

Porto Rico and Statehood

President Roosevelt's greeting to the Porto Ricans as fellow-citizens was startling to the imperialists—what few are left; but An New York Tribune quickly recovered itself and proceeds to say that there can be no serious objection to conferring American citizenship upon those islanders provided it be not regarded as a step in the direction of statehood. And it is not believed that the president has statehood in contemplation or that he would for a moment countenance such an idea. "When Porto Rico receives the gift of citizenship for its people," says the Tribune, "it should be with no impossible aspirations for statehood, but with profound satisfaction at the establishment of the island on a logical and dignified basis as an autonomous territory of the United States."

Here again does imperialism appear to indulge a vain hope. Porto Rico has already been detached from the distinctively colonial status established for the Philippines, and brought within the customs boundaries of the United States. That so far places the island in a position common to our territories which are in recognized tutelage or preparation for statehood. The conferring of American citizenship upon the Porto Ricans will further identify the island with "territory" of the United States in the sense in which that term has always heretofore been held—territory on the way to incorporation into the union of the states. Indeed, it would leave little essential difference between the status of Porto Rico and that of Arizona or New Mexico.

And the Porto Ricans will recognize the fact and insist upon it. They will think of ultimate statehood as do the people of Arizona and they will aggravate it; and the spirit of all our history and the still dominant principles of our government will inspire them and support them in this. And they will finally win either statehood, or an independence conceded by the United States as preferable to the island's admission as a state, which latter alternative is to be considered highly improbable.

Jefferson considered the annexation of Cuba as inevitable and desirable, but he never thought of keeping it out of the union of states after annexation. What he proposed to do after the annexation of Cuba as a free and independent American state was to "immediately erect a column on the southernmost limit of Cuba and inscribe on it a ne plus ultra as to us in that direction." No more territory beyond, but a confinement of the great American confederacy to this continent and expanding northward rather than southward.

It is a little late now to be talking of the "impossible aspirations" of Porto Rico for statehood. If the island

remained United States territory at all, it will finally be brought into the union with proportionate representation in the general government of the nation. Then might the Jefferson idea of the limitations of American expansion southward be put into monumental effect through the rearing of a column on the southernmost point of Porto Rico with this inscription: The United States of America. Ne Plus Ultra. —Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

GREETINGS FROM JAPAN

The following is taken from a recent issue of the Japanese Evangelist: "To the Hon. William Jennings Bryan, Lincoln, Neb.—Hon. and Dear Sir: At the annual convention of the National Temperance League of Japan, held in the city of Yokohama, the 12th and 13th of this month, the following action was taken: That the convention send greetings to the Hon. William Jennings Bryan, and hereby express sincere appreciation of the firm stand he took for the cause of Temperance, while in Japan a year ago, by refusing to drink wine at banquets and by wearing 'our' temperance badge in public, thus showing his staunch championship of the great temperance movement in the world. Banzai to Mr. Bryan! Signed for and in behalf of the National Temperance League."

THE CRUCIAL CASE

But the crucial case is the allegation by Mr. Storer that President Roosevelt instructed him, an American ambassador, to tell the pope, when he visited Rome, that Archbishop Ireland was the president's friend and that he would be pleased to hear that he had been made a cardinal. Mr. Storer, in his pamphlet, gives the French translation of the president's words which he read to Pius X. on December 2, 1903. He had written them out and, as he faced the pope in the audience, he read from the slip of paper, since he did not venture to trust his memory. If Mr. Storer could offer no evidence corroboratory to his statement regarding this episode, his plight would be a sorry one, in the face of the president's contradiction. But the disturbing fact is that he is supported by a letter which Archbishop Ireland wrote to his wife. The archbishop's testimony sustains Mr. Storer's allegation that he was charged with a message to the pope by Mr. Roosevelt. The archbishop saw the president after the Storers' visit to Oyster Bay and, in writing to Mrs. Storer, the archbishop gave this version of his interview: The president said to me: "Mr. Storer has told you what I said to him about you, archbishop?" I replied: "I do not remember." "About his going to Rome?" I said, "No." "Well," he said, "I told him I would not write a letter to the pope asking for honors for you, but I said that he could go to Rome and say, viva voce, to the pope how much I wish you to be a cardinal, and how grateful I personally would be to him for giving you that honor." In his reply to Mr. Storer the presi-

dent ignores this evidence by the archbishop of St. Paul. It is suggested to him that he should inquire of the archbishop whether he wrote such a letter as the one from which Mr. Storer draws the above quotation. The veracity of the archbishop is above dispute, if that of Mr. Storer is not. As the case stands, with the archbishop silent and evidently not disposed to repudiate the letter to Mrs. Storer, it can not be said that the president's reply on this point is as convincing as it should be. The country is left to suspect that President Roosevelt may have passed the bounds of discretion in his relations with the vatican.—Springfield, Mass., Republican.

GILLETTE'S BLUNDER

If Chester Gillette, charged with pushing "Billy" Brown into an Adirondack lake to get rid of her, is not dead to all the best and finest in womanly character, he must by this time realize that he threw away the love and life-long devotion of a girl who, in any event, was much too good for him. The letters from the girl published during his trial show a delicacy of feeling, a richness of character and a heart of pure devotion rare among women of any class. Factory girl though she was, and unlettered, the letters are of the best literary quality. That is, they are full of human feeling, expressed with pathetic, direct sympathy.

"I am about crazy now," she writes in one of her last letters. "I have been bidding good-bye to some places today. There are so many nooks, dear, and all of them so dear to me. I have lived here nearly all my life. First, I said good-bye to the old springhouse, with the great masses of green moss; then the beehive, a cute little house in the orchard, and, of course, to all of the neighbors that have mended my dresses from a little tot up, to save me thrashings I really deserved." She seemed to have a premonition of the end, a foreboding of disaster.

Gillette's sensibilities were too blunt, however, to appreciate the delicate refinement of the woman whose real character shines like light in this brief extract. She was a factory girl—good enough to play with, to dishonor, to kill, perhaps, if she grew troublesome, but not good enough to become his wife. As in so many other cases, he was not good enough for her. He missed the greatest blessing that can come to a man in this life because he was not worthy of it. He was blind and knew it not, when he had it within his grasp.

It is a terrible lesson to all men, and women, too, for that matter. Social condition is no index to real character. Indeed, it often obscures the best and cloaks the worst womanly and manly spirit. "Billy" Brown worked in a factory. But her letters, written without art, are the very best proof of her superiority to all conditions. The case is a reminder of the injunction, "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment," an injunction which any man or woman can heed who is not so blinded by fear and social prejudice that he can not distinguish appearance from right truth.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

SEWARD AND DOUGLAS

In the reminiscences of the late Carl Schurz which are now being published in McClure's Magazine, some interesting things are said of Seward and Douglas. Extracts follow: "There was to me something mysterious in the small, wiry figure, the thin, sallow face, the overhanging eyebrows, and the muffled voice of Seward. I had read some of his speeches

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