

ILLITERACY AND SOLDIERS.

Question as to Whether Education Makes a Fighter.

Military men, and especially military men of a higher rank than common soldiers and subalterns, do not agree very much better on disputed points than doctors or lawyers. One point of serious difference between soldiers arises over the question whether, as a rule, well-educated soldiers make better fighters than those who are either illiterate or have only the rudiments of education.

Russia has always ranked lowest among the countries of Europe in respect to the education of its soldiers, and in the same category with Russia, though a little above it, are the Danubian States, Servia and Roumania. Above Russia, but below the other European countries in which educational advantages are most generally diffused, are Italy, Hungary, Portugal, Spain, and Greece, forming, so to speak, an intermediate group.

In 1871, the year following the establishment of Rome as the political capital of Italy, the number of conscripts able to read had risen to 43 per cent. In 1881 it was 52 per cent., in 1887 it was 55 per cent., and in 1895 60 per cent., the present average. In Hungary the ratio of conscripts able to read and write is the same as in Italy, 60 per cent., but it varies very much throughout the Austrian Empire, being 29 per cent. in Poland, 55 per cent. in Tyrol, 85 per cent. in Bohemia, and 90 per cent. in Austria proper. In Spain it is 50 per cent.; in Greece it is 55.

Above these figures of percentages come those European countries where, as in the United States, there is an educational test for admission to the army. In Norway, Sweden and Denmark all soldiers—a full 100 per cent.—must be able to read and write. In Germany the percentage is nearly as high, 90 per cent. In Switzerland it is 98, and in Holland, France, England, and Scotland it is 90. In Belgium it is 85.

Some military authorities declare that soldiers familiar with reading and writing and inspired by the ambition which comes from education, make alert and ambitious soldiers, and can be depended upon for taking the initiative where illiterate soldiers would not know, or might not know, what to do. That's what some of the military authorities say, but there are others, claiming to speak with similar authority, who say that the observations of Generals in modern warfare prove the contrary of this proposition.

The first duty of a soldier, it is a well-established proposition, is to comply with the regulations and conform to the discipline of the service—in other words, to obey orders. Literary accomplishments or even a rudimentary knowledge of the requirements of education do not help a soldier in firing a gun or aiming at an enemy or performing sentry duty or making a long march. For officers, perhaps, writing, and arithmetic may be a very good thing, but for actual service on the battlefield or in trenches, physical strength and a willingness to obey implicitly the orders of commanders are much more important than general knowledge.

It is certainly a fact that Scandinavian soldiers, with whom the standard of education is now highest, have not, in modern times, shown any superior efficiency. In fact, they have kept out of war as much as possible, except during the Danish-Prussian war of 1864, in which certainly the Danes did not conspicuously distinguish themselves as formidable adversaries to the better trained, if not better educated, Germans.

Perpetual Motion? Perpetual motion has been the dream of the inventor almost ever since the first invention of any kind was perfected. Pflay says that in his time there were machines which the inventors claimed would work, without stopping, for an indefinite length of time, and in the patent office of every government of the world there are hundreds of devices for securing this end. One authority states that in the patent office at Washington there are over 1,000 such appliances, for each of which the inventor hoped success. The perpetual motion machines, however, have never succeeded, and never will until men succeed in overcoming friction, the inertia of matter and gravitation and also in finding material that will never wear out.

"After all," said the thoughtful girl, "the presentation of the engagement ring is a relic of barbarism, a reminiscence of obsolete conditions." "That's so," was the enthusiastic rejoinder. "I just wish it were the condition to give my dear."

THE INDEBTED FARMER

DEBASEMENT OF THE CURRENCY WILL NOT HELP HIM.

Poor Wages to the Laborer Would Lead to a Curtailment of the Consumption of Farm Products—Prices Would Rise Lower.

A correspondent writes: Among farmers this argument is used: Suppose a farmer owns 100 acres of land, on which he sows 1000 bushels of wheat. The proceeds of which he expects to apply on the debt. At present the wheat is selling at 80 cents a bushel, or \$800 for the entire crop. Under free silver he would get \$1 per bushel in 50-cent dollars, or \$1000—roughly double the debt. How should this argument be met?

The change from the 100-cent gold dollar to the 50-cent silver dollar can be of no possible benefit to farmers who are out of debt, or to farmers who are in debt but have contracted to pay in gold. These two classes embrace a majority of all the tillers of the soil who own, or claim to own, land.

But there are many farmers who have bought land on time, or who have leased farms they own, and have not bound themselves to pay in gold. Before these farmers vote for free coinage, thinking it will aid them, they should study the subject carefully.

A change of the standard to cheap free silver will wipe out one-half the value of all the notes, mortgages, deposits in savings, national, state and private banks; stock of building and loan associations, life insurance policies, and money in hand. There will not be a transfer of wealth from one set of persons to another, but a destruction of wealth.

These losses, enormous in the aggregate and distributed all over the country, necessarily will bring on a terrific panic, which will paralyze all trade for a time and throw out of employment several millions of wage-earners. Those who do have work will get no more 50-cent or 100-cent dollars than they get now 100-cent gold dollars. Thus the purchasing power of their wages would be cut down one-half.

This universal industrial collapse and destruction of the purchasing power of the masses of the community would lessen the demand for all farm products, and thus depreciate their value.

This would be inevitable. Men with no wages or with half wages cannot buy the accustomed quantities of food. The 42 millions living in the cities and villages belonging to the industrial classes, would have to economize rigorously in their food purchases. They would buy the least possible, of the poorest quality they could get along with.

There would not be the demand for beef, veal, mutton, pork, eggs, butter, cheese, milk, fruits and vegetables which exist ordinarily. In view of the decreased demand the producer—the farmer—would have to lower his prices or his products would be left on his hands.

Thus every farming community would suffer. The agriculturists of the United States would lose hundreds of millions, owing to their inability to market their products. They complain that prices are low now. They would find prices much lower than when there was no demand for what they had raised.

The cotton planters would not suffer as much by the free coinage panic as the Northern producer of foodstuffs. Nor would the tobacco growers of the border states. But they would not escape altogether, for it is impossible to injure the forty-five millions of town people without all the rural part of the population suffering more or less.

The farmers must know that the city people are their best and chiefest customers and that when they are in distress and cannot buy the farmers cannot sell, and consequently suffer.

Farmers who are in debt and who vote for 16 to 1 50-cent money will find to their disappointment, if they elect Bryan and a Populocrat Congress, that they have consigned themselves, and they made the payment of their mortgages still more difficult. For the panic will reduce consumption, and they will get no more cheap dollars than they get now gold dollars.

No debasement of the currency which brings on a widespread panic of unprecedented severity, which may last for years, can be of any benefit to any farmer, though he be in debt. His mortgage will be due in five years at the farthest, and the hoped-for double prices to be paid in cheap dollars will not materialize in time to help him.—Chicago Times-Herald.

DELUSIVE PROMISES.

Trifling with the Currency Should Not be Tolerated by Workmen.

The silver-erator of the vacant lot tells his audience that free coinage would make money plenty, that if we had more money prices would rise and that if prices should rise there would be a great demand for labor at higher wages.

As to that, in the first place, free coinage would not make money more plenty for a considerable time. The first effect would be to drive every dollar of gold we have out of use, and that would leave us with about one third less of what we pass for money than we now have.

All experience, as well as reason, proves that this would be the first effect, even if silver and other currency should fall no more than 1 per cent. below gold.

But suppose free coinage should give us more money, how would the man who works for wages get any more of it? He has no silver bullion costing him 69 cents per ounce to take to the mint and get made into dollars for his own use at the rate of \$1.30 to the ounce.

The mine owner can rake off that fine profit of 81 cents an ounce, but no man who works for wages can do it. He has no silver bullion to dip into the ore in the mine or labor in the smelting works. Prices would go up, unquestionably, if we had more and cheaper money. If money gets cheaper people will not give so much sugar or cloth or lumber for a dollar of the money. In other words, it will take more money to buy the same quantity of sugar, cloth, etc.

proved that whenever production has been stimulated by the inflation of prices it has invariably been overdone. Collapse has always followed, usually attended by panic, and multitudes have suddenly been thrown out of employment—to stay out until at a small pace consumption has overtaken production once more.

These spasms of production with intervals of stagnation are about the worst thing possible for labor. The best thing is the utmost steadiness compatible with industrial progress, and that is attainable only under a stable monetary standard and system.

Trifling with the standard is something that no workman should countenance for a moment. The toilers of England learned that long ago, and today they warn their American brethren against the seductive wiles of the silverites who seek to degrade the standard.—Chicago Chronicle.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler Discourses on Its Moral Aspects.

Unless I mistake the signs of the times, the principle of universal suffrage will be subjected to a more severe strain this year than at any previous time during the present generation. The Civil War imposed but a slight strain; slavery was a sectional institution, which went down under the superior forces of the free states; and the preservation of the nation's life appealed to all classes, rich or poor, educated or ignorant. The humblest homestead in an Eastern city, and the roughest miner in a Western camp, could understand why the flag should be fought for and the Rebellion suppressed. The issues then were plain, distinct and simple.

The great, burning question which is to be submitted to the suffrages of thirteen millions of voters this year is one that requires some study and intelligence to comprehend it, and an honest conscience to decide the moral issues involved. The currency question is far more vital than high or low tariff, or any policy towards foreign nations. It fixes the value of every dollar that the shopkeeper puts into his till, every dollar that the housewife carries to market, and every dollar that is put into the contribution box on the Sabbath. Dishonesty in the currency taints every business transaction in the land. Unhappily there is no question on this subject, and more demagogic appeals to unreasoning prejudice. The silver interest, also, is immensely powerful, and its propaganda have sown its specious literature broadcast. There is hardly a barroom or grocery store, in which tracts or papers cannot be found in advocacy of "cheap money," or "the dollar of our fathers," or "the poor man's coin," or some kindred financial farago. It is not surprising that the free silver lunacy is widely extended and deeply seated.

Politics and finance belong to the domain of ethics, and there are some moral aspects of this free silver agitation for all good citizens. One of them is the current delusion that there can be a double standard of value. This is as absurd and as immoral as the use of two yard sticks in a dry goods store, or two kinds of a multiplication table in a counting room. Yet thousands of ignorant voters in every Southern and Western State are made to believe that such a thing is possible, and are delirious.

(2) Another immorality connected with this free silver crusade is the temptation which it offers to the debtor class to discharge their debts in a "cheap" currency. This is a very attractive idea to a man who is over his head in debt, but it may pay off his obligations in a dollar that is only worth 50 or 90 cents. That the same sort of depreciated currency may be passed off on to himself does not seem to enter his thick skull. An unstable standard of values is a constant incentive to dishonesty. It bases the credit system on a quicksand.

(3) One of the worst features of free silver demagoguery is its attempts to divide the farmer class. This is done by the lure of the money of the rich, the silver is the money of the poor laborer; therefore, silver should be thrown into the most common use. The most cruel fact connected with this delusion is, that under a depreciated currency and in a time of financial panic or depression, the poor laboring classes are uniformly the greatest sufferers. Both the recent experiment of a free coinage of silver should be carried out, and a widespread panic should ensue. I should not feel half as much pity for the so-called "goldbugs" of Wall Street, as I do for the poor negro on a cotton plantation or a poor carman in the streets of St. Louis. If anyone wants to see the incendiary attempt to array one class against another, let him read the recent address of the Populist, issued from St. Louis after the Republican convention had wisely declared for the existing gold standard. That address mingles its enlogies of Senator Teller with the shameless statements that the existing gold standard is "a tyranny more grinding than that of czars or emperors," and that "the common people will be in no better condition than that of the black slave before emancipation." Having no doubt that we may expect a deluge of this mischief-breeding nonsense among the more ignorant classes in all parts of the land. Universal suffrage puts a ballot stick into the hands of the Standard-bearer of the majority, and the and of the foolish, and this fact involves the necessity of the most constant, patient and thorough enlightenment of the masses of our countrymen on the simple A, B, C principles of honest currency.

One of the most dangerous symptoms just now is the rapid spread of the Populistic heresies in regard to the standard of values, the functions of government, and the sacredness of national honor. These immoral ideas have in the past many times been the cause of party divisions as well as become the cardinal doctrines of the new party. We had a melancholy exhibition of this in the United States Senate when a senator from the "Christian body of Christ," that really involved the repudiation of national obligations! This measure was denounced by Senator Hawley of Connecticut as the "most iniquitous and disgraceful measure he had ever known to be introduced into that body." This same disgraceful bill actually passed the Senate, receiving the unanimous votes of the free silverites in the Republican, Democratic and Populist parties. That his statement is a historical fact, and that he once echoed to the lofty patriotic eloquence of Clay, Webster, Wright, Seward, Sumner and Edmunds—should stoop to such an ignoble travesty of legislation is enough to make every American blush for his country.

We hear a great deal about the duties of Christians in purifying municipal government, and about the application of "Christian citizenship" to the role of the "Endeavor society," and not one syllable of the highest duties of Christian citizenship is ever mentioned. I submit whether this free silver mania, which is overrunning the land and rupturing everyone of the parties (not excepting the Prohibitionists), ought not to be put under the ban of the Christian church, and looked at squarely as a question of Christian ethics. An intelligent democracy, ruled by reason and conscience, may be the best of governments. But an over-suffrage—under the banner of "Christian citizenship"—and subject to the gales of popular delusion and the appeals of demagogues—may send our ship abroad. There are some moral questions at stake this year just

as truly as there were in the campaign for Union and Emancipation.—Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler in The Evangelist.

FINANCIAL DEFINITIONS.

In response to many inquiries as to the meaning of expressions commonly used in the discussion of issues involved in this campaign, the Press has prepared the following brief table of terms and equivalents:

Free Coinage.—The melting and stamping into money, without charge for the service, of all silver bullion brought to the mints.

Sixteen to One.—The ratio sought to be maintained by law, according to which sixteen ounces of silver shall equal in value one ounce of gold.

Commercial Ratio.—The ratio of actual value, the rate at which gold and silver can be exchanged. It is now thirty-one ounces of silver to one of gold.

Sound Money.—A currency of which every dollar is exchangeable at par with the standard dollar of the country—in this country a gold dollar.

The Gold Standard.—The measure of value adopted by the leading nations of the world as a basis for their currency—the coin (gold) in which all obligations are finally redeemable.

A Fifty-Cent Dollar.—One which, owing to the depreciation of silver, is intrinsically worth only this amount, and maintains its face value only by reason of the government's pledge to keep it at a parity with gold.

How will They Vote?—The result of the coming election will depend upon the vote of the farmers and the wage-earners. This is as it should be, for they, more than any other class, are vitally interested in the outcome. They, therefore, should examine carefully the proposition which the Democratic-Populist platform offers them, and they should vote on it with a full knowledge of its conditions and its inevitable consequences.

The Democratic platform proposes free and unlimited coinage of silver. This means for the workman that the dollar which he receives today will purchase only one-half of what it now purchases. It means that the seller of commodities will demand payment for them on a gold basis. That is to say, he will accept silver, but he will require twice as much of it for a given article as he does today. Moreover, he and all other employers of labor will pay wages in silver, so that no wage-earner will have as much purchasing power as he has today. This applies to every wage-earner in the United States, whether he be a day laborer, a foreman, a superintendent, a salaried partner or a president of a company.

Now, how will this affect the farmer? Since the pay of wage-earners will be worth in the market only half what it is now worth, the consumption of the employed class—and this class forms the great purchasing element of our country—will be cut down one-half. They will be compelled to get along on half the flour, half the meat and half the clothes that they now consume. There will be no escape from this, because their earnings will buy only half what they will buy now. There will be, accordingly, a diminished demand for all food products, and every farmer knows that the result is no demand for wheat, corn, potatoes and other products, he cannot sell his crops.

Furthermore, every holder of a mortgage on a farm will either demand a renewal of the mortgage on a gold basis, or he will foreclose at the earliest opportunity. If he renews the mortgage on a gold basis he will require twice as much interest in silver as he now receives. If he cannot get this he will foreclose and take the farm in order to avoid receiving a depreciated currency in payment of interest and principal. The wage-earner, therefore, would receive only half what he now receives. The farmer could not sell his crops, and, in addition, would lose his farm.

Free and unlimited coinage of silver means the robbery of the wage-earner and the farmer. Will they vote for their own destruction or will they vote for the renewal of the mortgage on a gold basis, that will rob them or will they vote for a sound currency that will give to every man to whom a dollar is due a full, honest dollar worth 100 cents in every market in the world?

Campaign Pointers.

The sensible voter goes about declaring that the thing most needed is the free coinage of American muscle.

Prohibition may be a good thing, but what the country needs now is the "gold cure."

"Strayed Goldbug" writes to the New York Sun of what he calls "the eternal truth of the title, the Boy Orator of the Platte." He explains that the Platte is 1000 miles long and only six inches deep.

Some of the man or newspaper who seeks to win in the present political contest by prejudice.

Pitch in, boys, and we will show our silverite opponents that the Republican party is made of pure gold and will pan out 100 cents on the dollar.

An oratorical failure for a man who was nominated on his lung power is rather a serious thing.

Mr. Bryan's speech had the effect of depressing American stocks in Europe. Its principal effect, however, was the depressing of Bryan stock in America.

There is one good thing about the free silver bubble, and that is that when it's biggest it will burst.

Scratch a free silver advocate and you will find an inflationist. He is a man who believes that wealth can be created by act of Congress, and hard times abolished by a law declaring poverty a penal offense.

Free coinage of silver would greatly benefit all the people of this country except those who happen not to own silver mines.

The more the people understand the meaning of free silver coinage the less likely the country is to be afflicted with that folly.

Maj. McKinley will put his record against Willie Bryan's promises and await the verdict of the people.

Farmers who think they would get a dollar a bushel for wheat under free silver coinage should remember that 53 cents' worth of silver and 47 cents' worth of wind do not make a dollar.

It will take more than Bryan's oratory to make the people believe that the wrong is on their side.

The intuition of women tells them that McKinley is the man to be President, and woe be to the husband who does not follow their advice.

It is becoming evident that Mr. Bryan heads too many ticklers.

If a silver basis is a good thing for a nation, why is Russia exerting her best effort to accumulate a vast store of gold in order to reach a full gold basis as soon as possible? Russia is now on a silver basis, and desires no longer to be classed with China, Japan, Mexico, Argentine Republic, Brazil, Ecuador, India, Afghanistan and every other inconsequential, poverty-stricken nation on the earth. The nations which are the more prosperous and more powerful spare a 50-cent dollar monetary basis.

JAMES G. BLAINE ON SILVER.



Extract from a Speech Delivered in the United States Senate, Feb. 7, 1878.

"I believe the struggle now going on in this country and in other countries for a single gold standard would, if successful, produce widespread disaster in and throughout the commercial world. The destruction of silver as money, and establishing gold as the sole unit of value, must have a ruinous effect on all forms of property except those investments which yield a fixed return in money. Those would be enormously enhanced in value, and would gain a disproportionate and unfair advantage over every other species of property. If, as the most reliable statistics affirm, there is nearly seven billion dollars of coin or bullion in the world, very equally divided between gold and silver, it is impossible to strike silver out of existence as money without results that will prove distressing to millions and utterly disastrous to tens of thousands. 'I believe gold and silver coin to be the money of the Constitution, indeed, the money of the American people anterior

to the Constitution, which the great organic law recognized as quite independent of its own existence. No power was conferred on Congress to declare that either metals should be money. Congress has, therefore, in my judgment, no power to demonetize silver any more than to demonetize gold—no power to demonetize either any more than to demonetize both. Few persons can be found, I apprehend, who will maintain that Congress possesses the power to demonetize both gold and silver, or that Congress could be justified in prohibiting the coinage of both, and yet in logic and legal construction it would be difficult to show where and why the power of Congress over silver is greater than over gold—greater over either than over the two. If, therefore, silver has been demonetized, I am in favor of remonetizing it. If its coinage has been prohibited, I am in favor of ordering it to be resumed. If it has been restricted, I am in favor of having it enlarged."

Carlisle's Points Answered.

First. Not a free-coinage country exists in the world to-day that is not on a silver basis.

It pays them best, or they would be on a gold basis, since both are free to these countries.

Second. Not a gold-standard country exists in the world to-day that does not use silver as money along with gold.

They have to. This proves all that the double standard advocates contend for.

Third. Not a silver-standard country exists in the world to-day that uses any gold as money along with silver.

They don't need it; they can sell it at a profit to outsiders, whose people are controlled by bankers.

Fourth. Not a silver-standard country exists in the world to-day that has more than one-third as much money in circulation per capita as the United States has.

They have all they want, and can get more whenever they want it, as coinage is free. We can't get half enough gold, and what we do get won't stay here.

Fifth. Not a silver-standard country exists in the world to-day in which the laboring man receives fair pay for his day's labor.

There's no silver-standard country in the world in which the "laboring man" would vote to go on a gold basis; and there is no gold-standard country in the world in which the "laboring man" would not vote to go onto a double standard basis. President Diaz has just been re-elected in Mexico by an absolutely unanimous vote. If any more proof is asked for, it can be furnished in overwhelming volume. Take away the "financiers" and leave the statesmen, the people, and their property, and the whole world would be on a bimetallic basis inside of twelve months.—"T. W. H." in Philadelphia Item.

As to Insurance Policies.

It is very true that the beneficiaries of such policies should be fairly treated, and not be defrauded with "cheap" money. But it is not proposed to defraud them with "cheap" money. The hub of the whole question is that under present conditions, with money constantly appreciating, insurance policies are now being paid with money more valuable than the money in circulation at the time the policy was issued, and more valuable than that in which the premiums have been paid.

If this concerned nobody but the policy holder and the insurance company, the silver men would give themselves no trouble about it; but, in fact, a rising measure of value concerns everybody, just as enlarging measures of weight, length and bulk would. While the payee of an insurance policy is benefited by receiving money of augmented value, other classes are ruined by being obliged to meet their obligations in such money. The latter are entitled to much more consideration than the former—first, because their necessities and sufferings are greater; secondly, because they are much more numerous; and, thirdly, because they are the victims of the first wrong.—The National Bimetallist.

Country and City Papers.

As a rule, the country newspapers are owned by the men who publish them. They rarely have any outside owners or bosses. It is very evident today that the botching of the big city dailies is cutting a very small figure in the present campaign. Their caricatures ridiculing the farmer, their de-

President Andrews on Free Coinage.

People would not board or export gold in the face of a movement to cheapen gold. It seems to me rather likely that the rehabilitation of silver by us would be the occasion of setting free vast amounts of gold now hoarded for military and other purposes.

Further, there would be no influx of foreign silver. Undoubtedly free coinage by us would increase the total amount of silver produced, but the new silver could not be mined at so low a marginal cost as at present prevails. The marginal cost would be, on the contrary, increased with the output, so that all tendency from this source to lower the gold price of silver would be negated. The very prolific silver mines now are very few.

After a possible first shock our credit would improve after free coinage. It is our present course which must speedily lower our credit. How long could a man or a firm continue to have credit who borrowed each year to pay a large portion of his running expenses? Yet on a gold basis this course is inevitable, and that is at this moment the reason why foreign lenders are shy of our securities. There must be a change if we would avoid bankruptcy. With free coinage every industry would look up, and even if we lost our gold our prosperity would invite in English capital, just as Japan's prosperity now causes it to rush there.—E. Benjamin Andrews, president of Brown University.

A Warning to Wealth.

There is yet in the nation plenty of land, plenty of labor, plenty of natural resources. There is yet in the land plenty of capital seeking investment. There is here every element of agricultural and industrial success. With all the elements present, however, and with labor waiting, suffering, hoping, praying for relief, asking for the opportunity to earn an honest livelihood; with ambition crushed by ever-present and almost fruitless toil; with the increment of their labor going to where it is not earned; with future debt and further burdens and more fruitless toil and even starvation staring them in the face, these workers of the nation are in no mood to be cured and reviled. They are in no mood to accept from the Atkinsons or the Pierpont Morgans the name of "fool." It is a time for caution. There is such a thing as a struggle between interests which shall transcend the limits of election machinery.—Patria Journal.

Great things are not accomplished by idle dreams, but by years of patient and wisely directed study.