

The Commoner.

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If China is wise she will begin praying to be saved from her friends

Let the democrats of the country "have faith in the wisdom of doing right."

Judging by the reports the Japanese forces are not led by any favorite physicians.

Japan seems determined to call the czar's attention to the desirability of calling upon The Hague tribunal.

Every time a Russian "regret to report" comes over the cables, John Bull quickly sidesteps and looks for a kopje.

It was the regeneration of democracy that forced a lot of recreant leaders to fall back upon the demand for "reorganization."

Owing to the fact that they have no negro regiments to rescue them, the Japanese army has refused to organize any "rough riders."

All this interest in the integrity of China shows up in marked contrast to the indifference exhibited towards the integrity of Colombia.

Among other horrors of war is the man who persists in reading out loud to us the reports from the scene of conflict and stammers over the pronunciation.

If this country is to send an army officer to Japan, why not send Brigadier General Mills? The distance is 10,000 miles, but Mills recently beat that jump.

Perhaps the president spoke a good word for Colonel Lynch in the hope of securing the support of those Boers who are about to settle in the northwest.

Naturally enough J. Adam Beede's maiden speech in congress aroused laughter. Most attempts to bolster up present republican policies are laughable.

The reorganizers have been encouraged by the fact that all the republican and gold papers have been preaching reorganization—but wait until the voters speak.

To the New York World: The "intrinsic value" of a United States note yesterday, or almost any other day, was something near .000002 cents. But what does that prove?

Secretary Shaw has decided that the frog is a bird when imported for gastronomic purposes. The secretary did not jump at this conclusion, but arrived at it by a flight of logic.

What with military escorts for civilian officers, and uniforms for messengers, watchmen and janitors, we are rapidly approaching the knickerbocker and gold lace court function.

President Roosevelt has again called attention to his civil service views by appointing "Doc" Jamieson of Chicago to a fat federal office. This appointment upsets a whole volume of beautiful rhetoric on the virtues of the civil service.

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Those newspaper pictures of Russian and Japanese warships serve to vividly recall some interesting pictures we saw prior to and during the Yanko-Spanko war.

While fighting over Korea and Manchuria Russia and Japan should keep a sharp eye on Mr. Rockefeller. The king of kerosene might take a sudden notion to pocket the territory himself.

The Kansas City Journal says: "Mr. Bryan has the deepest scorn for issues that are calculated to get votes." The Journal and its kind are interested most in getting votes—no matter how.

Mr. Root resigned from the cabinet to become attorney for one of the biggest trusts in the world. He should have called upon Attorney General Knox before resigning and learned a thing or two.

If there is anything in precedent Mr. Whitaker Wright's mistake did not consist of dishonesty, but in not having a title to his name and assisting some other fellow to do the dirty work.

That loud noise from the shores of Chesapeake Bay is being made by a few thousand Baltimoreans scratching away the ashes to find the proper places for laying bigger and better foundations.

Latest reports from Wall street are to the effect that a lot of eminent financiers in that neighborhood are something of broncho busters themselves. They appear to have made the president bridewise.

"What is neutrality?" queries the Kansas City Journal. Well, it seems to have been license to sell mules to a monarchy making war on a little republic a few years ago, and a grandstand play at the present time for the purpose of helping out the party that formerly bought the mules.

The New York World is booming Cleveland for the democratic nomination. A few years ago the World was denouncing Cleveland because he showed a "vexatious indisposition" to heed the World's plea not to let the bond gamblers work the treasury. The World's forgettery is in good working order.

J. Sloat Fassett says we have an interest in the preservation of Korea because we have a commercial treaty with that country. Mr. Fassett is growing forgetful. We had a treaty with Colombia, too, but that did not prevent the administration from violating it when a chance for exploitation hove in sight.

Henry Watterson refuses to be reconciled, and in his anger and stubbornness he falls into the mistake made by so many who are blinded by their passions. He declares that "the democratic party needs votes," and that "on the lines of 1896 and 1900 it lost them." Mr. Watterson's mere dictum will not suffice—he will have to prove that the party lost votes in those two campaigns. And in view of the fact that the party's candidates in 1896 polled more votes than had ever before been cast for the candidates of any party, and the further fact that this record was almost equalled in 1900, Mr. Watterson's statement will be taken with a large grain of salt by those who are not so heated mentally as to miss seeing plain facts. Mr. Watterson says he "will refuse to be a party to it." This is sad, but in view of the fact that democrats are becoming accustomed to Mr. Watterson's desertion they will probably be able to survive another case of it.

The Indianapolis News says: "It has been eight years since the great battle was fought for the gold standard, and yet the country has not yet fully enjoyed the results of that victory. For our currency and banking systems are still unreformed, and the gold standard has not been solidly established, as the republicans themselves admitted in the campaign of 1900." It will be remembered that eight years ago the republican party declared in favor of international bimetalism; and yet the News, like other republican publications, insists that in 1896, while one party stood for independent bimetalism and another party pretended to stand for international bimetalism, the latter party, being elected to power, received a commission to support the single gold standard.

The Dubuque (Ia.) Telegraph pays its compliments to the Chicago Chronicle in this way: "It is esteemed as the narrowest, most bigoted, most unreasoning, and ablest disciple of predatory wealth in the country. It knows everything; nothing is hard or impossible to it; who disagrees with it is a liar, a demagogue, or a bedraggled expounder of anarchy. It would snuff out the life of everyone who opposes the designs of its hidden plutocratic owner, and the vulture-like, vampire-like, parasitic class of which he is typically representative. The Chronicle is, in its own estimation, impeccable. The opposition can have not even the slightest element of justice on its side. It is wrong, all wrong, and, worse yet, is slinking through alleys in the dark with a drawn stiletto or a cocked revolver waiting for an opportunity to shoot the first passer-by through sheer lust of murder."

When the indictments were returned against Senator Dietrich he announced that he courted a thorough investigation; and yet, when he was confronted with the investigation he resorted to technicalities. When United States Senator Burton of Kansas was indicted, he announced that he would demand an immediate trial, and would invite a thorough investigation. But it seems that Mr. Burton has already resorted to technicalities, raising the point that the officials with whom he interceded in behalf of his client had no authority to issue a fraud order, and therefore, Senator Burton is not liable. Technicalities appear to be very popular with the politicians who boast that by their election to office their states have been "redeemed."

More than a year ago Mr. Roosevelt, speaking at Princeton, Ill., said: "Our currency laws need such modification as will insure the parity of every dollar coined or issued by the government." How does it happen that Mr. Roosevelt has done nothing to bring about the result he said was so desirable. Is it possible that Mr. Roosevelt has discovered that the parity of every dollar coined or issued by the government was long ago insured—even before the time when the republican leaders say the American people declared in favor of the single gold standard—by electing to power a political party whose platform declared in favor of international bimetalism.

A Commoner reader at Little Falls, Minn., writes to say: "In your issue of January 22 referring to the death in military circles of Gen. W. B. Franklin, is referred to as a confederate. I presume this is an error, because General Franklin commanded the brigade composed of the 16th and 27th New York, the Fifth Maine and 96th Pennsylvania volunteer infantry. Later he commanded a division in which the above regiments were the leading brigade, or the first. Upon the formation of the Sixth corps he was placed in command, and at Fredericksburg, Va., he commanded the left Grand Division of Burnside's army."

In an editorial entitled "Bryan as an Affliction" the Chicago Chronicle intimates that Mr. Bryan is "a mere mouther, a cheeky upstart, a blatant demagogue, a hypocrite and pharisee, a slick adventurer, a grasping money-maker, a subservient tool of rich and ambitious men, a slanderer of his betters and a promoter of hate and strife and revolution." Of course, this is not altogether important, but it is interesting by way of showing the fine spirit in which the reorganizers approach their great task of harmonizing the democratic party.

Speaking at Chicago recently Bishop John L. Spalding, who was one of the members of the anthracite coal strike commission, said: "Capital dictates even now, in a large measure, the policies of our national, state and municipal legislative bodies. It enables the multi-millionaires and the trusts to make or to evade the laws. It controls most potent organs of public opinion, and is able to give to the interests of industrialism priority over the rights of man."