

nant expression in all the English language; repugnant because it carries with it the bravado of the bully and proves nothing; repugnant because it carries the invitation to a test of brute force; repugnant because it is borrowed from the tough, the criminal and the depraved, and because it finds its origin in depravity and is only useful to or used by those who have neglected to cultivate the finer sensibilities of gentlemen.

Mr. Roosevelt, as president of the United States represents ex-officio the culture and the character of the republic and his continual resort to the language of the prize-ring and the bull-pen is an insult to the decency and refinement of the American people.

"You are a liar" shouts the victorious gladiator of the prize-ring. "You are a liar" shouts the bully of the Tenderloin. "You are a liar" shouts the untutored, untrained gamin of the street. "You are a liar" shouts the president of the American republic.

This young god of Mars, at the head of this nation, continually flaunts this epithet, the world for his audience, with the bravado of the roughest rider; and Columbia, proud of her lineage, proud of her culture, refinement and education, bathes her blushing face in the tears of humiliation; Ashamed! Ashamed!—Kansas City Post.

MR. CLEVELAND'S BRIEF

The story of "Mr. Cleveland's Brief," is told in the following Associated Press dispatch from New York:

Former President Cleveland, counsel for the Association of Life Insurance Presidents, has just submitted to that association a brief in relation to salaries paid by life insurance companies. The occasion for its presentation, it is stated, is the fact that in certain western states bills are pending that would limit the salaries of life insurance officers to \$50,000 a year, while in others the limit is fixed at \$25,000 a year.

The brief will be filed tomorrow with the Wisconsin legislature by Robert Lynn Cox, who will appear in opposition to the bill providing for compulsory investment of reserve funds in the state.

After calling attention to the fact that insurance companies are private corporations, Mr. Cleveland says: "It has been judicially determined that insurance companies are within the definition of persons, and, so far as their rights are concerned, they are on the same footing as citizens of the United States. It is clearly the intent of the contemplated legislation to abridge the privileges and immunities of corporate citizens by imposing upon them limitations concerning the compensation to be paid their officers, in the face of the law of their creation, which makes them free from limitation.

"A law which forbids the possession of property except upon a condition which involves the abandonment of the right to contract for the management of their business and which exacts as the price of doing business a surrender of the guidance of sound judgment and safe experience in its

prosecution, under a penalty of forfeiture of interest to which they are entitled, cannot be regarded otherwise than bald and unmitigated deprivation of privileges, immunities and property, without a chance for escape.

"Measured by the standards fixed by the highest tribunal of the land, it seems certain that this legislation would amount to an unconstitutional use of state legislative authority."

Mr. Cleveland then considers salaries paid to officers of twenty-nine insurance companies, and adds:

"From this examination it appears that the total premium receipts of the twenty-nine companies amounted to \$440,665,908; that the percentage of these receipts paid to presidents and vice presidents by all the companies was 29-100ths of 1 per cent; that the percentage of their premium receipts so expended by the twenty-four companies paying salaries less than \$50,000, was 51-100ths of 1 per cent; but that the percentage of premium receipts so expended by the five companies paying salaries of \$50,000 or upward amounted to only 19-100ths of 1 per cent. No one can have the hardihood to claim that the small percentage of their premium receipts thus expended could by any possibility impair the security of their policy holders, which phase might properly be considered a legitimate subject of state solicitude."

THE FLAG GOES BY

Hats off! Along the street there comes A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums, A flash of color beneath the sky— Hats off! The flag is passing by! Blue and crimson and white it shines Over the steel tipped ordered lines. Hats off! The colors before us fly, But more than the flag is passing by.

Sea fights and land fights, grim and great, Fought to make and save the state; Weary marches and sinking ships, Cheers of victory on dying lips; Days of plenty and years of peace; March of a strong land's swift increase; Equal justice, right and law; Stately honor and reverend awe;

Sign of a nation great and strong To ward her people from foreign wrong; Pride and glory and honor—all Live in the colors to stand or fall! Hats off!

Along the street there comes A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums, And loyal hearts are beating high— Hats off!

The flag is passing by! —Henry Holcomb Bennett, in Youth's Companion.

CLEVER

Cleverness is one of the attributes necessary for every man who is employed in the postoffice sorting mail, for he meets with all kinds of freaks in the shape of letters peculiarly ad-

dressed. Some jokers appear to think that all the postal clerk has to do is to solve puzzles.

Recently at the Boston office a letter was received addressed "Wood, Mass.," with a line drawn under the "Wood" and over the "Mass." The letter went out the same day it was received and reached Mark Underwood, Andover, Mass., for whom it was intended, and the postal clerk who solved the riddle did not think he had

done anything brilliant. It was all in his day's work.—Boston Journal.

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THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

I promise to attend all the primaries of my party to be held between now and the next Democratic National Convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to use my influence to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak.

Signed..... Street..... Postoffice..... County..... State..... Voting Precinct or Ward..... Fill out Blank and mail to Commoner Office, Lincoln, Neb.