

THEORY, OR PRACTICE?

"No man should ever leave money to his children," says Mr. C. J. Rhodes of South Africa, as expounded by Editor Stead; "it is a curse to them. What we should do for our children, if we would do them the best service we can, is to give them the best training we can procure for them and then turn them loose in the world without a sixpence, to fend for themselves. What happens when you leave sons fortunes? They have no longer any spur to effort. They spend their money on wine, women and gambling, and bring disgrace upon the name which they bear. No; give your boys the best education you can, and then let them make their own way. As for any money you may have, it should all go to the public service—to the state in some form or another."

Mr. Rhodes was born the son of a poor country clergyman, and perhaps attributes to his father's involuntary adherence to the principle here laid down the fact that he himself is now worth many, many dollars. But how if Mr. Rhodes had been a girl? Does he not consider girls children? Or does he think that leaving a girl money is bestowing it "upon the state in some form?" Certainly the fate which he apprehends for the part of an inherited fortune, of being squandered upon a woman, is as likely to befall it with a female legatee as with a male—only it would not be the same woman in one case as in the other.

OF COURSE.

The powers cannot interfere between Great Britain and the Transvaal republic because the Transvaal is, by virtue of some venerable treaty, supposed to be to some extent under Great Britain's control. Therefore, in the eye of the powers, they are one and the same, and intervention is not to be effected without doing violence to the law of impenetrability of matter—which is beyond the powers of a power. Neither is this state of things at all inconsistent with the pacific resolves the powers all made at The Hague last summer, for the very good reason that the Transvaal was not at that meeting. How could it be when it was merely a power with a suzerain, and only first-class powers were invited to consider the beauties of peace on that occasion? To be sure, Bulgaria was there, who is suzerained by Turkey full as plenteously and thoroughly as are the Boers by England; but the timely and beautiful discovery was made that by calling Bulgaria out of turn in the roll-call—bringing her in after X Y Z &, instead of under B—it was made precisely as if she had not been there at all. Thus it will be seen that no injustice was done the Boers, nor have they a leg to stand

on in the matter of universal peace and goodwill.

Æsop did not mention it, but probably the bystanders at the unfortunate affair of the wolf and the lamb forbore to intervene, on the ground that the lamb was an integral part of the wolf, or at all events soon would be.

WHENCE?

The plain people and all other folks in Nebraska wonder where all the cash came from which the advocates of the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1 expended in the last campaign?

How much was contributed to the trust-fighters by the members of the smelter trust? How much came from the owners of silver mines and silver bullion? When will the expenditures by the sixteen-to-one zealots be itemized and given to a curious public? Will somebody tell who paid for the expenses of speedy special trains and other luxuries furnished the scores of fusion orators?

THE DOLLAR-MADE.

THE CONSERVATIVE smiles serenely when republicans ask how "Coin" Harvey could have been retained and worked to work the voters of Nebraska for nearly six months without any help except from God-made men. The credulity of the leaders of republicanism in Nebraska which caused them to believe in the politics of "registration," after their experience of silver fellows wearing gold badges in 1896 would swallow the green cheese theory of moon-making! The Hon. Orlando Tefft of Cass county, chairman of the republican state committee, made up a summary and claimed the election of Judge Reese on the politics assumed by registered voters. He might as well have concluded that the special trains for fusion orators were all God-made instead of dollar-made conveyances. The denounced dollar created victory for 16 to 1, for fusion, for fallacy and falsehood, and it was paid out by those pure patriots who are always anathematizing "the money power."

THE CORNSTALK.

It is a far call from the pith of a cornstalk to a battleship or the roar of its guns, but science has found a way to express one in terms of the other. This troublesome pith, worse than useless to the farmer because too much of it in corn fodder kills his cattle, now supplies the best chemical base for smokeless powder and the best filling for the space between the inner and outer plates of a warship's hull. The stalk can be put to various valuable uses. In different ways parts of the corn plant supposed to be little better than waste are now in demand for

specialized manufacturing. Considering the immense annual crop of this cereal, and the growing industrial value of what is left after the ear is extracted, the corn plant promises to be perhaps the most striking illustration on a large scale of the value of a by-product. It changes the very notion of it. Instead of restricting it to the cast-off-clothing idea, or that of sweeping the mint floor for gold dust, it suggests the creation of industrial staples out of the leavings of agriculture and manufacturing.

In 1897 the corn crop of this country was nearly 2,000,000,000 bushels and must now considerably exceed that amount. Considering that use in manufacturing has been found for every pound of a ton of cornstalks, it may be roughly imagined what value will be added to the country's domestic and exported wealth by utilization of material much of which was formerly looked upon as worse than useless or left to rot in the ground. It is, perhaps, the most impressive lesson given for a long time in the value of the by-product. The American corn grower is changed at once into a producer for more than a dozen different demands, all of them apparently with a permanent place in industry. Before long it may be worth while for him to grow his crop even if he can sell it at half present price for the grain, so long as he can sell the stalk and pith to be worked into the new uses which science has discovered. He will have in part as customers the armies and navies of the civilized world, the paper industries, certain kinds of chemical manufacture and other industries in which inventors are discovering further uses for his product.

It is due to trusts to say that their economizing processes gave the first impetus to the creation of values in waste products. Since the oil trust started the manufacture of paraffine wax, increasing attention has been paid by great manufacturing combinations to increase of profits by scientific investigation of material supposed to be waste. The recent history of the cornstalk—and important history it is—is enough to stimulate still further investigation in this line. The French chemist, M. Berthelot, not only was untroubled by doubts as to possible failure of the world's food supply but had the most enthusiastic confidence in the making of food by chemical processes that would banish forever the fear of famine. That is a little sanguine, perhaps, but a few years ago a cornstalk appeared to have only slight prospects. The larger bicycle manufacturers have inventors whose exclusive work is the finding out of new processes for turning out a better and cheaper wheel. The farmer seems to need the scientist to show him how much he is throwing away. But, for that matter, almost every other producer has the same need.