

increasing self conceit of the victorious nation, and, worst of all, no moral triumph to sustain public opinion after the first excitement should be past. The exploit of Hobson, for instance, which was trumpeted over land and sea, turned out to be useless, and even a hindrance rather than a help.

Let us hasten to plead the national childishness as explanation and excuse for the disgusting osculatory exhibitions which followed the return of the hero in his glorious progress through the length and breadth of a grateful country!

The conduct of Admiral Dewey at Manila was wise and generous and noble. He accomplished what was required of him; he maintained his own dignity without insulting that of other persons; he sympathized with the aspirations of the Filipinos for an independent government, and if he could have had the direction of affairs, we should have been spared the embarrassing complications, the unpardonable injustices, the wanton cruelties of this unnecessary and inexcusable war. Under all circumstances he has remained the same—modest, firm, invulnerable to flattery, impervious to corruption, incapable of sacrificing principle to self-interest or political ambition; a true, would that we could say a typical, American.

The childishness of Americans in general is shown above all in their inability to perceive the real tendency and the inevitable consequences of what they are now doing and allowing to be done. "Expansion," to them means "licking" the "rebels;" waving "Old Glory" over far-off dependencies; above all, making "lots of money" out of the tropical islands. Not only is the question of right or wrong entirely ignored by the "imperialists;" they do not even recognize the alternative implied and forced upon them in the very name of their party. "Imperialism" covers the whole matter. An empire cannot continue to be a republic; imperial government demands an imperial head; the head of an imperial government is an emperor; an emperor cannot stand alone; there must be regular gradations of rank, reaching down to the mass of the people, "the lower classes." Are we ready and willing to take upon ourselves this old-fashioned, cumbersome, unjust and illiberal method of holding society together, a method which was devised in times of ignorance and is being gradually outgrown as knowledge becomes more widely spread?

We had a fair chance to establish true liberty and allow the full development of the individual, which is the end and aim of existence in every form of natural life, and although we have neglected and abused our privileges thus far, there is a possibility of national salvation, so long as we hold fast to the foundation principles of the constitution; but if we "expand" and become a "world-power"

we disobey and disown that sacred charter of freedom, and all the old forms of slavery will gradually take possession of our inheritance.

Again, what could be more childish than the recent progress of the president, those extended journeys to flatter the people and secure their votes for the coming election? Only one thing—and that is the gullibility of the people in welcoming such a demonstration. It was humiliating to every honest lover of his country to read of the crowds at every station; women climbing fences and clamoring for places where a glimpse of the august party could be seen; crowds at the hotels filing through to the reception room, every woman's hand-shake with the president supposed to count for the votes of all the male members of her family; crowds at the banquets, applauding the platitudes about "the Home and the Flag;" bands of music; torch-light processions; fireworks; all for the sake of ministering to the vanity of one man, who is determined to stay another four years in the White House, and believes (with good reason) that a few gracious words, a few friendly smiles will make the people forget the long series of miserable blunders and wilful errors which have plunged the country into well-nigh irremediable disaster, both moral and material. Yes, disaster. The moral iniquity of the subjugation, or attempted subjugation of the Filipinos cannot be covered by any show of mercy and justice in a government forced upon them, and the material advantages offered by "our new possessions" can never balance the enormous expense of keeping and guarding those remote provinces. Our people, just now, are dazzled by the false prophecies of deceitful demagogues and drunk with the supposed "prosperity" which is said to be already overflowing the country. But that boasted "wave" is not caused by the acquisition of new territory, nor by the workings of our political management at home. It is partly the result of a bountiful harvest, contrasted with the failure of Old World crops, and partly the momentary success of great monopolies, the trusts, which the present administration is encouraging to increase and multiply without let or hindrance, and which will eventually bring about either a ruinous financial crisis, or a bloody revolution.

Nor have we yet begun to feel the pressure of the enormous burden of debt which is hanging over us in the form of taxes, made necessary by the reckless conduct of the government. That burden will be heavy enough if we stop now; it will be unbearable if we keep on. Fortunately, there is still time to face about, drop these ill-gotten goods and return to our proper task of reforming and developing our integral possessions. We have one year left in

which to undo the present fatal policy and save the republic.

The same childishness which is so prominent in the ruling party is conspicuous also in the opposition. What are the democrats doing to save the country in the approaching crisis? They are advocating the same false and pernicious theories respecting finance which the good sense and honesty of the people repudiated at the last election; they are rallying round the same candidate whose whole course since his defeat proves him to be a selfish and conceited demagogue, and who, even were he otherwise irreproachable, is too young for such an office. His comparative youth may be an excuse for his childish obstinacy and ignorance in matters of finance; but this is no excuse for the blindness of his followers, who cannot, or will not, see that to bring him forward again is not only to court certain defeat, but also to insure victory to the man and the party whose mal administration has made of our recent history a bloody and shameful record which must grow worse the longer it is allowed to be continued.

Nothing can more fully justify the charge of childishness against the American people than the unquestioning confidence placed by the majority in the wisdom and honesty of the president at this momentous crisis. "Papa knows best" may be a good doctrine for small boys; but voters are not boys, and the president is not their papa.

The citizens of the United States know very little about the real history of the wars in which they are called upon to risk their own lives and the lives of their sons, to say nothing of their property and their peace. What they do know, or might know, is that the president is in the hands of a clique of "bosses" and demagogues, and that the welfare of the nation as a whole is sacrificed to the pecuniary and political interests of a few mercenary and ambitious favorites.

It is childish in the president to pursue such a course of autocratic authority and persistent secrecy. The day of reckoning will come, and all those locked-up documents and suppressed telegrams and private official orders will be brought to light, and be recorded in history as one of the most daring attempts ever made against the rights and privileges of a free nation.

"Woe to the people whose King is a child!" saith the prophet. He might have added: "Woe to the land whose people remain children and are willing to be governed by a child!"

ELIZABETH E. EVANS.

"The man who, without any degree of wealth, has an employment is as much at his ease as he who without labor has an income of an hundred crowns a year."