

CONFLICTING VIEWS

Differences of Opinion Regarding Independent Articles—"One Man's Meat Another's Poison"

The Independent will not knowingly publish anything containing a misstatement of fact. It will not publish communications containing indecent language or calculated to arouse indecent thoughts.

The Independent's mission is to teach the soundness of populism as expressed in the national platforms of that party, and its own interpretation of the meaning of those platforms is to be found in the editorial columns.

The business manager and the editor and his associate are all doing their level best to make The Independent each succeeding week a better paper than it was the week before.

Amusing incidents grow out of the publication of communications. For example, some weeks ago we advertised in eastern papers for short term subscribers and asked each to write his views on the cause and cure for trusts.

Captain Ashby is writing for those who are beginning to taste the pleasures of political economy—not for those who have become blasé.

Our good friends, The Cambridge Encyclopedia Co., who publish the excellent works of Alexander Del Mar on the money question were much shocked by the publication of Mr. Cronacher's letter.

"Editor Independent: We are afraid that if you open your columns to propositions of this sort (to flood the country with a paper currency of forty thousands of millions of dollars) you will discourage any person of real ability from contributing to your columns.

We congratulate you upon the improved appearance of The Independent and the general excellence of its contents."

Sometimes the very absurdity of one proposition best calls attention to the absurdity of another. A majority of the American people seem to think that Mr. Del Mar's views are little else than "wild proposals."

"Who 'in thunder' do you suppose," writes James Bartley, proprietor of the real estate exchange, Amsterdam, N. Y., "is going to wade through the interminable 'argument' and befuddled attempt at philosophy published

on your last page every week under the head of 'Money and the Taxing Power?' If you want to get at what the writer there is so laboriously trying to present you can get it from a book published in New Haven, Conn., where the author, John Philip Phillips, resides.

"If instead of the busy times we live in and the heavy cost per minute and per hour of standing room on the earth, a fellow had forty years to wander in some vast wilderness, he'd hardly have time to read these wordy lucubrations.

"The fellow who thinks he sees any important truth and can't present it any more briefly and clearly than Mr. Ashby, is only fooling himself. The people are sick of these occult 'definitions' of value, which every fellow who thinks he is a political economist undertakes to give.

"I refer to Phillips as an authority and a clear reasoner on his specialty—money and exchange. But like a born painter undertaking to excel also in music, the minute he leaves the realm of exchange and ventures into the department of production, he is forty miles behind Henry George."

Just as Henry George, when he entered the realm of money and exchange, was about "forty miles behind" the crudest thinker on that subject. The man with a formula which fits every case, or the man who thinks he can please everybody, would be about the most miserable chump alive if he had "some power or gift" to see himself as others see him.

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HELL ROARING JAKE

Mr. Sampson Writes to the Washington Post but is Turned Down Cold

Our contributor, Mr. Sampson, writes us that some time since he addressed the communication below to the Washington Post, but that paper declined to publish it.

Dear Sir: Radical as has been the writer's dissent from the attitude of the Washington Post on the whole Philippine question, he was not prepared for its attempted defence of a policy whose infamy has been equalled only by its folly.

According to the lachrymose Post, the general, on return from the Philippine shambles, was "broken," "sadly worn," "practically an invalid," etc.

Again, the Post, speaking of the president's order retiring him from active service, laments that "blow in his gray and sad old face!" What a strange sun that must have been in tropical Samar to turn his face gray!

Then it is said (not by the Post, but by the secretary of war) that the order was not carried out. Of a system of morals by which a military order is judged according to the extent to which it is obeyed, the less said the better.

Advertisement for JAS. BOSS Stiffened GOLD Watch Case. Includes an illustration of a man in a suit standing on a globe. Text: "STRENGTH", "Twenty-five years ago in acquainting jewelers with the strength of the Jas. Boss Stiffened Gold Watch Cases, an enterprising salesman used the method hereshown."

tion of General Smith's order to "make Samar a howling wilderness," was reported by the Associated press as saying, on his return to this country, that Samar had been made a "howling wilderness."

The specific reason which has been assigned for General Smith's order is the "massacre" at Balangiga. But how convenient it is to forget the testimony before the senate committee on the Philippines that this "massacre" was simply an act of retaliation for cruelties wantonly inflicted on the same Filipinos, a few days before, by American troops.

But it is the alleged character and mode of warfare of the Filipinos that constitutes the Post's chief excuses for General Smith's order. The records show, however, that during the early months of Philippine hostility, our "savage" opponents conducted themselves quite as much in accordance with the rules of "civilized warfare" as did the American troops.

But did it ever occur to the editor of the Post that the sole authority for his reckless libel of the Filipino patriots as "traitors," "murderers," "devils," etc., is the ex parte testimony of men who have every motive to exaggerate, if not falsify, the character and actions of their opponents?

The Post complains that General Smith's punishment was much too severe. In the writer's humble opinion, the proper punishment for the author of an order which will forever disgrace the American military annals would have been his execution.

And if the natives of Samar had been able to "welcome with hospitable hands to bloody graves" every officer and soldier in General Smith's command, what opinion would General Smith's great state have expressed, could she have spoken again

Dr. Mitchell's Lumpy Jaw Cure Dr. Mitchell's Lumpy Jaw Cure is guaranteed to cure or money refunded. One application is enough. One bottle is sufficient for 4 head or more.

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on the floor of the United States senate through her illustrious son, Thomas Corwin? JOHN SAMPSON, Washington, D. C.

T. F. Neal, Halfway, Mo.: I desire unadulterated truth. Am a dyed in the wool Bryan democrat, and think he is the greatest statesman beneath the sun; but fail to see why men with identical views keep apart.

Albert J. Allen, Salisbury, Md.: I had rather do without my supper than to miss getting The Independent or The Commoner on the days I receive them. If I had as much money as John D. Rockefeller, I would have you and Mr. Bryan publishing Independents and Commoners night and day for about three months, so everybody could have a copy to read.

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