

"ORIENTAL AMERICA."

A Timely and Interesting Mine of Information for Believers in an American Policy.

Des Moines, Ia., Leader: The progress of events in the American-Filipino war has been so rapid, and history-making episodes and utterances have so crowded upon each other, that those who have sought to inform themselves on the pending issues of imperialism and colonialism have been compelled to rely wholly on transient newspaper articles for facts upon which to base their opinions. The people are not well informed, and today, concerning the pending issue, there is as much need for information as there was concerning the money question in the early stages of the campaign of 1896. Hence there is a legitimate demand for literature which will supply the needed facts accurately, briefly and impartially.

What seems an honest effort to supply this information has been made in a hastily prepared little volume bearing the title of "Oriental America," just issued. It is compiled by Mr. Ora Williams, a newspaper man well known to western newspaper men from his long connection with the daily papers in Des Moines, Sioux City and Omaha. He is now editor of The Sioux Falls Daily Press. Mr. Williams has collected, compiled and arranged, under convenient headings, practically all the information now available concerning the war, especially in its political aspects. In the form of excerpts from official and other authentic documents, Mr. Williams tells a story, not only intensely interesting, but invaluable to all who wish to do their own thinking on the Philippine question, and who are not content to accept the partisan declarations of either side. The book includes the official correspondence between Filipino and American officials while the war with Spain was in progress, the record in regard to the various proposals of peace, the meetings to plan concerted action against the Spaniards, our proclamations and those of the Filipinos, together with extracts from military reports, consular reports and views of various public men and visitors to the Philippines. In time this valuable information will reappear in historical studies of the present war, but at present no one has done the work. In a word, Mr. Williams presents the data from which the future historian will draw his conclusions.

One of the sources freely drawn upon by Mr. Williams for information in regard to the Filipinos and the war against them is the famous document No. 62, published by the United States, in connection with the peace treaty last January. This is a document which is now almost impossible to secure, and yet it contains a vast amount of valuable in-

formation about the Filipino people and about the official relations the American representatives sustained to them while the war with Spain was in progress. Mr. Williams has performed a service to the public by collecting these matters and putting them into form where they can be conveniently consulted.

CROKER CASH.

The Louisville Evening Post which denounces the Goebel ticket, supports the democratic nomination of John Young Brown, and avers that the cash to carry on the Bryan-Goebel campaign in Kentucky comes from the Tammany strong box.

How much cash has Croker added to the Coin Harvey fund for the purpose of electing House Rent Holcomb, president of an insurance company, to the supreme court of Nebraska? Croker and Tammany being proclaimedly for Bryan what sacrifice will they not make for his sake?

RESULTS OF BRYANISM.

Why is it that in all those states where Bryanism is rampant a blight has fallen upon the democracy which is worse than a hoar frost on a cucumber vine? Why is it that Bryanism and debility seem to be synonymous terms in the political annals of the day? Here, for instance, is the Springfield Republican's account of a so-called democratic rally in that city on Friday evening:

"The democratic rally in City Hall last evening, the only example of this good old American institution we are to have in the city this fall, was rather a sad affair. The attractions were Paine and Mack, the two youthful candidates at the head of the ticket; the veteran democrat, Col. John L. Rice; the rugged and reverend politician, the Rev. R. E. Bisbee of Pepperill, and Patrick Kilroy of this city. Behind these the platform was tastefully banked with the prominent democrats of the city and the Second Regiment band. In front of them was a prayer-meeting attendance of some 500—a little black mass bunched up under the platform in the wilderness of yellow seats. It was a restless and not over-impassioned audience, and the swinging doors at the end of the hall kept a continual draft on the back of the necks of the assembly from the multitude of those tramping in and out. A crowd of chattering and giggling boys in the galleries, with most extraordinary squeaking shoes, trotted in and out at will. That the rally was gotten up in a hurry may account in part for its small attendance. But as it was, it was a rather discouraging affair and made a remarkable contrast to the old days. In fact, the old-time roaring, ramping, blood-and-thunder party rally seems to have been taken away from us in this

state for the past few years, under the present policy of the republicans."

"Chattering and giggling boys," hoodlums galore, a dearth of men of character and importance, no public interest, intellectual feebleness and lassitude—these are the characteristics of a Bryanite ratification meeting in these days. In the Springfield case the democrats of the town were invited to come and hear the democratic candidate for governor talk—a youthful man in politics, a Boston aristocrat inheriting a name, a man who never thought of being a democrat until after the adoption of the Chicago platform in 1896, and who has not yet learned the A B C's of democracy! Why should anybody but the reporters and giggling boys come out to hear such a "leader," who has been thrust forward by the Bryanite boss in Massachusetts to stand where Patrick A. Collins, George M. Stearns, William E. Russell, Sherman Hoar, John E. Russell and other men of brains and courage were wont to stand and profoundly interest the people?

It is the same story everywhere—dignity gone, character gone, seriousness gone, sincerity gone, intelligence gone—all gone to make way for the Chicago platform heresies and for Bryanite machine methods—methods as repulsive and as wrong under the Williams despotism in Massachusetts as under Croker and Platt in New York, Quay in Pennsylvania and Hanna in Ohio.

This Bryanizing of our politics has resulted in the abandonment to a large extent of tests of character in the nomination of men for public office. A letter from Buffalo to the New York Tribune says:

"There are many examples of the demoralization caused in the democratic party here by the constant harping upon the doctrines set forth in the democratic national platform of 1896, these examples being shown by the unworthy character of the candidates for office. It is the testimony of both leading democrats and leading republicans that this year the nominating conventions of the democratic party reached their lowest depth, and that it would be calamitous to Erie county if most of the democratic candidates for city and county offices were elected."

In every state of the Union where Bryanism has obtained full swing, the men of brains and standing in the democratic party have been forced into the background. It is Bryanism which has made Goebel the democratic boss in Kentucky, Millionaire McLean the democratic boss in Ohio, the erratic Williams democratic boss in Massachusetts and so on to the end of the chapter. Connecticut is not quite so badly off as some of the other states, because at the last state convention Bryanite leadership was sent to the rear for a time.—Hartford Times.