

FREE SILVER AT 16 TO 1.

THE CONSERVATIVE observes with much patriotic satisfaction the decline in the volume of voice crying for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 without regard to any other nation on this or any other planet in the universe.

Governor Boies of Iowa was one of the earliest apostates from the fallacy and his immediate disciples are becoming more and more numerous.

Among newspapers which have deserted that monetary vagary are the New York Daily Journal, the Kansas City Times, the Chicago Chronicle and many others.

Every prophecy of evil made in 1896 by the advocates and orators of this great financial heresy has been proved false. The evidence against the forecasters of disaster abounds everywhere. It is upon farms and their lessened debts, upon railroads and their increased receipts, upon labor, its more constant employment and steadier scale of wages, and in all the clearing-house reports of the United States. Nobody needs—or even pretends to need—the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1 in Nebraska.

HONOR OF THE FLAG.

We cannot remember when we did not think the American flag the most beautiful object of its kind in the world. We learned to love it in the days of its peril, as we could never love "but once," and that once all the time; still more, we have learned to hold it, not in heart only but in reason, worthy of such a love, in all it stands for and all it promises, to ourselves and to mankind. We have sailed foreign oceans, and the sight of it as we drew into New York harbor was a renewal of the intensities of youth; it could only be compared with the joy of greeting our own household and children—or better, not compared at all, for either feeling was one to itself alone. When we have read in the English novelist, Clark Russell, of his wrecked and ocean-driven mariners, famishing and frozen, where a mast begins to glimmer above the misty sea-line, straining for a sight of the ensign, praying that if it be not of their own country, then it may be the stars and stripes, the one supreme assurance they could have of rescue and humanity—it has made us feel almost as good as if we had ourselves wrecked a craft of some feeble enemy.

It ought not to be surprising then if we feel an interest, keen even to sensitiveness, in the honor and glory of an emblem so adored. We hope that in our earnest efforts to preserve that honor, we may not seem over-zealous and aggressive to our fellow-countrymen. If we wish to keep it clean, at least to the requirement of decency; if we would not deface it with needless mire, blood, and all corruption; above all if we would

withdraw it as swiftly and decisively as possible from any false and dishonoring position; we trust that our care of the flag may be regarded, even if somewhat ideal, as at least patriotic.

Suppose a young man among his fellows, getting into some dispute, and not sure precisely what position he will assume; then suppose a doughty follower, armed to the teeth, coming up and proclaiming in his ear from behind, "Go right on, never talk of right and wrong, whatever you claim or do I will stand by you, and maul the life out of anybody that lifts a hand against you"—that retainer might be faithful and able in his part, he might in some dull sense be called mindful of his patron's interest; but how of that patron's honor? By all the latest gospel of clap-trap that has filled the land, if a pranky school-boy should set up our banner on the top of Saint Paul's, we must fight all Britain to the end of time before it should be taken down. ***

If the competition for first prize as adulator of President McKinley were not apparently closed, with the choice of Ambassador to Great Britain and Senator from New York, we should have liked to enter a Cuban. He is Don Francisco Javier Balmaseda, who has just published a pamphlet setting forth a plan for the government of the island. On its title page he puts this sentiment: "God said, 'Let there be light, and there was light.' McKinley said, 'Let a free people be made out of a colony of slaves,' and Cuba took her place among independent nations." Senor Balmaseda may not get anything for this, but it should make him *persona grata* at the White House.—New York Evening Post, January 25th.

The Post may be right as to Balmaseda and his White House reception, but what of the reception after that burst of adulation of Balmaseda at mansions in the skies?

ARMY AND NAVY FOREVER.

Now then at last everybody must admit the need of a stronger navy and a readier army for the emergencies we are likely to meet. What risks we ran, and what sufferings our brave men endured, which might have been avoided with a little more equipment! The Spanish war, through our surpassing valor, turned out a brief one; but none the less we felt the disadvantage of unpreparedness, and would feel it more in a heavier war. Let us take our lesson in time. Thus does jingoism play the role of prudence.

Once a go-ahead sort of a man, who had the reputation of minding his own business, as he was known to have a good deal of it on hand, sat at work in his office as usual; when he began to hear an awful row going on outside in the street. Impatient at last of the

noise and obstruction, and getting the idea that a small boy, whom he used to see playing in the dirt around but whom he really knew little or nothing about, was being abused, he finally jumped out, and snatching whatever came to hand, he soon cleaned out the region; for, in fact, there were few in that district who could stand against him, when he got started. But he came by a scratch and bruise or two in the melee. Then, as he walked back, he reflected: "I see I have made a mistake, in going heretofore unarmed. If I had had a good outfit of knives and pistols, it would have been a much quicker and surer thing. I will get me a dirk and a revolver, and have them always ready." So, being long in the leg, he had no difficulty in stepping at a single stride from the twentieth century to the sixteenth, and from the capital to the backwoods. ***

A WAIL FROM MR. WALL.

Mr. Wall, member of the democratic national committee for the state of Wisconsin, has tendered his resignation of that place because he declares in advance that he cannot longer give either countenance or support to the silver part, and, presumably, some other parts, of the Chicago platform. Coming from one of the strongest men and leaders of the party in the Northwest, this blow to the party which is now based upon a proposition that favors the payment of 100-cent debts with 50-cent dollars, has come very near reaching its cardiac plexus in the state of Wisconsin and Vilas.

Super-patriotic people are characterizing all who differ with the pillagers of the Philippine Islands as traitors to the country, copperheads, disloyalists and Tories. No one can differ from McKinley's policies, no matter how much he loves his home and country, no matter how much he has accomplished for both, without being denounced by the sycophants as "a little American."

Foreordination, predestination, annexation, and refrigeration are a good deal talked about just now; but vaccination is, in popular estimation, held at a higher valuation than any other method for the mitigation of the infected situation which dates its inauguration from our occupation of islands which used to belong to the Spanish nation.

Local history is of value to the children and youth of Otee county. Therefore at great expense, and by the sacrifice of much valuable space, THE CONSERVATIVE publishes "The Origins of Nebraska City" so that the teachers and pupils of public schools hereabouts may be furnished with historical facts and dates of indisputable authority.