#### MAY 18, 1906

amendments, yet that your amendment was entirely satisfactory. Your bill would be constitutionally invalid amendment does not in the slightest degree weaken or injure the Hepburn bill. It merely expresses what the friends of the bill have always asserted was implied by the terms of nal Hepburn bill stated that the venue the bill. I may add that my own for certain actions was in certain opinion was that your amendment in no way changed, whether by diminishing or enlarging, the scope of the court review as provided in the original Hepburn bill. It is also the opinion of the attorney general, of Mr. Root and of Mr. Taft. Their judgment is that the amendment merely

avoids the criticism that the Hepburn in not expressly providing the court review, which its supporters have always contended was plainly implied in the original language. The origicourts; the amendment states that these courts shall have jurisdiction to consider such actions. To my mind it seems difficult to assert that this works any change whatever in the principle of the bill.

> "Yours sincerely, "THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

# "The Hero With a Past"

An old and mischievous idea has untold. That is the sort of true Ameribeen rehabilitated in a few modern novels, one of them a book so good that it is a surprise to find an old lips and life. The Puritan has never foe lurking therein. In "Lady Baltimore," by Owen Wister, we find the old ideal of manhood restated by one of those delightful southern ladies whom it is a privilege to know.

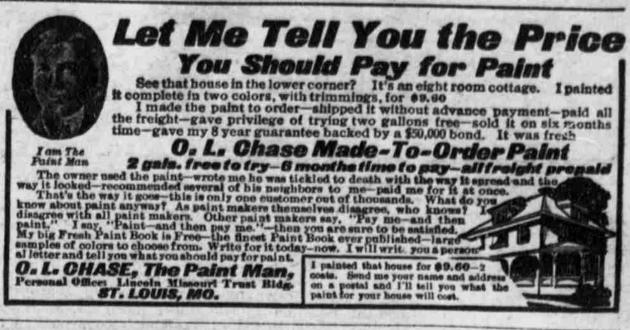
"Virtue is our business; it is enough for a man to be brave," or words to that effect. And it is repeatedly asserted by the narrator and by the hero himself that John Mayrant was not "innocent." He makes a boast of his "past," whatever ugly shape it may have worn. For sin is ugly. It is sordid and unclean; a sign of a weak nature instead of a strong one. We recall a strain of this false logic in an earlier work of Mr. Wister's:

"In order to be a manly man, one must have had every lurid experience of life. I wish to depict a manly man; therefore, he must have lived at some time the picturesque life of a breaker of the moral law."

It is time for a protest against this weak and wicked fallacy. One might become like them, and not as a wail as well make a plea for murder as essential to a strong character! On the stage, in poem and novel and in the speech of too many otherwise intelligent people, a lie like this is reiterated. Mr. Wister's heroes get queray among heroines. "Virtue" is drunk, and are addicted to knocking not the "business of women" solely, 8 people down to prove their right to and if it has ever seemed to be so, the part of leading man-surely this it is time for a little reforming of litis enough without hinting at other vices so near the level of the lowest brute who infests the dens of iniquity that a decent imagination sickens at thought of them. Mr. Wister's otherwise admirable "Virginian" when he is with the other cowboys "trolls some careless tavern catch, of Moll and Meg and strange experiences unmeet for ladies." There is a finer "Americanism" in the reply of a great soldier and statesman when some companion began a story with the preface: "As there are no ladies present," "I trust there are gentlemen present," and the story was

can hero, with physical and moral courage, self restraint and purity of lacked bravery when he has faced the cavalier in battle. There is no need to exploit the man with an evil past, in order to show examples of the highest kind of courage, virtuevirtus-used to mean just that. Most people have an entirely gratuitous horror of perfection. There is no danger of the best human nature we know attaining it. The severest test of the novelist is to make a good man or woman attractive-only the highest art can achieve the feat-but shall we, therefore, praise the inferior art because it falls short?

The hero will not be perfect, if he is drawn truly, though he may never have lain down in the sty, nor have fouled the whiteness of his soul with impure experiences. Our young men need to attune their ears to the bugle notes of "Sir Galahad" rather than listen to this discordant and decadent music-the hideous cry of lost souls, accepted as an invitation to of warning to keep free from the morass, in which they die an unclean death. "The Hero with a Past" ought to be as repulsive to a clean reader as any Becky Sharp or Paula Tan-





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erature and of life .- The Independent,

### THE HARDEST BLOW

The Lincoln (Nebraska) News, a republican paper, says:

"If the president consents to any such amendment as is proposed he might as well abandon the whole fight. To concede what is given by that compromise (the Allison amendment) is to concede what the railroads have been fighting for, and it will mean a virtual defeat for the administration forces and for right and justice. The president has shown himself to be a great fighter along other lines of activity, and it will be no credit to his fame if he gives in to these corporation armies. In fact, it will be the hardest blow his prestige has yet sustained, and would disgust and dishearten the thousands who have been backing him up in the contest. The Allison amendment is fatal to the hopes of those who believe that congress could curb railroad greed and shackle railroad cunning. If congress confers upon federal courts the right to entertain and hear appeals from is a reasonable rate, the whole campaign has been a failure. The rate bill will be absolutely ineffective if by any hook or crook the railroads get the legal right to suspend the rates fixed by the commission. That Q means they will keep the case in court until shippers are bankrupted or tired out, and meanwhile will go on charging every shipper the old oppressive rate."

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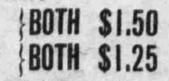
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