

The Commoner.

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Caesar had his Brutus, Charles his Cromwell, and McKinley has just given a Rodenberg to the civil service.

Perhaps the Sultan of Turkey will agree to pay that \$100,000 on the day the administration keeps its promise to Cuba.

It is noticeable that the scientists who are figuring out how to live on \$2.50 a week speak from observation rather than experience.

Secretary Root says the Manila frauds will be probed to the bottom. This is all right, but Secretary Root should also probe those Manila frauds to the top.

The discovery of a new island in the Philippine group would tend to make Mr. John A. T. Hull favor a special session of congress for concession insuring purposes.

Dr. Johnson defined patriotism as "The last refuge of a scoundrel." The only mistake in the definition lies in the use of the word "last." It should be "first."

Attorney General Knox received his appointment because he was just the man to see that the trusts received exact justice—according to the trust idea of justice.

Those New York "insurgents" should not prematurely rejoice over the Odelling of Uncle Tom Platt. Thomas is quite a hand at enjoying the last laugh in matters of this kind.

About the time J. Pierpont Morgan gets all the railroads under his management some republican organ will discover that govern-

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mental control of the railroads is a good thing and advocate securing it by electing Mr. Morgan to the presidency.

A rich oil strike has been made in Wyoming and President Harper will have to live economically until Mr. Rockefeller saves up enough money to control the new district.

Speaking of the effort to belittle the Philippine frauds, it will be remembered that the same kind of an effort was put forth in the Cuban postal cases, and likewise in the Carter case.

If "La Discussion," the Havana newspaper which was suppressed, would change its name to "Division and Silence" it might secure a new lease of life. Discussion is not popular in an empire.

The result of the municipal election in Ohio doubtless impresses Mr. Hanna with the belief that there is a widespread desire to fasten a few more barnacles upon the hull of the shipping subsidy scheme.

With an editor deported from Manila for criticising an official and a newspaper suppressed in Havana for cartooning a military governor, we are getting a taste of the liberty which is dispensed under arbitrary rule.

Dr. John H. Gardner of New York City is writing a book. It is said to be a diagnosis of the political and social condition of the metropolis. If the doctor writes as well as he talks the book will be a treat.

The democratic country press is the reflex of democratic thought, and democrats must support the country democratic papers if democratic victories are to be won. A well supported press is more than half the battle.

In the face of the appointment of Rodenberg to a place on the civil service commission the president will have to give an unusual amount of message space to the merit system to make an impression upon the public.

One of the most humorous remarks of the decade is the one to the effect that Philander Knox sacrifices a private income of \$50,000 a year as attorney for the Carnegie interests to accept an \$8,000 position in the president's cabinet.

General Corbin insists that the reported frauds in the commissary department at Manila have been "grossly exaggerated," but the wholesale grocery houses in that city report that their trade has been doubled since the frauds were exposed.

Since his appointment to the civil service commission Mr. Rodenberg is able to sit up and take notice of the merit system. It is for-

tunate for Mr. Rodenberg that the merit system does not apply to positions on the civil service commission.

The editor of **THE COMMONER** is under obligation to the readers who have responded to the invitation to send in names of persons who would appreciate sample copies. One enthusiastic friend responded by writing to his local paper, praising **THE COMMONER** and urging all the readers of that paper to subscribe for it.

The St. Louis Chronicle is charging that Mayor Wells was elected by fraud. This is adding insult to injury. To run seventeen thousand votes behind the national ticket and then owe his election to republican votes is bad enough, without having a suspicion cast upon his title.

Constant Reader: No, Mr. Hanna did not introduce a bill to prevent corporations from contributing to campaign funds. Such a bill was introduced by Senator Chandler of New Hampshire just after he came into violent contact with a New England railroad, but the senate being republican the bill did not pass.

The North Carolina Booklet is the title of a publication to be issued monthly by The North Carolina Society of the Daughters of the Revolution. It will be devoted to the narration of the great events in the history of that state and the first number will appear on May 10th. The subscription price is one dollar per year and P. O. Box 125 Raleigh, N. C. the address.

The nomination of Mr. Wells in St. Louis has served at least one useful purpose. It has brought out the fact that the great dailies which bolted the democratic national ticket in 1896 and in 1900 are unanimous in the opinion that it is an unpardonable sin to oppose the election of a candidate on a municipal ticket, especially when that candidate refuses to accept the principles of the party which nominated him.

Mr. Willis J. Abbott, formerly of the editorial staff of the New York Journal and during the last national campaign at the head of the literary bureau of the democratic national committee, has become editor of the Pilgrim, a monthly magazine of large circulation published at Battle Creek, Mich. Mr. Abbott is a writer of extraordinary ability, as well as an aggressive democrat, and the Pilgrim under his guidance will doubtless become a still more influential member of the magazine fraternity.

Mr. J. T. Morgan, of Portland, Oregon, has written a pamphlet of nearly fifty pages, discussing the Chinese question from the standpoint of the working man. He takes up the various arguments made in behalf of Chinese immigration and answers them at some length. The pamphlet is printed by the Multnomah Printing Company, Portland.

As this question is of growing importance, attention is called to the pamphlet in order that any one who desires to send for it can do so.