

TO THE WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

Believing that, in this national crisis, it is the duty of every American citizen, woman no less than man, to uphold the principles of the declaration of independence, and believing that the noble work of the Anti-Imperialist League should be heartily supported by all true patriots, we invite all women of the United States to join us in helping on that work by sending at once to Miss F. L. Abbot, 43 Larch St., Cambridge, Mass., their signatures (with the names of their town or city and state) for the following petition.

MRS. THOS. WENTWORTH HIGGINSON,
MRS. LEWIS G. JANES,
ALICE FREEMAN PALMER,
MARGARET STORER WARNER, D. A. R.,
SARAH SHERMAN STORER,
ANNIE LONGFELLOW THORP,
HARRIET E. BROOKS,
MRS. WILLIAM JAMES,
SARAH E. HUNT, D. R.,
FANNY L. ABBOT, D. R.

Committee.

PETITION.

To the President of the United States:

We, women of the United States, earnestly protest against the war of conquest into which our country has been plunged in the Philippine islands. We appeal to the declaration of independence, which is the moral foundation of the constitution you have sworn to defend, and we reaffirm its weighty words:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal [before the law], that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

And we unqualifiedly approve and support these resolutions of the Anti-Imperialist League:

"First. That our government shall take immediate steps towards a suspension of hostilities in the Philippines and a conference with the Philippine leaders with a view to preventing further bloodshed, upon the basis of a recognition of their freedom and independence as soon as proper guarantees can be had of order and protection to property.

"Second. That the government of the United States shall tender an official assurance to the inhabitants of the Philippine islands that they will encourage and assist in the organization of such a

government in the islands as the people thereof shall prefer, and that upon its organization in stable manner, the United States, in accordance with its traditional and prescriptive policy in such cases, will recognize the independence of the Philippines and its equality among nations, and gradually withdraw all military and naval forces."

In those eternal truths of the declaration of independence lie the principles which we firmly believe ought to govern your action as a faithful servant of the American people. In those resolutions of the Anti-Imperialist League lies the clear application of those principles to the duty of the hour. In the name of justice, freedom, and humanity, and in the spirit of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, we urge you to obey those principles, and cease at once this war of "criminal aggression" against a brave people fighting for their independence just as our forefathers fought for theirs and ours.

SELF-CULTURE.

The contents of the June number of Self-Culture fully justify the good opinions already gained by this magazine. The articles are solid and attractive, with pleasing illustrations, and are admirably adapted in subject and literary style to give information to a class of subscribers who desire a course of reading that will lead to the best self-culture.

We quote the following words of commendation from D. C. Gilman, president of Johns Hopkins university:

"You are conducting an admirable magazine and likely to do great good throughout the country. I was surprised, in looking at the numbers sent me, to see so many articles that were interesting to me, and how many of them seemed well fitted to interest and instruct the bright youth of our country."

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CONSERVATISMS.

If, as "Uncle Josh" says, a conservative is a jackass, which balks and will not move, even if you put a fire under him, but falls into the flames of his own ignorance and is consumed; does he not also resemble the proverbial ostrich that, on seeing an enemy approach, buries its head in the sands of its own ignorance and leaves its body to be plucked by its enemy?

Those two definitions describe conservatism as generally understood. Conservatism is looked upon as identical with immovability. The idea is right if rightly understood. There are two kinds of conservatism. The one is intelligent, the other ignorant. The last is dangerous. That is not the kind represented by THE CONSERVATIVE. The conservatism of ignorance is the conser-

vatism of error. It is movable. True conservatism is immovable. There is no such thing as "the progress of truth." There is such a thing as the retrogression of error. The progress of the world has been the removableness of error. Truth changes it not. The mountain of error is situated in and made up of the shifting sands of the Sabara of ignorance. The social danger is the inability of ability. A paradox of profound extenuability. The business ability of the nation resembles both the jackass and the ostrich. It is so busy looking out for itself. It is so selfish that it is blind to the aggressive dangers surrounding it. In its vanity to be seen of men; in its cowardly consciousness that it is not what it appears to be; in its superstitious fear of the future, it builds monuments to itself and endows colleges and other institutions, thinking to bribe God and purchase a foreclosure on immortality, while it provides means for the nourishment and maintenance of its enemies to dig its grave and rob its children. The inability of business ability, the assinine, ostrich-like conservatism of the self-supporting middle class, the motto of which is, *post hoc ergo propter hoc*, it has been so it must ever be so, which is ever without power of exact observation, or independent and intelligent reasoning, is the stronghold of superstition, and the fortress of political corruption. For the true conservative, the individual of independent mind, no man, no set of men, ever had the power, ever had intelligence enough, to bind the thinking man, by creed or platform one moment longer than acceptable to individual reason. Thomas Jefferson was that kind of a conservative. His cardinal principle was that he "never feared to follow truth and reason to whatever results they led, bearding every authority which stood in their way." Glorious "Old Tom Paine" was another true conservative. "Cast these precedents behind thee" he said; "turn to the great book of nature, and think as if thou was the first man who ever thought." Superstitious slavery and machine political despotism can find no support in the teachings or example of these two radical leaders of true conservatism and apostles of intellectual freedom on American soil. True conservatives are the topmost and ripest fruits of the tree of knowledge.

FRANK S. BILLINGS.

The men who whittle and moan about hard times never saw any times which were, to them, good times and they never will. Industry, vigor, hope and lives, led on by high ambitions, to make men and the world better make "good times." Sloth, intemperance, inertia, mental and physical, and days spent in dreaming of "how to make something out of nothing" create "hard times."