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REVENUES FROM VICE.

There is a fervid and unquenchable yearning to civilize, Christianize and benevolently assimilate the heathen of the Philippines. It permeates and saturates the pious and patriotic who believe that international contests at corpse-making are the highest consummation of an ideal civilization. They are ardently ambitious to extend American benefactions to all the savages of the globe and to indoctrinate them with the exalted morality and lofty principles of the government of the United States.

The delight of showing heathen how an intensely religious republic derives its revenues from the vices of its people would be enjoyed by every war-teaching clergyman. The pleasure of explaining to "the half-devil, half-child" Filipino the facility with which the vices of tobacco and whiskey are transmuted into revenues to sustain the government would extend to our missionaries almost supernal beatitudes.

The great fact that a gigantic part of the revenues of the United States would be obliterated, wiped out, if all Americans should quit the use of wine, beer, rum, and whiskey, would make even a heathen Chinese smile at that Christian consistency which is searching the earth and exploring the seas to find chances to inoculate barbarians with pure piety while running a government on the vices of the people.

If all Americans this day swear off forever from the use of tobacco in all its forms what a fall will revenues experience! Vice—vice in its most disgusting,

demoralizing and destructive form—the national vice of whiskey and tobacco is the corner stone of the revenues of this saintly and boastful republic.

In nearly every town as large as Nebraska City the common council and the mayor levy fines upon brothels, upon gambling houses and slot machines and thus replenish municipal revenues. These reprehensible concerns violate the law openly. They are fined openly. City governments are, like the federal government, as to revenues dependent upon continued vices.

What a blessing to barbarians to be inoculated with our civilization and morality!

COMBINES FOR GAIN.

The vehement denunciation of the combinations which capital is making in the United States continues with ever-increasing intensity. These combinations are anathematized as conspiracies against the general welfare. The alleged wickedness of these aggregations of vast sums of money is that they are solely and entirely in the interests of producers and exclusively for their gain. The orators of populism and the journals of political parties continuously call them "trusts" and depict them as the deadly enemies of the plain people. They are portrayed as without principles and without motives save of avarice and cupidity. They are, however, at their worst, merely emulations and imitations of fusion in politics.

Fusionists Also For Gain.

Men who differ widely as to the functions of government and the methods of administration combine for the sole and declared purpose of gaining the offices and the patronage of the federal and the state government. The political combine is an attempt to corner and monopolize offices and their emoluments. Morally it is, when all principles are abandoned for spoils, no better, if as good, than the combinations capitalists make for the purpose of cornering markets and securing a monopoly in trade. The men who fuse voters together merely to get offices are no better than those who fuse dollars together into large corporations merely to get markets and kill off competitors.

With what propriety can a candidate representing a combination of men who are for an irredeemable paper currency and men who are also for the unlimited coinage of silver, at the ratio of

16 to 1—utterly adverse policies in finance—condemn combinations of capital for the purposes of reducing the cost of production and distribution? What is there better or nobler in fusing to gain offices and the honors and emoluments thereof than there is in fusing capital to gain greater profits?

One man, a few men, a copartnership, cannot furnish capital to build a transcontinental railroad or to construct a national canal. Neither can modern industrial plants be established and operated without combinations of vast monetary resources and credit. In view of these facts, with what distrust should the American people regard the leaders in politics who advocate a fusion, a combine, a trust of all the discontent in the United States, for the purpose of assaulting banks, railroads, manufactories, and all other incorporated capital for the sole purpose of procuring patronage and offices for themselves!

CAUSES FOR WAR.

The reasons for even personal antagonisms are seldom truthfully given to the public. Pretended causes are nearly always alleged. And the real causes of international conflicts are not generally revealed in history. But Voltaire in an autobiography relates that Frederick III of Prussia said to him, over his own name, in writing of his war against Maria Theresa, queen of Bohemia and Hungary:

"Ambition, interest, and a desire to make the world speak of me, vanquished all, and war was determined on!"

Then, upon that statement, Voltaire declares:

"From the time that conquerors, or fiery spirits that would be conquerors, first were, to the present hour, I believe he is the only one who has ever done himself thus much justice. Never man, perhaps, felt reason more forcibly, or listened more attentively to his passions; but this mixture, of a philosophic mind and a disorderly imagination, has ever composed his character."

When the historian writes fifty years hence of the Spanish-American war, and the battles in the Philippines, what causes will he assign for their having taken place? Benevolent assimilation? A weak executive? An unprincipled congress? Greed of gain? The missionary spirit? The desire to evangelize the world by consecrated shot, shell and sanctified slaughter of the dark-skinned barbarians?