

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 7

farmers not far from Nebraska City, and it is said that they contemplate going into the grain-buying business.

These two waifs from the Ægean claim that their language is the same as it has always been. They admit that they themselves speak a mixture, shockingly compounded with Italian words and elements from every Mediterranean seaport, but they distinguish this from "real Greek," which to their adoring minds is still the same as when the loftiest thoughts that human minds had framed were uttered in it. They are Greeks, still handing down the tongue in which the gods of Olympus loved and quarreled; the rest of mankind still capable of nothing much more intelligible than "bar bar," and hence—barbarians.

As with the Greeks, so with the Jews. After twenty centuries of dispersion and persecution, a Jew is still a Jew; scattered through every country of the globe, they are everywhere a distinct people; a descendant of Abraham no more combines with the community in which he finds himself than a bullet with the snowbank into which it is dropped; he is always, first and foremost, a Hebrew.

In view of the astonishing persistence of these two ancient races, may we not suppose that we have something of the same faculty in ourselves; that we are neither the one nor the other of them, but Teutons, from time immemorial; with souls forged of different metal from theirs, and tempered in the shadow of hoary German forests and the cold waters of the northern ocean?

Some years ago a melody called Ta-ra-ra Boom-de-ay was in everybody's ears, because one Lottie Collins, by dint of free use of her legs and lungs in connection with it, had made it popular in the city of London. Now she has been trying to kill herself with a razor, out of regret, as we may suppose; whereas Colonel John Hay, who also sinned in his youth, has been forgiven it and promoted to honor. But then Colonel Hay only made songs, and did not dance to them; if he had danced "Little Breeches" and "Jim Bludso" around the country, he would never have been secretary of state.

**OUR COUSINS.** The surprising fact, discovered in this year 1898, that England and America are not only near relations but good friends as well, seems to have put things in a new light to many a wise head around the world; and from all accounts, it has aroused frantic enthusiasm in both England and Canada. It is said that the Prince of Wales wears a Dewey button, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier one for Sampson; while as for Mr. E. T. Hooley, he carries a small American flag in his pocket, and often takes it out to look at it; and they do not understand why the delightful idea has not gone to our heads

in the same manner. Travelers returning from the old country wonder at finding us still enjoying life temperately; is it, they suggest, that we are a less emotional people than the English?

The fact is, that the illumination of reason in question showed us a number of equally positive relationships, all just about as desirable as that one; the English are our cousins, but that is not the whole story; so are the Irish, the Scotch, the big white-haired men from the Scandinavian peninsula, and a good number of the North Germans. These have all done about as much for us as have the English, and are about as good friends to keep; we may be the only cousin John Bull has, but he is only one among many to us.

**THE DENISON HOUSE SETTLEMENT.**

The Denison House, the Women's College settlement of Boston, was started in December, 1892. In its five years of life it has doubled in size, and now occupies two houses and is reaching out to a third. The aim of the house has been by unobtrusive friendliness to become firmly established in the affections of the neighborhood and to develop wider forms of collective service, gradually and naturally, from the personal relations established. In the second year the great industrial distress of the winter, 1893-1894, led to the opening of a workshop for women out of employment. Three hundred and twenty-four women were given work and \$6,000 was paid out in wages. Competition with regular goods was avoided by not selling in the open market, but by sending the goods manufactured to the Red Cross Society or to hospitals and to similar associations. Clubs and domestic training for mothers and little girls try to help them towards those higher standards of home life possible even to very poor people. College extension classes, in which certificates are given out at the end of the year, offer to workingwomen some of the privileges of pleasant and interesting study in literature and art. Industrial training for boys in various handicrafts is just started. The most spacious and beautiful room in the house is put daily at the disposal of a city kindergarten.

During four summers Denison House, in connection with the Associated Charities, has conducted a vacation school. Here, the public school instruction of the winter is supplemented by the training of hand and eye through sloyd, color-work, observation of animals, etc. Very interesting results are reached with the children. The tie between the settlement and educational activities in the neighborhood is strengthened through a large club for public-school teachers, which meets at Denison House and limits its membership, perforce, to one hundred, because of the capacity of the room. In the winter of 1893, through the effort of the house and

a neighboring boys' club, a reading-room was opened on Harrison Avenue and a station of the public library placed there. In due time this station was removed to some little distance. Through the desire of the Denison House Dramatic Club, composed of young men and boys, a reading room, next door to the settlement, has now been secured and will be opened the current month, to prove, we hope, permanent.

The house stands for no one religious creed, no organized religious work, and for no organized political or reform platform, but as Christians and good citizens, the residents try to help in bringing about better conditions materially, morally, and spiritually in the community in which they live. The settlement residents believe that the bonds uniting all good people, rich and poor, are much more numerous than the differences separating them.—Municipal Affairs.

Some of the republican papers are sadly confused over the possible effects of annexation upon American industries. The Los Angeles Times is one of these. It is especially concerned about beet sugar. Learning that Cuban sugar can be laid down in New York free of duty at 1½ cents a pound, and be refined there for three-fourths of a cent, making the total cost 2½ cents, whereas beet sugar cannot be made in this country for less than three cents a pound, the Times wants to know what would become of the beet sugar industry if Cuba were annexed. From the protection point of view that is a pertinent question. But what about American sugar eaters? Must they be compelled to pay unnecessarily high prices for their sugar so as to foster the beet sugar industry? Something like \$200,000,000 annually, the Times estimates, would be lost to the American beet sugar industries if they were destroyed by cheap cane sugar from our new colonies. It neglects to observe that all that was so lost, and more too, would be saved to American sugar eaters. Still, the Times does not oppose the policy of ultimate annexation. That would be contrary to the Hanna-McKinley-Elkins policy, and therefore unpatriotic. So it urges the imposition of a protective tariff upon goods from our colonies. Think of that! A tariff upon goods from territory over which our own flag floats! Could protective tariff madness go further?—The Public.

Nearly every week we take pleasure in copying some short article from THE CONSERVATIVE, a newspaper edited by ex-Secretary J. Sterling Morton. His opinions on political and other questions will not be in accordance with the beliefs of some of our readers, but they cannot fail to admire the clearness and elegance with which he expresses himself.—Ponca Journal.