

IN THE NAME OF LIBERTY.

The Anti-Imperialist league was formed at Boston in the month of November, 1898. It was the first organized protest against the imperialist-colonial policy on which President McKinley was then entering.

From the tone of the press it was to have been assumed that the country was prepared to tolerate and, finally, that it would be compelled or induced to accept the new policy, and thus to follow England and to coöperate with England in the subjugation of the world to what is called Anglo-Saxon civilization.

In the few months that have passed great changes have taken place. Anti-imperialist leagues have been formed in Chicago, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Detroit, St. Louis, Portland, Ore., New York, Washington, and in other cities and towns in many parts of the country.

These organizations, as a whole, contain an array of names such as has not been brought together in support of a common cause since the signing of the declaration of independence. That cause is the declaration of independence and the preservation of the great truths therein announced, with their application to the affairs of America and of the world.

The issue is again made up. The republicanism of our fathers is assailed by the doctrines of imperialism as they were maintained by George III. The country is comprehending the issue. A vigorous and powerful portion of the press, religious, secular, independent, and industrial, is giving full support to the anti-imperialistic policy. It is not known to us that the president's policy has one supporter in the press devoted to the interests of agriculture.

The war in the Philippines is not defended by anyone upon the ground of wisdom or right or justice. Of bold and manly defence on the basis of justice we hear nothing. We are asked to accept an exculpatory analogy between our conduct in the Philippines and our treatment of the Indians on the changing frontier from the Atlantic to the Pacific. If the analogy must be accepted it may be said that our treatment of the Indians cannot be dignified and made a precedent or a defence for a like policy in foreign lands.

The league is now carrying on the contest, and it will continue to carry on the contest, upon the idea and in the belief that the United States—that the president of the United States, especially—is responsible for the war, and that President McKinley, at any moment, or the United States, acting through him or through a successor, can bring the war to an end. It is our purpose to aid in bringing the war to

an end, and, in advance, we reject any and every scheme of compromise.

We are gratified, and well may the country be elated, by the fact that the laboring populations, with singular unanimity, have resolved against the un-American policy of the administration. All that men can have at stake they now have at stake in the issue that is before them. Their own right to self-government is involved in the claim to self-government now made by 10,000,000 artisans and land-workers in the Philippine islands. The annexation of those islands to the United States, in whatever form it may come, whether as states or as colonies, means free and full competition by the American laborer, of every trade and condition, with the underpaid and half-clad workers of the tropics.

Henceforth the plain people, on whom Lincoln relied—American born many; others immigrants from Ireland, from Germany, from the Scandinavian states—are to enter upon the task of saving the republic. Of their disposition we are already well informed, and of their capacity we are not in doubt.

In presence of the evidence before us our aim is not so much to secure a verdict against the administration as to obtain a dominating judgment which shall stand as a controlling precedent for the guidance of the republic in all time future.

In general, it may be said that events rather than men have been our teachers; and henceforth, even if the country should disregard principles, events will become our masters.

We have carried on a campaign of a year, including the winter months, in the Philippine islands, and a disastrous campaign it has been. A force of 30,000 men has been wasted as an army for an aggressive movement, and the remnant is now limited to the environs of the six or ten cities and towns that we are able to occupy:

The war goes on, the public debt increases rapidly, the tax gatherer demands daily contributions from every household for the support of the war, and for the same purpose he collects a per centage upon every business transaction and upon every industry of the country.

But, outweighing all other events is the demand for an army of 30,000 or 40,000, or, as some friends of the administration say, of 100,000 men, to be kept constantly in the islands as an effective force to meet the casualties of the field and to countervail the ravages of disease in the camps.

There is only a possibility that an army of 50,000 can be raised by voluntary enlistments and placed in Luzon by November, and there is only a slight probability that such an army would

remain an aggressive force beyond the month of May next.

Is the country prepared for a conscript system that shall run through years and decades of years? And can a congress be elected and continued in power that will vote men and money for the further prosecution of the war? Herein is a peril of which the country and the public men of the country may wisely take notice.

Our information and experience justify the opinion that the body of anti-imperialists, the country over, will disregard the claims of domestic questions, subordinating them one and all to a single purpose of comprehensive public policy—the purpose to bring the army of the United States out of the Philippine islands with the least possible delay, and without delay to recognize in the inhabitants of the Philippines, of Cuba, and of Porto Rico the right of self-government agreeably to the principles of the declaration of independence, and as a pledge of the permanent policy of the United States.

Executive Committee of the Anti-Imperialist League. By

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CONSTITUTIONALISM.

The following words of "the father of the revolution," Sam Adams, on the power of government over lives and property, addressed to the Mohawk chiefs, regarding the usurpations of the government of England, should not fall on stony ground in relation to the usurpations of McKinley and other war expansionists:

"Brothers," says Adams, "Our fathers in Great Britain tell us our land, our houses, our cattle, and our money are not our own; that we, ourselves, are not our own men, but their servants; they have taken away our money without leave, and have sent their war vessels and warriors for that purpose."

As our government has assumed absolute authority over our lives and property and used and uses them to destroy or subject the Filipinos even as the government of England did and sought to do with our fathers.

What is usurpation? What is treason? Sam Adams and the fathers have told us. Let the sons be true to the declaration of their free and independent sires and not slaves to tyrannical boss or usurping machine.

Commenting on the president's speech in Pittsburg, the Dispatch (rep.) of that city says: "It may be truthfully said that what the president has said will make no converts among those who have all along opposed the annexation of the Philippines."