

MILLIONAIRES AND ASYMOTES

The editor of The Independent has had a somewhat intimate acquaintance with a few of the millionaires who run this country. Most of those with whom he for a short time associated were what are called "self-made men," though one or two of them inherited their fortunes. Those with inherited fortunes took things easy and did not bother themselves much about government, except when the bankers got them excited about the gold standard. Knowing nothing at all about political economy they went wild over that and Mark Hanna was able to "pull their legs" without limit. The "self-made" fellows were all hustlers and were in speculation, politics and business up to their eyes. They were the chaps upon whom the political bosses relied. With one of these millionaires the editor was on terms of intimacy for two or three years. He was the boss of his church and dictated who the pastor should be, claiming that he had a right to do so, because he paid the main part of his salary. He contributed liberally to missions and colleges and all sorts of church work.

He lived in a great mansion which had all sorts of electrical conveniences. He had a library, of course. There was an ornate fireplace in it and the book cases were of the most costly kind. When it came to the books, there were cyclopedias, histories, biographies, works of travel, a full set of Darwin, many works on astronomy, all the standard fiction and all of them in magnificent and costly bindings. Works of art adorned every room in the house. He really had a taste for art and his selections, some of them costing thousands of dollars, were of the highest cast.

This writer spent one rainy day all alone in that library. As far as he could discover not one of the books had ever been opened. It was impossible that the proprietor, who started for his office every morning at 7:30 and did not return until 5 p. m. or later and then in the evening attended church meetings, the clubs, political meetings or the theatre, could ever find an hour to spend there. He read the daily papers while he was eating his breakfast.

He had interests in several banks, in street car, gas and railroad franchises, besides running a large commercial business. On current affairs he was well posted, but his information was picked up during the day at the meetings of directors of the various companies and banks in which he was interested and on the streets.

One night he started down town, but one of his carriage horses went lame and he ordered his coachman to return. He spent that evening in his library with this writer. There was a big wood fire and the electric lights, pictures and costly furniture made it a brilliant place. After gazing into the fire for a minute or two he remarked that the cashier of his bank had said to him that there were some things in higher mathematics that were as beautiful as the finest paintings and asked what the cashier could possibly mean. Then the following conversation occurred:

"I suppose that there are some things about asymptotes and conic sections that to a mathematical mind would appear beautiful."
"What is an asymptote?"

"That would be very hard to explain unless you began at the beginning of the science, learned the first principles and gradually approached an answer to the question by consecutive study."

"Well, tell me something about it."
"Roughly speaking, it is a line always approaching a curve, but can never reach it."

"But it cannot go on always approaching and never meet. That is impossible."

"It is something like this: If I take that apple and always divide it

exactly in half, no matter how long I keep up the operation, there will forever be something left."

The millionaire fell into a brown study for a minute and then slowly replied: "Y-e-s, that is so." Then he went to the book shelves and took down a cyclopedia, remarking: "Asymptotes and conic sections are a part of geometry, I suppose." After a few minutes he said: "Yes, here it is, all about conic sections, asymptote, parabola, hyperbola. I see all those words here." Then he closed the book, saying: "Some time, if I ever get a day off, I am going to look that whole thing up." Seating himself he said:

"I believe that Father Jasper is right notwithstanding all the fun that the newspapers poke at him. I saw a long article written by a scientist who claimed that the theory that the world turns around cannot be proved." Then he went to a drawer and found the clipping. "I never read only the head-lines," he said, "but when I get time I am going to read the whole article through."

Now this man who was a genius at accumulating money, whose whole life and thought had been devoted to that purpose, was also the principal political factor in the city where he lived. And yet he had no knowledge of government, had never given a single thought to the vast problems confronting society at every turn, and was used by the boss of his party as his principal asset. It was to the interest of that boss, and all bosses for that matter, to hold up this man as a pattern for every one, to pretend to refer to him questions of government finance, when for the life of him he could not have told what value was, what wealth was, what laws affected production and distribution, where the dividing line should be set between government ownership and private ownership and perhaps had never given a thought to any of these things. He had money and lots of it. That in the opinion of the citizens of that city was a sufficient reason for allowing him to decide how they should vote and whom they should elect to office. In exercising that power it was of course the natural tendency of the man to favor all those things that his millionaire associates favored and above all look out that there were no men elected to office who would pass laws interfering with the franchises and banks in which he was interested.

There are several thousand just such cases as this in these United States. It is taken for granted that if a man has a million or two, he, of all the community, is best qualified to control legislation and direct how the laws should be administered, when there may be numerous other men in the community who have studied all these questions, and though they may not be possessed of much wealth, are infinitely better qualified to make laws and administer them. When the people of the United States have arrived at that state of civilization that they will take account of the qualities of men and not the amount of money they have accumulated, there will be better government, and not till then.

IMPERIALISM V. SELF GOVERNMENT

Admiral Dewey said: "The people of the Philippine islands are better qualified for self-government than the people of Cuba and I know them both." Cuba has had one year of self-government. When General Wood turned the treasury over to the Cubans there was a balance of \$540,000 in cash. On the 1st of May that balance had been increased to \$2,699,000. All current expenses have been promptly paid, the educational and sanitary measures established by the American authorities have been kept up, peace and order have been maintained, and a good army has been organized. Never in the history of

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TEAS		COFFEE—Green	
There are many reasons why you should send us your tea order, but the great reason is to be found in the quality of the goods we give you. Our bargain, Green Japan, a very good drink, per lb. 35c; 3 lbs. \$1.00.		Our Coffees are all of the best possible quality and should not be compared with the cheap grades offered by other houses. State whether light or dark color is desired. Sacks 125 lbs. By the Less than	
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Our Clean Leaf Basket Fired Japan, imperial draw, per lb. 48c; 3 lbs. \$1.35.	"Over the Ocean Basket Fired Japan," an excellent tea, per lb. 52c; 3 lbs. \$1.50.	Hayden Bros. Rio, prime, a good dark brown, per lb. 11c	12c
Young Hyson, Big "H" brand, fair style, a good steamer, per lb. 32c.	Young Hyson Superfine, none better for the price, per lb. 45c.	Hayden Bros. Rio, extra select Golden, per lb. 12c	13c
Fancy Young Hyson, garden grown, per lb. 56c; 5 lbs. \$2.60; 10 lbs. \$5.00.	Gunpowder, old reliable, an honest draw, green, per lb. 35c; 3 lbs. \$1.00.	Hayden Bros. Rio Golden Queen, garden grown, per lb. 14c	15c
Gunpowder, Hayden Bros. finest, a good drink at a moderate price, per lb. 44c; 5 lbs. \$2.00.	Our true Nankin Moyune, the perfection of the Gunpowder Tea, none better at any price, per lb. 52c; 10 lbs. \$5.00.	Hayden Bros. Diamond "H" Java, extra choice, per lb. 16c	17c
Hayden Bros. Oolong, black, a plain draw, per lb. 33c; 10 lbs. \$3.00.	The Sun Harvest Oolong, King of Black Teas, packed and imported for the Big Store by the Ceylon & India Tea Company, our price per lb. 65c; 10 lbs. \$6.00.	Hayden Bros. O. K. Java, a heavy drinker, per lb. 18c	19c
Hayden Bros. English Breakfast, good enough for anybody, cheap enough for all, per lb. 43c; 10 lbs. \$4.00.	Western Star of India, a fancy quality, per lb. 75c.	Hayden Bros. private grown Java, a good quality, per lb. 20c	21c
Light of Asia, a \$1.00 tea, our price per lb. 86c.	Light of Ceylon, first crop, garden grown, per lb. \$1.00.	Hayden Bros. genuine Mocha, a 30c coffee, per lb. 21c	22c
Hayden Bros. special Ceylon and India Tea Siftings, first crop, garden grown, none better, per lb. 22c; 5 lbs. \$2.00.	Light of Asia, a \$1.00 tea, our price per lb. 86c.	The Western Special, 5-lb sack \$1.00.	23c
		Polished Mocha & Java, a bargain, lb. 10c	12c
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		50 AND 100 POUND SACKS	
		All fresh roasted daily by the most expert coffee roasters in America. By the Less than	
		Big "H" Rio, a good value at a bargain price, per lb. 9c	10c
		Golden Bean, a special value, per lb. 11c	12c
		Santos Pride, a strong drinker, per lb. 12c	13c
		Government Standard Mocha & Java, 14c	15c
		Hayden Bros. Special Mocha & Java, 20c	22c
		Omaha Mixed Mocha & Java, per lb. 23c	25c
		Garden grown Mocha & Java, per lb. 28c	28c
		Gen'l's private garden grown Mocha 30c	32c
		Big "H" Golden Bean special. An extra fine coffee, per lb., only 35c.	
		Farmers Select, special brand, a good reliable coffee, per lb. 20c.	
		Housewife's Friend coffee, a 25c coffee, our price only 18c.	
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the island has there been so low a death rate.

The Filipinos have had three years of imperialism and according to all the official reports and private advices the country is in the most distressed and deplorable condition of any on the face of the earth. Instead of improvement, there is degeneration. Appropriations have had to be made from the United States treasury to keep the people from dying of starvation.

It is a fair test of imperialism and self-government. One promotes prosperity and the happiness of the people and the other brings poverty, discontent and constant war. It is as bad for the United States as it is for the people of the Philippines. What is most disheartening is that the prospect is that conditions in the Philippines will never be any better. In the very nature of men, it follows that people who have longed and fought for self-government whose aspirations are all still for it will never amount to anything under imperialism.

MARK HANNA RASCALS

The putting of Perry S. Heath, the most unscrupulous of the Mark Hanna intriguers, into the responsible position of first assistant postmaster general was an outrage on the very face of it. No man with such antecedents should ever be appointed to a general office in that department of the government. The demoralization of the force and the frauds on the government which followed are what any man of sense knew would follow. The denunciations of the written charges made by Seymour W. Tulloch as "hot air" and "glittering generalities" will not "go down" with the American public. Here is one, and there are many more of like character, which is anything but a "glittering generality."

The postmaster one day brought me an allowance of the first assistant postmaster general, salary and allowance division, July 27, 1898, appointing Emma Janes and Fannie R. Winans as cleaners, or char-women, for one year from July 1, 1898, at \$600 per annum. Handing me the allowance, he stated it was the order of the department that the names of the women should not appear upon any pay-roll; that the parties designated should not know that the other was in receipt of any

money or had any connection with the office. He also stated that neither of them was expected to report for any duty. This complimentary roll was added to later.

Putting his women on the pay-roll of the United States is just what might have been expected of Perry S. Heath. When congress meets perhaps we may get the facts about these political rascals.

VICE-PRESIDENT THOMPSON

A number of Nebraska papers, among them the Lyons Mirror, Central City Democrat and Plattsmouth Journal, are commenting favorably upon the boom started by the Des Moines Democrat for W. H. Thompson of Grand Island for vice president in 1904. Nothing would please The Independent better than to see Billy presiding over the United States senate—but if he must go in as the tail to Cleveland's kite, and it looks as if he must if he is to be vice president, then The Independent would prefer some other candidate. Of course, the Des Moines Democrat was bringing him out on the assumption that the Kansas City platform democrats will win out—an assumption that is by no means a foregone conclusion, as it seems to The Independent at this time.

The Louisville Courier Journal of May 20 devotes almost its entire editorial page to Grover's "takin' notice," and calls attention to its first editorial on the subject, June 25, 1902, after Cleveland had appeared with Hill at the Tilden banquet; and regards his mourning at Hewitt's funeral, his Booker T. Washington speech and his St. Louis journey, as evidence that "the old Mugwump (is) getting into place—the literary bureau adroitly at work—Mr. Cleveland is the grand old man shunning publicity, seeking nothing, not even deigning to utter the one word 'no,' which would have stopped all question, have silenced all criticism."

And it will be found that his speech at the Kischineff mass meeting, May 23, is simply another step in the conspiracy. Meanwhile the eastern papers are either actively or passively helping along his boom—and if Billy Thompson runs for vice president on the democratic ticket it looks as though it would have to be Grover and Billy. This The Independent is not anxious to see.