

Richardson's New Honors. The death of Thomas H. Caswell of San Francisco has elevated Congressman James D. Richardson of Tennessee to the position of Sovereign Grand Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry. The honor is his for life, and carries with it an annual salary of \$3,000. It also entitles him to occupy the Holy House of the Temple, belonging to the Scottish Rite Masons and located at Third and E streets, Washington, D. C. He now outranks the Prince of Wales and President Diaz.

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Publicity That Should be Avoided. Bills have been introduced in several legislatures providing that the death penalty shall be inflicted only at the state penitentiary. This is a good measure. When executions are confined to the state prisons, publicity is avoided and the public is saved from the bad effects upon a community that always attend the execution of a human being. It would be well if every state in the union would abolish the hangman's noose, substituting therefor the electric chair, and requiring that whenever an execution must take place, it shall take place within the walls of the state prison.

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Typewriter Subsidy. The London Mail is considerably agitated because there are so few British typewriters on the market. The Mail has discovered that the American typewriter is superior to that of the British make, and that in addition to being unsatisfactory, the machines made in Great Britain cost 20 per cent more than those made in America, even after paying freight and charges on the latter.

It will now be in order for some republican statesman to father the "typewriter subsidy." There are just as many reasons for paying a subsidy to typewriter syndicates as there are for paying subsidies to ship-building syndicates.

The fact that Americans make a better machine at less cost than the machines of Europe may be the means of placing American typewriters in every clime.

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A Scientific Question. A New York physician appeals to the noted successful men of the country to leave their brains by will to scientists for post-mortem examination. Mr. Post, of Chicago, in his excellent weekly, *The Public*, commenting on the request, says:

Why not make the same request of noted unsuccessful men? The brains of both will be needed for comparison before valid conclusions can be drawn. But suppose that such comparison reveals no differences, what then?

If such an investigation should show a physical difference between the brains of the successful and the brains of the unsuccessful it would still remain a matter of dispute whether the difference in brains caused the difference in success or the difference in success caused the difference in brains. The question will not be entirely settled until the scientists discover a method by which they can examine the brain when the subject reaches maturity and again in old age, and even then the "success" must be examined to be sure that it is not due to cornering the market, monopolizing an industry, corrupting a city council

or to governmental favoritism. Occasionally the difference between the successful and the unsuccessful is due to a difference in conscience rather than to a difference in brains.

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When One is a Majority. "One on God's side is a majority." That is what Wendell Phillips once said. And he added, "No civil society, no government, can exist except on the basis of the willing submission of all its citizens and by the performance of the duty of rendering equal justice between man and man."

Men who imagine that injustice can permanently triumph because of a temporary victory will do well to remember that no greater truth was ever uttered than when Phillips said, "One on God's side is a majority." For a time the wrong may appear to have a majority. But men who stand for principles that have had the test of American history, men who stand for truth, even though for a while they are in the minority, will become, eventually, the great majority.

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Matter for Investigation. The orbits of the planets are so well known to astronomers that they can note the slightest deviation. Whenever a planet acts queerly they know that it is due to the influence of some heretofore unknown heavenly body and they proceed to search for that body.

Democratic principles are so well understood and so easily applied that the conduct of a faithful democratic representative can be easily predicted. Whenever, therefore, a democratic senator, a representative, or a state legislator acts queerly, it is well to investigate at once and find out what earthly body is exerting an influence over him.

He may be paying for some favor received or expected, or he may be in close proximity to some corporation. The eccentricities of a representative can always be explained when the facts are known.

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Spain's Condition. Conditions in Spain are sadly mixed. The popular protest against ecclesiastical privileges, the prospective Carlist uprising and the widespread dissatisfaction with general conditions aggravates the seriousness of conditions immediately due to the Spanish-American war. The government has found it necessary to call in the services of a strong man, and General Weyler who won notoriety because of his brutality in Cuba, is in military authority. Weyler is ambitious and unscrupulous. Those who have carefully watched the career of this man will not be surprised if he seizes the first opportunity to gratify his ambition, and in Spain's present condition there is reason to believe that such an opportunity will arise. At all events there are many indications that Spanish affairs will occupy a very conspicuous place in public attention during the coming year.

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Scandal of Extravagance. The New York Press apologizes for the "scandal of extravagance" of the republican congress, but says: "It is doubtless too late for the party managers to save the party reputation in this respect of lavish appropriation." The

Cleveland Leader says: "Patriotism does not mean extravagance. Only a few years ago the expense of the government in all of its departments amounted to about \$1,000,000 a day, while now more than that sum is expended for soldiers, sailors, pensions, guns and ships." The New York Press and The Cleveland Leader are both republican papers. What right have they to criticize republican administration of public affairs? Do they not know that our national dinner pail is so full and that the confidence in the wisdom and integrity of the republican party has been so thoroughly expressed by the American people, that "the King can do no wrong?" To be sure, it is difficult for plain, everyday Americans to become accustomed to the wild extravagance now practiced by republican leaders, but are we not to accept whatever our "ruler" may do as being the best for our interests and our welfare?

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A Sage Opinion. Russell Sage is not noted for his interest in struggling humanity, but he is shrewd enough to know that people will not always tolerate a private monopoly. Speaking of the great rail road syndicate he said:

It is a gigantic combination in which twelve men get the absolute control of more than 25,000 miles of railroad and a practical monopoly of all lines leading to the Pacific. Such combinations of concentrated capital are sure to arouse the people. And the people once aroused are more powerful than this railroad combination or any other that might be formed. I regard it as very dangerous to have such great combinations. It is right and proper that capitalists who invest money in railroads or other great enterprises should be assured of reasonable and fair returns. It is right that railroads should have an agreement not to cut rates below a fair profit-making figure. But this should be done in conventions, by meeting, by agreement, not in stifling competition.

In the end this deal will excite distrust, arouse resentment and incite to retaliatory measures the people, the state legislatures and eventually the national congress. The farmers will consider themselves injured by rates, the states will inaugurate legislation and there will be deep hostility to combined capital.

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An Effort That Will Fail. Mr. Postmaster-General Smith has been considered the "spokesman of the administration" ever since his appointment, just as Mr. Hanna is deemed the administration manager. Mr. Smith is always flowery in his utterances, as evidenced by his Washington's birthday speech, even though his utterances fail to harmonize with republican pledges. Such phrases as "unfolded a wider sphere," "enlarged opportunities and obligations," "mandate of humanity," "American faith and courage," "the mighty events of this administration," and like remarks calculated to catch the unwary, will not deceive thinking men who know without further discussion that it is the intention of the administration to violate the pledge to Cuba if possible, and who know that a war begun for humanity has degenerated into a war for gain. With all his skill as an orator and special pleader, Mr. Postmaster-General Smith cannot make honest men forget that a great wrong has been done, not only to peoples who were our friends and wanted to remain such, but to this republic, which was founded on justice, equal rights and liberty.