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## ILL BIRD THAT FOULS ITS OWN NEST.

This is the proverb naturally brought to our mind by a certain portion of the comment often visited upon Grover Cleveland. It is well to remember how far a man may be speaking of his country when he is speaking of those who are grown into the very substance of the country's history. They are responsible, and they alone, for their acts, but the nation is involved in its voluntary adoption of their acts.

How widely the critic may be acquainted with American history does not always appear, but he will probably know that in no single case has a man been honored by the American people, as Grover Cleveland has been honored, without eminent merit.

No man has ever been elected to the office of president whose character can be said to have dishonored that office; and certainly no one has ever been chosen to a second term who was not in great regards an honor to it. Perhaps the least in personal historic importance among these may have been Monroe; yet he was one of the best of presidents, and he is worthily associated with weighty passages of our history.

Even less likely than in other cases would it be that this last winner of the double garland could have had the honor without the desert, and even more a libel on the country to suppose it.

Not one of the two-term presidents was nominated three times in succession to receive every time a steadily increasing plurality of the whole people's vote—for at Jackson's first run in 1824

nearly a third of the states did not vote popularly—the last increase by far the greatest.

Not one of them was serving as president twelve years after the beginning of his service, the whole blaze of public light beating upon him from beginning to end of that period every moment of the time, whether in public or in private station; while in spite of all fog-ism there has been more thinking, more reading, more intelligence and conscience in the land than ever before. These are not facts of sentiment but of history, and they express not what the man but what the nation did, of its full and deliberate judgment; let the comment bear itself accordingly. Let a man revile his people if he will, they are not immaculate; but let it be known just when and where he is doing so. If comments void of truth and sense in themselves appear equally regardless of intelligent patriotism, in this we may find a tolerable fitness of things, such as it is.

## NEBRASKA'S FIRST KING.

When good King Louis ruled this land, he was a goodly king.

A certain king of France named Louis, the fourteenth, by actual count, who bore that name, was what his subjects called a great king. For the greatness, he reigned seventy-two years in one spot, and lived nearly as well as the average American citizen of today during that time, being able to pay most of his debts, and having a good house to sleep in, three meals a day and plenty to wear (after he outgrew Cardinal Mazarin), which was glory enough for those days. And for the kingness, he enjoyed the privileges, denied to the American citizen, of clapping his friends into the Bastille, ordering his enemies' heads off, and leading armies up and down the map on various discreditable errands, according to his own sweet will.

This monarch's dominions were quite extensive, and included the state of Nebraska. It is quite possible, however, that Louis did not know this, any more than did his subjects of the Pawnee and Otoe tribes. Certainly they sent no deputations to display their untutored eloquence to him, nor did he make them presents of blankets and bull-beef, nor even enumerate Kansas and Nebraska among the domains over which he held sway. Possessions in the interior of North America brought no more glory

to a potentate of that day than would holdings in the interior of Greenland at present, and as for revenue, Louis never had a smell of any from this territory; not a red scent, in fact.

But such as it was, Louis XIV was the first, since the world began, to hold any kind of title to the land on which THE CONSERVATIVE is published. After his day, and when the boom in Western land-values began to take its first faint beginning, there was a good deal of obscure swapping of this territory between France and Spain; but when Mr. Jefferson wished to buy it, in 1803, he found France then in possession, or at least willing to take the money for it.

This same King Louis had a minister, manager or general business man, named Colbert, who invented protective tariffs and had the honor of having the Mississippi river named after him. There was no money for anybody in calling that respectable stream the Colbert river, so that name was soon abandoned; but there was so much money for somebody in protective tariffs that they have been maintained to the present day. The pleasant pursuit of engineering the funds of the community into private pockets was as popular in France in the seventeenth century as it has ever been anywhere, before or since; but that was not wholly Colbert's design. France at that time was without industries, being entirely dependent on agriculture, trade, gambling and money-lending; for manufactured goods it was necessary to go to England and the Netherlands. To check this drain on the country's resources, Colbert devised the plan of establishing manufactories by main force. This he effected, by importing laborers and encouraging native inventors, and to divert commerce from its old channels to those new sources of supply he imposed fines on purchases made abroad. These fines composed the first protective tariff.

The Japanese are not only a clean people, but they are ingenious as well. Like ourselves, they have a dirty island on their hands; theirs is the island of Formosa. And it is said that instead of trying to clean up one particularly filthy town in Formosa, they just laid out an adequate number of streets and squares on a neighboring hill, and gave the town notice to move thither on a certain day.