

which, constantly increasing in the American industrial world, are just now exerting so powerful an influence in American politics. It is proverbial that corporations have no conscience, but they do not generally lack penetration where their own interests are in question. At the very outbreak of the Spanish-American war the tobacco and sugar trusts in the United States fixed their eyes on the Philippines as desirable booty of which they must get possession, and they have worked with untiring zeal for the attainment of this aim. They have easily realized their scheme as they had to deal with a president who is strangely deficient in firmness of character and incorruptible faithfulness to duty, and who, without serious opposition, allowed the ship of state to be taken in tow by these avaricious traffickers. With nations, as with individuals, one can "judge the future only by the past" conduct. It is well known that during the existence of the republic for more than a century the Americans have not specially distinguished themselves by benevolent and friendly feelings towards the so-called "inferior races," that is, those of swarthy complexion. The sad history of the redskin is well known. The wars waged by the Indians against white settlers have been incited, almost without exception, by the misdeeds of the white men, and especially by the ignorance and knavery of the agents of the federal government. As a rule the son of the wilderness has put on his war-paint and gone on the war-path only after long suffering and rascally treatment. Even in Alaska where colonization of white men, the cultivation of the soil, and consequently the uncontrollable advance of settlers are almost out of the question, the Aleutians and other tribes have been plundered and exterminated in the most scandalous manner by the introduction of this universal, infamous "spoils system." The Americans consider this country and its inhabitants simply as "objects for appropriation" and to this end have formed large trading companies, which use firearms in catching seals and have already nearly extirpated these animals. The government does not seem to concern itself in the least about the terrible consequences of this wholesale robbery to the natives. Further particulars of these unsatisfactory conditions are given in a treatise entitled "Colonial Lessons of Alaska," published in The Atlantic Monthly, November, 1898, by Dr. David Starr Jordan, president of Leland Stanford university.

#### Treatment of the Negroes.

On December 6, 1898, the negroes of Chicago held a convention in order to enter a solemn protest against the acquisition and control of the Philippines, on the ground that the government of the United States was unable or unwill-

ing to protect its colored citizens against continual and notorious attacks upon their legal and constitutional rights. This protest is well founded. Indeed since the origin of the republic, as an American judge of the supreme court once declared, the negroes under the starry banner have had "no rights which the white man was bound to respect." The abolition of slavery brought with it no essential change of this feeling. The freedmen are treated, not as legitimate citizens, but, generally, as proscriptions who stand outside of the law, and, instead of enjoying the advantages of its regular and non-partisan administration, are, for the slightest offense, given over, without protection, to a cruel, vengeance-breathing mob. It must be evident to everyone that this deep-rooted prejudice against a dark skin, regardless of seemly behavior, moral conduct or fine education, places in the way of the Americans an insurmountable obstacle to their giving the Philippines a just and beneficial government. In Cuba it has already led to dissensions and incipient revolt, and this will be still more the case in the Asiatic archipelago, inhabited by such heterogeneous tribes.

Some opponents of the expansion policy have tried to reconcile themselves to the accomplished deed by endeavoring to believe that the necessity for appointing able, experienced, competent officials for the colonies, would have a favorable, reactive effect on home politics, and bring about universal civil service reform. The endeavor to find a good point in an unsatisfactory *fait accompli* is most praiseworthy, and it is possible that many an honest, unsuspecting citizen may derive comfort from this hope held in prospect. This optimistic view, however captivating it may seem in theory, will prove in application a beautiful delusion. In order to attain the desired end one must take the shortest way and begin with the reform of public office at home. A nation that endures the corrupt government of the large American cities will not concern itself about similar and still worse conditions in the Philippines; and a president who is at the command of corrupt partisans will offer no resistance to "bosses" and "trusts" when they wish to take upon themselves "The White Man's Burden," reward their political tools with fat offices, and plunder the newly-acquired countries in a professional manner.

#### MET ON THE TRAIN.

THE CONSERVATIVE had an experience on June 29, 1899, which surpassed all incidents of travel and casual meetings before encountered.

On the date named we were pleasantly journeying upon the Burlington between Alliance and Hemingford in Box Butte county, Nebraska. The fact that the

people of that county had voted by a large majority to remove the county seat from Hemingford to Alliance finally faced us at a side track near Berea.

At this point THE CONSERVATIVE "met on the train" the court house, going down to the new county seat at Alliance for the purpose of "holding" many courts in its career of a restaurant of justice.

Then from the Alliance Grip we learned that: "The man who took the contract for moving the court house down from Hemingford became sick of the job before moving it ten feet. Superintendent Phelan, Bridge Foreman John Carlson and Contractor E. W. Bell inspected it and decided that it could be moved down on the rail. Accordingly it was yanked down to the siding, placed on trucks and two engines hitched to it. At 1:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon the start was made and everything moved with the smoothness of a box car at the rate of ten miles an hour. Delays were occasioned by cuts too narrow to admit of passage which had to be cut down by the extra gang. They stopped at Berea that night and moved it on to Alliance yesterday morning. The building is 34x48 feet and from dome to base is 45 feet. To move such a large structure without a crack or break twenty miles by rail is an engineering feat that can rank alongside of the most wonderful of modern times. For ten years the Lincoln Land Company has furnished the county with a court house free of cost, and now they furnish it with one good enough for all purposes for the next ten years for only \$1,500. Surely no county ever got along so cheaply. The company is entitled to praise for acting so liberally by the county and the commissioners are entitled to praise for making a deal that is really a great bargain."

The fact that a soulless and plutocratic combination, like the Lincoln Land Company, is guilty as charged by the Grip should rekindle the fires of populism and stimulate all the forces of fusion to renewed efforts to crush out capital in Nebraska. Corporate economy which invades the administration of county affairs ought to be rebuked. Legitimate partisan extravagance must not be trampled under feet by parsimonious corporations.

Ignorance asserts that "life is growth" not knowing that life is but an individualized manifestation of the universal and unchangeable force.

Ignorance proclaims "evolution to be marked by a constant tendency toward perfection," not knowing that Nature is neither perfect nor imperfect.

Ignorance boldly asserts evolution to mean "progress," not knowing that evolution stands for formation, or the individuation of matter into recognizable forms. Nothing more!