REPUBLIC OR EMPIRE

WHICH WILL WE HAVE IN THE NAME OF THE UNITED STATES!

American Imperialism the Child of Plutoeracy - Will We Discard Our Past? Pertinent Thoughts on a Current Ques-

Following is an extract from an artiele written for the September Arena by the editor, John Clark Ridpath:

It would be a strange exception to the order of human nature and to the concurrent acclaims of history that the American people, of all the peoples of the world, should give away their past as if it were nothing. Have we no fathers? Did our fathers accomplish nothing for which we should have a manly pride? Were our fathers rebels and fools or were they patriots and wise men? Were they heroes or were they only insurgent jackanapes in rags? Were their deeds worth commemorating or were they fit to be forgotten? Have we no monuments of a heroic past? Have we no insurrection in which to glory? Have we no rebellion against arbitrary power to which the pen of history and the pencil of the epic bard should be devoted as to the one thing worthy of preservation in the new world? Were our little states, 18 in all, huddled together along the Atlantic border, something fit to be revered for all time as the nurseries of human libcrty, or were they ungrateful provinces, disloyal and spiteful? Were the institutions which the Revolutionary fathers created on these shores worthy to be transmitted to posterity, or shall posterity now forget them and cast them off as outworn rags?

Will the American nation in very truth discard its past? Have we no more pride? Is patriotism dead? Is the new railway terminal in Boston worth more than Independence ball? Are those three miles of stone palaces on Fifth avenue, New York, with their 28 voters, better than 10,000 humble homes of our fathers, a freeman and a patriot in every house? Is America the only country known to history base enough to discard its heroic fathers and to set in their place a retinue of nabobs wearing the regalia of imperialism? Has representaave government become a thing so poor and mean as to be cast out on the fuliginous ash heap of history, to fester in the sun and to have its remaining substance sucked up by the bluebottles of

a parvenu nobility? In this world each nation must take its own course. Each people must do as it will; each must have its own standards and its own ideals. So also of communities; so also of the individual men and women who compose the nation. Each for himself must mark out his own pathway and follow it. Even a fool, according to Mr. Kipling, "must follow his natural bent, even as you and L" All men must go their several ways to their destiny, and each in eternity must take his station according to the light and purpose in him. They, therefore, who will forget their fathers, they who think more of glory than they do of liberty, they who esteem riches and power above freedom and human hope, may accept, if they will, this new American empire which the lust of conquest, in league with the pride of power, is building on the grave of the republic, but, for ourselves, we will have none of it, now or ever. "I had rather be a dog and bay the moon" than to train with this miserable procession of spurious

commercialism that is marching on in

splendid raiment and idiotic glee to-

ward the nearby maelstrom yonder which is to swallow the republic and

leave us only the glittering framework

of a gilded empire in its stead.

But the empire expresses itself not only in the form of insular ambition and in the lust for added political power and glory. It also reveals its character and purpose in the attempt to establish the rule of money over manhood in our country and throughout the world. One may at least understand something of the spirit which reaches out to seize the islands of the sea; that at least is rational. One may understand how ambition can find food in the creation of political splendors. An island is valuable, and splendors are dazzling, but, as for the reign of gold, that is more difficult to fathom and comprehend. The empire stands for the reign of gold. It stands for the ascendency of wealth, the subjection of the poor and the obliteration of free manhood.

The republic, on the other hand, has nothing in common with the reign of gold. It knows nothing of the institution of any power over society other than the expressed will of the people. Democracy? Plutocracy? How can these two things be and abide together? They cannot. No freeman, whether he be Democrat or some other, can hold office in the kingdom of gold. In that kingdom all men are subjects. In it citizenship is impossible. Never yet in human history has a nation yielded to the domination of wealth and at the same time preserved its libertice. Never yet in the past annals of mankind has a single example been afforded of a people at once luxurious and free. The moment that the acquisition of wealth becomes the prevailing motive of action with a given race or nation that moment its vigor and its virtue begin to wane-that moment it ceases to be free and great. Undor the circle of the sun there is not a single instance in which this deep down law of human society has been set at manght.

And there is a reason for all things. There is a rouson why the reign of gold is utterly inconsistent with the reign of manhood. The nation that follows freedom and maintains it has certain ideals which are radically opposed to the bleak prevalent in the empire of gold. With the free nation the first concern of civil exicty is to preserve the intellectual life, the moral force and the spontaneous energy of its citizens. The intellectual life expresses itself in the discovery of

new truth, in the restatement of the old truth in newer and more attractive forms in order that men may love the truth and find it, in the dissemination of the truth by literature and art, in the creation of institutions having respect to the intellectual and moral betterment of mankind. The moral force of a nation is manifest in its robust virtues, in its courage, its heroism, its humane purpose, its devotion to the humanities and in its scorn of falsehood, its contempt for perfidious practices and in its intolerance of all cruelty. The spontaneous energy of a nation expresses itself in the development of sterling individual character. It makes men and women like the stars that dwell apart in the eternal space. It preserves the essential principles of human nature, its beauty, its sublimity, its singular unity of aim and end.

All these elements of life the republic cherishes. All of them wither under the empire. Under the reign of gold democracy is impossible. The reign of gold is an essential part of imperialism. The empire consists with the establishment of the despotism of concentrated wealth; indeed, the empire requires the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, for the empire consists of a few and not of the many. The empire is a central sun, with a limited number of satellites revolving around it and borrowing their light and heat from its effulgence. The light and heat of the empire are supported by materials taken from the millions and thrown like fuel into the splendor of the furnace.

In America the new imperialism is favored most of all by the plutocratic classes. The plutocracy has succeeded, by taking advantage of the conditions of American life, in accumulating the means out of which to construct the empire. The few thousand millionaires and billionaires who have risen to more than princely rank by the spoliation of the American people know well that the democratic republic does not furnish them with adequate means for defending and increasing their spoil. They have heaped up their enormous resources in the most defensible forms, but they show an ill disguised dread of danger and would fain have stronger bulwark.

Whoever has read the history of piracy will have noted with amusement the alarmed anxiety of the pirates to get into some situation where they can deposit their treasures without the possibility of disturbance or discovery. To this end they sail from one archipelago to another. They hide and burrow on unknown shores. Sometimes, dreading the exposure of the land, they establish a treasure house in the bottom of the sea. What a pity that these enterprising speculators could not enter into a union with some government that would go partners and furnish them the needed protection! What a glorious thing if they could get control of a "strong government," enter into combination with it, take possession of its resources and proclaim an empire for the promotion of "business" and the dispensation of the principles of the gospel! The analogy would then be perfect.

Year by year in the United States the wealth created by the labor of the millions has been sucked up and concen trated in the hands of a few. Such a will have to buy his groceries at the process can never go on according to justice or with any sincere regard for the rights of producers. Since the civil war the class of nabobs has been constantly increasing in numbers and power. They all belong to one political party—the party of the empire. There an agent on commission. is not one of all the American nabobs who is not an imperialist. There is not one of them who believes in the democratic republic or in the maintenance of object lesson. - New York Journal, the rights of the under man. There is not one of them who has not gone over, body and soul, to imperialism, and there is not one who has not been forced into this abandonment of democracy and this stress of his situation.

The liberties of mankind and the privileges of bond grabbers cannot both be preserved. The spontaneous free right of the individual citizen and the necessary despotism of concentrated wealth cannot be maintained side by side.

facts in which imperialism expresses its purpose. The first of these is territorial acquisition, for the empire must conquer and expand. The second fact is that inflamed political lust of power which seeks to create a government apart from the people, over them, without their consent and pressing them down against as they had improved sufficiently to their protest. The third fact is the in- travel. stitution of plutocracy, which demands the other two for its maintenance and promotion. Concentrated wealth seeks to secure itself and to perpetuate its reign by means of a political system which maintains itself not by free will, but by arsenals and armies and navies, in the manner of the European powers.

In these garbs and disguises the empire has come. It has overshadowed the republic, and its apologists are forth in all the avenues of public opinion. They stand in every porch where they may be heard. To this end the book is written; to this end the magazine goes forth burdened with contributions intended to poison and pervert public opinion and to insinuate new ideas of society and state, inconsistent with the precervation of republican institutions. The forum and the pulpit resound with an acclaim which is either the vociferation of ignorance or the paid argument of an advocacy to which all truth and human rights are strangers. Imperialism is openly advocated in high places as though it were not rank treason. The republic may be seen swaying and rocking under the stress like a shaken tower struck by the assaults of a powerful enamy who is in league with the keepers of the bonse. It may be that our strong tower will go down. It may be, on the other hand, that we shall withstand the assault and come forth from the conflict with the experience of ages concentrated in our thought and purpose for the bat-ties and schievements of the new era of bumanity and hope.

Enthu-lastic for the State T cket. Editor Independent:

I must congratulate the fusion party or the nomination they have made for

It was a foregone conclusion that the alance of the ticket would be re-nominred. But we voters were at sea as to hom the conventions would select. That they would select an able, honest and representative man was my desiren my esitmation no better man than Mr. Poynter could have been chosen i net him nearly every day during the ession of the legislature of 1891, when was clerk in the house and Mr. Poyn er was Senator, I liked him then and I cimire him now-He did not rattle. He never was notey or rough-always a solished gentleman, an earnest thinker, partizan Without malice or spite.

We farmers are more than pleased to eve one of our member nominated for the high office, for although we are in a vast majority in the state, nearly every ffice is filled with the other professions. This is not as it should be-Give every profession a fair show and better results will be attained. Many larmers are better educated thun the professional men. We can think better out in the field befind the plow, than if in town sitting on a box, waiting for a job. The repubheans of Hamilton county met, so to -peak, in convention at Aurora and bey could not find delegates from six of the best precincts of the county and one would think from the speeches delivered, that something was wrong, Ex-Cougressman Hainer and we populists had the nightmare, when it could not get a delegate from the best ball of the county. Judge Stark had got us all in his vest pocket and we could not go to the land of milk and honey. The administration of Porter to Moore, Mesery- to Bartley or Wolfe to the other fellos-white?

Redeem the state from a corps of honst men to a set of the ve--Where does the nightmare come in?

All of you gentlem a in the State House from povernor down to back door, send us a good sized night mare every few days. When Poynter is elected we will have a good whost to take the chair of the best governor Nebraska ver had. If you please gentlemen, we will elect you once more just to see if you can cut down our state debt \$700,-000 more. That is the kind of nightmare we farmers want our officers to have. We will elect Senator Aden to stay six years longer in Washington and won't there be a rattling of dry bones when the day of redemption come-? Don't forget to keep your oen going for the good things of life. Your paper is getting better as time goes on and may you prosper is my wish.

Respectfully, M. M. HALLECK. Central City.

Hybrid Socialism.

Wholesale grocers from many parts of the United States have been meeting in this city for the purpose of forming an organization which shall fix the prices which retail grocers may charge. Great trusts, controlling staple gro-

ceries, like sugar, coffee, starch, crackers and canned goods, fix the prices which the wholesalers may charge.

With the progress of this system of organization and centralization of commerce and industry all of the evils and none of the great compensating advantages of the socialistic state, as described by Bellamy, will surround the "free" American citizen. The consumer highest price the trusts dare exact, for retailer will venture to sell for less. The retail grocer will have no freedom either as buyer or seller, his prices in both capacities being fixed by the monopoly for which he is practically only

From this hybrid socialism monopoly reaps all the advantages. The only advantage the ordinary citizen gets is an

New York, Aug 27.—(Associated Press telegram.)— Several of the nurses in the hospital at camp Wickon are suffering from dysentery. Orders were issued today that they be given substitution of the empire by the sheer more time in which to exercise, bathe and rest. More nurses are expected to Let it be understood that the republic arrive today and ten will reach the and the Stock Exchange do not consist, camp to take the places of those over-

When the Eighteenth Ohio landed yesterday nearly 300 were reported sick and were sent to the detention hospital, but it later developed that only 170 of the men were really sick. The balance were sumering from hun-My countrymen, we thus have three ger, and when they were fed they note in which imperialism expresses its were able to leave the hospital.

They repeated the stories if the hardships encountered coming from Cuba and said it was almost impossible to secure food on the trip. One hundred and sixty men in the general hospital were allowed to go ome on a sixty days' furloup's today

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for Tun Armusesa Inon-PENDENT from most until No-Vertility 15. Sees 5 to their new name, or send a hundred, We want the desale for verters for fruit the popular than half. The fight is on and every man near do do his day. A lung patt, a strong call, and a pull all legether will win. Herp on the serviced that truth. THE INDEPENDENT WILL SHAPE no effure to perportate the work of reform in Nebruska. Thus to an important of a tion. Its result determines whether Source Altes returns to Washington to fight for att years more the beattles of the common past ple, Rauf the prayer to Name monightness when he will specime eiched. Named 200 couls in a pand cause. You can hardly der team if your new marting ther

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