

**APPROPRIATIONS.** The average statesman seems to think that to get an appropriation out of the federal treasury for some building, river, harbor or fortress in his state or district is the very consummation of patriotic effort. Getting money out of all the people to bestow upon a few people is genuine beneficence in the estimation of all the ambitious tax-projectors and tax-eaters in the American congress. A direct and liberal act setting aside a large sum of tax-gathered funds to build a United States court house or improve a river at some inconsequential point in his district makes a congressman famous and popular. But it is no more an act of statesmanship than picking the pockets of one community to replenish the wallets of another.

And next after that method of depleting the common treasury of the republic comes the old and threadbare plan of billeting crossroads politicians and ward heelers upon the government. This is done by creating needless offices and filling them with needy and dependent partisans. In every executive department of the federal government are scores and hundreds of these parasites paid for doing nothing except to shout for their party, praise its "bosses" and make maudlin speeches about "the dear old flag"—"old glory"—"stars and stripes" and the sinful and vile "disloyalty" of any and all who object to their hypocrisy.

The offices of the government have become the property of politicians and their families.

**Nepotism.** Even the heads of departments scruple not to place their incompetent sons and nephews on their pay rolls when they know, perfectly well, that no adequate or needed service is rendered for the money they draw. The confession that they have begotten and reared sons and daughters who are incapable of making a living is thus shamelessly made by men pretending to love their country and posing as statesmen! When shall these abominable practices cease? When will the multitude rebel against feeding the incompetents of the few upon the pretext that they are rendering a public service?

**THE GIFT-HOUSE.** Admiral Dewey is not a politician and he is not a business man. He is a simple-hearted, brave and determined old man. Accustomed to the isolation of a ship whereon he is a monarch, used to giving orders which are immediately and silently obeyed, possessing by birth a chivalrous love of women which his sailor's life has kept inviolate, Admiral Dewey thought when he got married that he could do nothing less than give that which he thought most of to his wife. The newspapers, which are responsible for most of the misunder-

standings between Americans and for some of the wars between America and other countries, deliberately exasperated the people by the sensational way they reported Dewey's gift of his gift. It was not because he was not pleased with his house but because he thought more of it than any thing else he had, it was not because he did not appreciate that the house was given to him because the people idolized him, but because the house was a sign of a people's affection and gratitude, that he gave it to his wife. No woman would ever have done it. But the great admiral gave it to his wife thinking the American people would appreciate the chivalry and generosity. And if we were somewhat finer-fibred ourselves we would have understood and at any rate would have said nothing. The newspapers found out immediately what the admiral had done and by all sorts of inuendoes and disgraceful and baseless insinuations incited the people to bray in the deafening chorus which has made the gentle admiral sick of the whole thing. He has lived in clubs or on his ship for years and he was tremendously pleased with his new house. Because it was so goodly and so satisfying he gave it to his wife. He has not lived enough on land, or perhaps he has forgotten the very peculiar noise a donkey makes when he is mad or hungry. Had he been more accustomed to the sound it would not have kept him awake. The admiral is entirely mistaken though if he thinks there is no one to defend him. There are several million people in this country who know him the old-time gentleman, the unworldly finely-tempered old blade that he is. And it makes us wish we were good prize-fighters when we hear him abused. The house was his, given to him to enjoy, and in giving it to the woman who is making him very happy after his long cruise, he was using it to his highest enjoyment.

The Chinese show their wisdom in making their idols of jade and teak. On crossed legs, with four arms or six and with an extra number of eyes they sit forever in the attitude their designer and worshippers think most appropriate for a Chinese god. Americans are different. They will not worship jade or teak or Vermont granite. But they are always in an uproar because their god has moved unexpectedly. Would it not be much more rational to make an idol out of stone that cannot move, nor make any eccentric motions? Anyway one cannot expect Admiral Dewey to sit-cross legged forever because it is the conventional idol attitude. —Lincoln Courier, Dec. 2, 1899.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller has planted 16,000 trees in a single year in the neighborhood of his home in East Cleveland. His own premises consist of 600 acres.

#### THE DIFFERENCE.

Hast ever wandered at the close of day,  
Across the fields and down the village street,  
When winds wail softly and the skies are grey,  
And twilight shades as pinions long and fleet  
Enwrap the hill and town; while steals away  
The river clothed in misty winding sheet,  
Bearing upon its bosom the dead day?

Hast wandered thus, and noted the bare wold  
The naked woods, the sky without a star,  
The long slow rise of wind sharp with the cold  
Of coming night; the lights that near and far  
Gleam from the countless homes of men that hold

The precious things of life that sacred are,  
Love's ministry to loved within its fold?

And standing thus without, hast known the pain  
Of homelessness amid so many homes?

The hopeless sense of loneliness that fain  
Would lose itself in these, but still must roam,

Having no part, no place nor any name  
Among them, yet heart hungry for thine own,

Thy love, who dwells afar nor comes again?

Thus is it dear when we are far apart.

But when thou waitest me, the gathering gloam  
But brings thee nearer, and the glistening lights

Gleam, many-rayed, to guide me to my own;  
All homes are types of mine, all sounds and sights

Of cheer and comfort shadow forth the one  
Where bides thy presence, as stars shine at night,

Pure, changeless, fed by love's eternal sun.  
Thy love, dear, is my house, my hearth, thy heart.

—EMMA SHUMAN.

January, 1899.

#### LETTER TO GOVERNOR POYNTER.

The Omaha World-Herald of Saturday, the ninth instant, contains a letter signed by those distinguished citizens of Omaha, Messrs. Smith, Connor, Reagan, Liddell, Wappich, Hart and Bochun, and addressed to Governor Poynter. Those leading citizens and general managers and principal officers of the Chicago platform and sixteen-to-oneism demand the appointment of Gilbert Monell Hitchcock to succeed Monroe Leland Hayward in the United States senate. One of the choicest reasons given for the propriety and necessity of appointing Mr. Hitchcock is thus lucidly stated: "Hon. Gilbert M. Hitchcock is the logical gentleman for the senatorship for the reasons set forth in the resolutions adopted."

Currency by fiat and "logical gentleman" by resolution can make a mighty monopoly in the manufacture of money and statesmen.

Personally THE CONSERVATIVE regards Mr. Hitchcock with the kindest feelings and cannot deny that he is "the logical gentleman" in the face of the fact that his logical powers have so often worked him over from one financial faith into another, and latterly from protection into free trade.

However, measured by the bottle or quart, William Vincent Allen has the greatest capacity.