

CURRENT TOPICS

DR. A. L. BIXBY, writing in the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal says that the late Governor Johnson's "favorite prayer" was as follows: "Spare me from the bitterness and the sharp passions of unguarded moments. May I not forget that poverty and riches are of the spirit; and, although age and infirmity overtake me, and I come not within sight of the castle of my dreams, teach me to be thankful for life, and for time's olden memories that are good and sweet. And may the evening's twilight find me gentle still."

COLONEL William R. Morrison, one of America's grand old men and for many years an active democratic leader, died September 29 at his home in Waterloo, Ill. An Associated Press dispatch says: "William Ralls Morrison was born in 1824 and had served as a private in the Mexican war. Returning to Illinois he entered politics, and after serving two terms in the state legislature, was elected to congress in 1863. While chairman of the house ways and means committee, he introduced the tariff measure known as the 'Horizontal,' or 'Morrison' bill."

WHERE IS Ralph Hull? Mr. and Mrs. Alex C. Hull of Harrison, Ark., have sent to the newspapers this letter: "Enclosed we hand you notice concerning our boy, and make bold to ask you to publish same in your issue. Because of our limited means, we have been unable to do what we so much desired to do in our search for him. We come now to the newspapers, and ask their assistance, trusting that should he see this it would appeal to him in such a way that he would write to or let us know where he is. Ralph left his home in Little Rock, Ark., May 19, 1906. He is now 19 years old. Was well reared and fairly educated. A bright, intelligent, boy, sparkling brown eyes, dark brown hair, complexion fair and of a pleasing and attractive appearance and friendly disposed. For more than three years now he has been gone from his home and loved ones, and in all that time no news has come to us from him. If he should see this notice, his heart-broken mother begs of him to at least write to her and relieve her of the suspense to which she has been subjected to so long. We implore him to come home, but if he does not want to do so, may he write his mother."

THE WASHINGTON correspondent for the New York World sends to his paper this dispatch: "Representative James Lloyd of Missouri, as chairman of the democratic congressional campaign committee, said in a recent letter addressed to democratic congressmen: 'I would be pleased to hear from you with reference to the publication of the campaign text book as to what you think should go into it, or anything else that pertains to the campaign. We do not desire to discuss any schedules or matters in detail about which democrats differ.' Representative Richardson of Alabama answered: 'I regret that you say in your letter 'we do not desire to discuss any schedules or matters in detail about which democrats differ.' You are certainly aware that the country understands and appreciates that democratic votes were very useful in the passage of several of the most vital features of the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill. I think to pursue the course that you indicate would be unwise and result in disastrous defeat. You also know that the last democratic national platform was repudiated by leading and distinguished democrats. It seems to me it will not do for you or your committee to apologize for, excuse or condone the acts or votes of democrats who uttered such declarations or cast such votes. I contend that when the Denver national democratic platform declared that 'lumber, timber and logs' should be on the free list it declared nothing in the world but a democratic policy and a democratic principle. To succeed in electing a democratic house for the Sixty-second congress we must, above all things else, secure the confidence of the people, and that can't be done except by a bold and fearless declaration of democratic principles in

behalf of a tariff for revenue in the interest of the masses of the people. We will be contending with an able, bold, watchful and active political foe. Distinguished men of that party will exultingly point out how, when and where the Payne-Aldrich bill got aid and help from democratic votes, without which it would not have been successful. How can we meet such a charge? I believe that we should stand fearlessly for democratic principles on the tariff in behalf of the masses of the people against combined wealth and monopoly, and without hesitancy declare that any vote cast by any democrat in opposition to that line of policy was un-democratic and for which the democratic party is not responsible.' Mr. Lloyd's job is a ticklish one when he attempts to reconcile the regular Champ Clark democrats with the Fitzgerald insurgent democrats. The southern and western democrats will never forgive the Fitzgerald following for breaking up the combination with the republican insurgents which would have defeated the Cannon rules."

RECENTLY A large temperance parade took place in Chicago. General Frederick D. Grant in uniform of the United States army took part in this parade. W. R. Michaelis of a local self-government society has complained to the war department concerning General Grant's participation in this parade. The letter sent to the secretary of war is as follows: "My Dear Sir: On Sunday last Major General Frederick D. Grant of the United States army and in the uniform of the United States, marched at the head of a prohibition parade in Chicago. The above incident has caused considerable comment and it is rumored that the same means that the federal government and the army in general have taken sides with the prohibition movement. It is also stated that the prohibition organizations contemplate bringing about an election in this city next spring to determine the popular will on this question. Our citizens, in the main, attach themselves to one or the other sides of this great question. If such an election is held it should express the free and uncontrolled action of the public. Public officers are servants of the people and should not be allowed to use the advantages of their office to accomplish partisan ends. I do not dispute the right of General Grant to take part in this movement as a private citizen, but believe he has no right to head a parade in full uniform, or to participate as a federal officer. Will you kindly advise me whether the department has ruled on such conduct, and whether the same can be said to have received official sanction? I have treated this communication as an open letter and should like to regard your answer as such."

CONCERNING THE Grant episode Secretary Newton of the temperance and law enforcement parade wrote this letter: "Hon. J. M. Dickinson, Secretary of War, Washington, D. C. My Dear Sir: I note in our papers today that W. R. Michaelis, a prominent leader in a liquor and anti-law enforcement society in this city, has sent a complaint to you against Major General Frederick D. Grant because the general saw fit to appear in uniform while leading a great procession of decent citizens protesting against the saloon lawlessness and debauchery which for years have blackened the name of our great city. While General Grant is abundantly able to defend himself (if any defense is needed), yet, inasmuch as he performed this patriotic service through my invitation, I wish to shield him from any annoyance that might come to him from interests which feel themselves hurt because the 10,000 boys (and 25,000 or 30,000 others) who marched behind him will emulate their hero and abstain from alcoholic liquors. A sober citizen is not regarded as a liquor seller's asset. The prospects of having to obey law is also very distasteful to these interests. The right of General Grant to wear his uniform on this occasion will not be questioned when I inform you that I have in my possession official communications from Grand Army posts (including the George H. Thomas Post of 605 members) accepting our invitation to participate and

help boost the civic virtues of sobriety and reverence for law. Mr. Michaelis states this was a 'partisan' affair. That is not true. I inclose documentary proof herewith. Temperance men of every party were represented, with only a small minority of prohibitionists. The prohibition party had nothing to do with it. General Grant has courageously performed a patriotic duty in demanding the unconditional surrender of lawlessness and debauchery. If the war department has any honors which the general has not already received, 50,000,000 sober American citizens will join me in a request that you confer them upon him at once. Very cordially yours, H. C. Newton."

SECRETARY of War Dickinson replied to Mr. Michaelis of Chicago as follows: "I have your letter of September 28, 1909, in which you state that on Saturday last Major General Frederick D. Grant, in uniform, marched at the head of a prohibition parade in the city of Chicago. I do not know the facts, but I have seen it stated that it was not a prohibition parade, but a temperance and law enforcement parade. You state that it has been rumored that the federal government and the army in general, have taken sides with the prohibition movement. If the federal government has in any way taken part in any such movement, I do not know it. What individual members of the army may feel about such movements, I do not know. Each soldier and officer of the army has a right to determine that for himself. I do know, however, and state, that the army, as an organization, has taken no side and will have no right to take sides, either for or against the prohibition movement. General Grant participated in the parade as an individual and not in any way representing the army or the war department."

THIS WAS the way Wu Ting Fang, former minister of China to the United States, described the awakening of his own country, in an address before the Civic Forum in New York City: Foremost among the influences which have wrought the miracle he placed the educational institutions of American missionaries. He said these "formed a part of the leaven which has leavened the whole empire of China." How significant a part becomes more and more apparent as plans are unfolded for the education of Chinese youth. Few Americans have had a larger share in these plans than Dr. D. Z. Sheffield, president of the North China College in Tung-cho, who has been in service there forty years under the American board with only three visits to the United States. Although the college was wiped out of existence by the Boxers in 1900, and the land sowed to corn, it was promptly rebuilt with indemnity money, and is still training picked men for efficient leadership in the nation. Dr. Sheffield holds high rank as an administrator as well as a scholar. The federation of forces representing three religious denominations, English as well as American, into a general educational scheme, was due largely to his initiative and skill. These missionary plants working harmoniously together towards a given end, the making of Christian character, have made a deep impression upon the Chinese. Another educational factor is a miniature Yale which was opened at Changsha by alumni of that university, in 1898. This year a few alumni of the Harvard medical school have decided to duplicate that institution in the Flowery Kingdom. Such are some of the influences to which Wu Ting Fang ascribes the awakening of China.

OF COURSE!

Of course Mr. Bryan doesn't like the new tariff law. It will be a sad day for the country when congress enacts a tariff law that meets Mr. Bryan's unqualified approval.—Kansas City Journal.

But it is a glorious day for the country when congress enacts a tariff law that meets the unqualified approval of Mr. Aldrich, who is designated by President Taft as the republican leader in the senate.