

THE COURIER

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Here and There

The Ann Arbor (Mich.) Argus in noticing "Hon. Bird S. Coler" as possibly the next democratic nominee for president gives this astonishing bit of biography: "Mr. Coler," says the Argus, "was born in Illinois about four years ago."

Everybody is familiar with the legend that Minerva leaped full panoplied and armed from the brain of Jove; that Mercury crawled out of his cradle when only six days old and, stealing Apollo's cows, dragged them into a cave by their tails that the tracks might indicate an outward movement and so deceive the god of the silver bow. Then, too, when found in his cradle, the youngster lied like a trooper when Apollo accused him of the theft; didn't know "what things cows be." Most people have supposed the legends were myths, but here at the dawn of the 20th century a four-year-old is called to the university city to lecture on "Good Government," said four-year-old being also a possible democratic nominee for president! We may have to revise our belief in ancient myths. What a campaign is possible with such a candidate! We can easily imagine Lee Herdman wheeling

his candidate in a baby cab through our streets, introducing him to the ever-faithful democrats of Lincoln with an air of triumph, as though his election were already assured. Surely Mercury and Minerva are not in it.

One thing, however, may stand in the way of his election. This precocious youngster, so he is reported, told the young men of the Good Government club that "too much stress has been placed on honesty for public position," and this, too, while the military scandals and the Grand Rapids departure from rectitude are still fresh in the public thought. But nobody can tell the capacity of this marvel of the 20th century to make black white or the worse to appear the better reason, and it stands the republicans in hand to fortify their position before that baby cab starts on its tour around the country.

The magnificent gift of \$30,000,000 made by Mrs. Stanford to Leland Stanford university places that institution far in advance of the eastern colleges that have heretofore been considered wealthy, and leaves even Chicago far in the rear. It is stated that Mrs. Stanford's gift is three times as large as any endowment ever before given to an educational institution. If our magnates go on provoking each other to good works, the public will eventually get the benefit of the immense fortunes which have so seriously troubled reformers of the populist type. Andrew Carnegie is disposed to place the modest sum of ten millions at the command of university interests, and is considering the founding of a national university for investigation and research at Washington. There will soon be no excuse for us if we do not become the most learned of peoples. But there is one thing that this country needs more than schools and more than books and that is a helping hand for those who have no chance to profit by either. The man who will devote his millions to the rescue of the children of the slums in our large cities will not only prevent a large amount of

evil and misery, but will remove a danger that seriously threatens the foundations of our civilization. Prevent vice and crime by industrial training and the remaining problems of municipal government will be easily solved.

Such a little matter as climate presents no obstacle to the enterprise of the twentieth century. The most beautiful roses in the world grow under glass in Upper Canada and are exported by the hundred thousand. The choicest Havana tobacco will be raised in Connecticut by covering the fields with a light frame-work over which is stretched a thin cotton cloth. And now in Arizona oranges are to be raised by covering the fields with a similar framework on which willow sprigs are spread to keep out the burning sun and to prevent the baking of the ground after irrigation. All these experiments are successful, but they all mean a lot of purely mechanical work, and where are the workers to come from? The world's inventions seem to be in excess of the world's ability to utilize them. We need hands as well as brains, and plenty of them.

The next political reform undertaken might well be the restoration of the house of representatives to the position of a responsible body. The habit it has gotten into of turning over important questions, almost without debate, to be disposed of by the senate, shows that for some reason the house has been deprived of its power, and that it is tired of playing at a farce. It is hard to see how the pre-Reed conditions are to be restored, but restored they must be if the house is ever again to be the arena in which such men as Blaine, Garfield and other wise statesmen and strong debaters had their training and won their spurs. Nothing is more dangerous to the public welfare than a house which acts under no sense of responsibility. When freedom of speech and freedom of choice in voting are prevented by tyrannical rules or corrupt manipulation, it is time to get back to first principles. Reform needs to begin at the primaries and to go all the way through to the house of representatives till the will of the

people can once more make itself felt in the government.

A practical application of the X-rays has been made by the Argentine republic in detecting by its use goods subject to duty sent by letter. More than \$20,000 worth of property was thus discovered and confiscated at Buenos Ayres in a single week. It will soon be more costly to break the law than to observe it.

TO VISIT AMERICA



Another royal visitor is shortly to honor America with a visit. He is Prince Hector, Count of Turin, and rumor has it that he expects to take an American bride home with him when he returns. The count is fourth in line of succession to the throne of Italy. He is very good looking, exceedingly wealthy and an athlete of no mean pretensions. He will arrive here early in February and will go first to Philadelphia.

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