

Was Clemens A Prophet? Jeremiah Clemens, a United States senator representing the state of Alabama in ante-bellum days, said: "Commit our people once to unnecessary foreign wars, let victory encourage the military spirit already too prevalent among them, and Roman history will have no chapter bloody enough to be transmitted to posterity side by side with ours. In a brief period we shall have re-enacted on a grander scale the same scenes that marked her decline. The veteran soldier who has followed a victorious leader from clime to clime will forget his love of country in his love for his commander; and the bayonet you sent abroad to conquer a kingdom will be brought back to destroy the rights of the citizen and prop the throne of an emperor." Was Clemens a prophet?

Ill Timed Tenderness With Rogues. The New York World strikes a popular chord when it refers to the "ill timed tenderness" in dealing with financiers who betray the trust reposed in them. On this point the World says:

"In this Seventh National failure the main question before the United States authorities is: Did or did not the responsible officials of this bank over-certify the account of Marquand & Co.? If they did, they violated a plain provision of the law and should be arrested. If they did, the fact can be ascertained in less than an hour. Why then this nonsense about thoroughness of examination and moving cautiously? Why not treat bankers just as any less responsible, less highly placed citizens would be treated? Such tenderness is offensive to the American principle of equality and destructive of public confidence in law and in commercial integrity."

The Large Waste of War. The New York World points to the fact that the direct destruction of property is only a small part of the large waste of war. In support of its claim the World says:

"One of the losses to the productive wealth of the world at large as a consequence of the Anglo-Boer war is shown in the returns of the gold production for 1900 just issued by our government.

"Up to the time when hostilities began in South Africa the total annual output of gold had been steadily increasing. It rose from \$202,000,000 in the year 1896 to \$306,585,000 in 1899, and would surely have passed the \$400,000,000 line if peace had continued. But last year it fell off over \$55,000,000, and this great reduction was wholly caused by the suspension of Transvaal mining. All other gold-yielding countries maintained their previous rate of production or increased it.

"The Transvaal's output, instead of being \$110,000,000 a year, as it certainly would have been but for the war, is now a little over \$7,000,000 a year."

Determined to Hold Cuba. General Miles has officially recommended to the secretary of war that one half of the military force in the island of Cuba be immediately withdrawn, and that the work now being done by the United States troops be delivered to the Cubans. General Miles thinks that this will give the Cubans an opportunity to

prepare for full responsibility when all of the American soldiers have been ordered home. It is said there are now 5,000 United States soldiers in Cuba. The adoption of General Miles' suggestion would mean that the United States troops on the island of Cuba would number about 2,500.

A Washington dispatch says "Notwithstanding the strong argument used by General Miles to support his recommendation it is not believed that the President and Secretary Root will deem it advisable to reduce the forces in Cuba until next spring when there will begin a gradual withdrawal of troops."

The administration seems determined to retain its hold on Cuba so long as any sort of an excuse for retaining that hold may be devised by administration politicians. General Miles is a man of order, and it is not at all likely that he would press strongly such a recommendation as he made with reference to the troops in Cuba unless he believed that course to be the very best for all concerned. It is not at all surprising, however, to be told that the president and his secretary of war will not act on General Miles' suggestion. Nor will it be surprising if, when "next spring" shall arrive, that some new device will be presented which will enable the administration to violate the letter as well as the spirit of the war resolutions.

The Seed is Being Sown. The Review of Reviews says that the new movement towards consolidation and the creation of great corporations has been going forward of late with almost none of that bitter antagonism toward it which was so manifest even a year ago. This publication adds: "One might have expected the huge steel company to arouse a great deal of public antagonism, but very little can yet be discovered. It is not to be expected that there will always be such smooth sailing for the corporations, but at present the skies are clear and the breezes are equable."

What this publication says concerning the public attitude toward the trusts may be said with equal truth concerning the public attitude toward imperialism, militarism, colonialism, dishonesty in public service of our new possessions, and immorality in the public life of our large cities. The fact is that the antagonism toward these evils yet exists and is even greater than it was a year ago. It may not be said, however, that the people who fully realize the dangers of these evils are yet in the majority. It certainly is true that the majority of the people are yet unwilling to speak out boldly and sternly against these great wrongs.

Every great trust organized, every public wrong committed, every large principle sacrificed, brings to the ranks those who are willing to speak in protest against evils which threaten the welfare of the public. All over this country today there are men and women who lose no opportunity to protest within their immediate circle and in their humble way against these enormous evils. These people are sowing seed that will ultimately be reaped to the benefit and advantage of the American people.

Let no one deceive himself that the intelligence and morality of this country is of so feeble a character that great wrongs can be continued indefinitely without meeting vigorous and effective protest.

Not Entirely a Waste of Breath. An eastern paper referring to the great imposition placed upon the people of Philadelphia, which imposition was exposed by John Wanamaker, said: "It is a waste of time to denounce Quay, Stone, the Quay legislators and the Quay city officials. It is a waste of breath to sympathize with the people of Philadelphia."

Commenting upon this the Philadelphia North American admits that this castigation has "the sting of truth." The American adds:

"Every citizen of Pennsylvania capable of reading and understanding what he reads knows thoroughly the character of the men composing the machine and cannot pretend to be surprised at the audacity of their crimes. They have done only what it was expected they would do and what they were given full power and permission to do by the people. The machine is the outward and visible sign of the state of the public conscience, the degradation of citizenship, the pollution of the body politic, which have made possible this unparalleled debauchery of government in one of the oldest and greatest of American commonwealths."

It is true that in many quarters the people appear to have gone to sleep. In many cities they seem to be wholly indifferent as to whether their public servants discharge their duty honestly or rob the public treasury with impunity. Yet it is not "a waste of time" to denounce dishonest methods. To be sure no people who will tolerate impositions such as have been placed upon the people of Philadelphia are entitled to sympathy. Yet the duty remains, nevertheless, upon every newspaper and every individual to strike a blow at dishonesty wherever dishonesty shows its foul head.

The seed sown by Mr. Wanamaker and his associates in Philadelphia have already taken root, and although many people may now seem to be indifferent to the wrongs done them, the time will yet come when the public conscience will be thoroughly stirred and public indignation will be fully aroused. When that time comes, Quay legislators and Quay city officials will make a hasty retreat.

A Prophecy.

(By Bishop Berkeley.)

The muse, disgusted at an age and clime
Barren of every glorious theme,
In distant lands now waits a better time,
Producing subjects worthy fame:
In happy climes, where from the genial sun
And virgin earth such scenes ensue,
The force of art by nature seems outdone,
And fancied beauties by the true;
In happy climes, the seat of innocence,
Where nature guides and virtue rules,
Where men shall not impose for truth and sense
The pedantry of courts and schools:
There shall be sung another golden age,
The rise of empire and of arts,
The good and great inspiring epic rage,
The wisest heads and noblest hearts.
Not such as Europe breeds in her decay;
Such as she bred when fresh and young,
When heavenly flame did animate her clay,
By future poets shall be sung.
Westward the course of empire takes its way;
The first four Acts already past,
A fifth shall close the Drama with the day:
Time's noblest offspring is the last.