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J. STERLING MORTON, EDITOR.

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THE POWER OF MONEY.

There are so many diatribes and discourses denunciatory of the money power issued and uttered every day in the United States that one who believes them must shudder at the idea of that persistent industry and frugality which at all times and in all places are founding wealth for their disciples. No man or woman of intelligence and good health who is industrious and self-denying from the beginning of adult life can fail of competence in the United States when middle life or age has been reached, except by accident or misfortune. And all self-respecting persons are anxious to achieve a competence so as to be not dependent. Consequently all such self-reliant citizens are by deeds constantly invoking the power of money for their own protection against want in old age.

Life insurance perhaps better than any other development of modern times illustrates how beneficent the power of money may be made in repairing the loss of the father and husband whose earnings supported the wife and children from whom death has suddenly separated him. The great life companies of the United States expend annually millions upon millions of dollars in caring for widows and orphans. Each year they cause the power of money to prevent suffering, to assuage desolation and bring comforts and competency to families that would otherwise be in the depths of destitution and despair. Who is so widely partisan and populist as to desire to drive out of business in Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas, and in fact out of existence in the United States, these vast stores of money the power of which

is always exerted for the alleviation of human suffering and sorrow? Read proposed legislation in nearly all the Western states regarding these benevolent incorporations and you will find what political organization is endeavoring to annihilate sound life insurance!

Colleges and universities also represent the power of aggregated capital. During the year 1897 there was bequeathed to these institutions in the United States more than a hundred millions of dollars for their firmer establishment and maintenance. These bequests were possible because somebody had been industrious and self-denying enough to accumulate them and make them to illustrate the danger of the money power to "the plain people" for whom it seeks to provide the means of higher education.

But our common schools in Nebraska which have also a most liberal permanent school fund, which is drawing interest, night and day, out of which teachers and other expenses are at least partially paid, likewise illustrate the operation of the money power and its relation to the plain people.

Without these vast accumulations of money how could life insurance and education for "the plain people" be so inexpensively provided, and placed within the reach of all who desire and deserve?

Without incorporated capital how could railroads be constructed and operated?

Without railroads how could trans-Missouri river farms be cultivated and their teeming surplus sent to market?

Without the money power how would invention, authorship, skilled labor, agriculture and manufacture be stimulated and rewarded?

Without the power of steam or water applicable to its machinery of what value is a grist mill even in the midst of abundant cereals?

And without the power and push of money to reward it of what use is intelligent labor and skill and industry?

May the money power and intelligent labor power remain forever partners in prosperity!

Self-forgetfulness is the first duty of the patriotic public man when he discusses a question involving the institutions and permanent welfare of the Republic. No statesman can consider first his own personal popularity and the needs of his countrymen and the Republic afterwards. Man's first duty is to his native land and his second to humanity in all lands.

THEY DREAD TO BE ALONE.

A marked weakness in the public men of the United States is their almost universal dread of being alone. Nothing frightens the average statesman in this country so much as to find himself alone in the support of a great truth or principle, which in a moment of uncontrollable vehemence, he may have proclaimed to his party or the whole people and had rejected. This idea of being with the crowd herding with the majority permeates all the politicians of the partisan organizations of the different states. And never until the present discussion as to whether the Republic had better or better not add to its citizenship, besides the already secured lepers of the Sandwich Islands, millions of half civilized, hybridized and inferior beings in the Philippine and West India Islands, has this fear of being found alone with a principle or a truth which the multitude repel, been so visible amidst the officialism and officeseekingism of the United States.

Moral courage seems to have been pretty thoroughly bred out of the male mass of humankind. The custom of ascertaining the trend and tone of the mob and following the same, while posing as a leader, has so long obtained that it has become a sort of second nature among American politicians. And the voice of the slums and sins of great cities, although known to be the utterance of ignorance and crime has been and continues to be accepted as the *Vox Dei* for patriots in pursuit of ballots that may place them in offices. The oft-repeated lie that "a majority is always right" has come to be regarded as a social and political axiom. And as a majority are sinners, unconnected with any religious faith, many have seemingly concluded that wickedness is therefore, especially in public matters, more popular and valuable than straightforward truth and honesty.

In view of the above plainly stated and generally admitted facts, and while the country is elated with its victories, by sea and by land, over the stalwart and splendid soldiers and sailors of Spain, why not take up the necessity of moral courage for the preservation of a free and useful government?

West Point and Annapolis perfect the youth of the country who are there schooled in all the arts of war. Physical courage is coached, exercised and