman's property rights bill, the juvenile court law to supplement compulsory education, southern kindergartens for colored children, pure food law and manual training in schools for boys and girls. Mrs. Smith advocated club extension as the best means of bringing about these things, and many of the points suggested in her address were taken up and discussed during the session. She paid a touching tribute to the memory of President McKinley, saying that in his death "womanhood has sustained an irreparable loss, his life being an example of equal standard of virtue, his death a monument to woman's strongest weapons, purity of home, law and order."

The advisability of merging the federation library into that of the state commission library was discussed at length and with much warmth on both sides of the question; and while the club women felt that they should have had at least one of their number on the commission, the vote taken showed that the federation recognized the fact that the state commission could do more effectual work and the books were relinquished.

Mrs. H. H. Hellar of Omaha made an eloquent and earnest plea for kindergartens for the colored children of the south. Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst instituted a kindergarten training school at Washington, D. C., for the purpose of training young colored women for teachers for the schools in the south, and Mrs. Hellar asked that the clubs provide one scholarship. She showed in a convincing manner that the hope of the south was in the education of the children, and asked that each club give an entertainment, with a small admission fee, the proceeds to go toward the support of a student in this training school. The delegates voted to bring the matter before their respective clubs, and report in six weeks to Mrs. Hellar.

The nominating committee, composed of the presidents of clubs, was instructed to bring two names for each office before the convention to be voted upon, and the following are the officers for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. Draper Smith of Omaha; vice president, Mrs. Durland of Norfolk; recording secretary, Miss McCann of Fremont; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Lobingier of Omaha; auditor, Mrs. H. M. Bushnell of Lincoln; treasurer, Mrs. Cross of Fairbury; librarian, Mrs. Stoutenborough of Plattsmouth.

The delegates elected to the next bi