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POSSIBLE PRESIDENT.

The McKinley people are laying pavement upon which they invite Bryan to promenade to the White House. And, though reluctantly, he may with some hesitation accept their courtesy.

Then we may expect Coin Harvey to become secretary of the treasury. Gage will have the X-rays turned upon him. His successor will deposit government funds with the plain people and not with metropolitan banks and pestilent plutocrats. Then government funds will be scattered among the poor people, per capita.

THE TEST.

There is no better test by which to determine the usefulness of the individual to the community in which he lives than the appearance and condition of the home where he and his family are domiciled. It may be very humble, a mere cabin, but it will have an expression of neatness, or of nastiness, of thrift, or of indolence, of taste and hopefulness or of brutality and listlessness. And in the expression one can read the character and habits of the indwellers as easily as signs on the mercantile houses are read. A pretty cottage, with flowers peeping out of its windows, beautiful trees embellishing its lawn and a tidy fence about it all is never the property and home of a loafer or a drunkard. One may tour an entire county and from the condition of the several homes and their surroundings give a better judgment and a more correct estimate of the character of the several owners and occupants than can

the average traveling phrenologist by feeling of the bumps on their heads. The expression of a human home is a reflex of the character of those who constructed and conserved it.

FIRE INSURANCE.

On February 1st, 1900, The Columbia Fire Insurance Company of Nebraska was organized at Omaha. Two hundred thousand dollars in cash was paid into capital stock account. D. E. Thompson was elected president. The corporation is owned and managed by conservative citizens of Nebraska. Its policies are as good as gold.

THE IRISH.

THE CONSERVATIVE notes the unanimity of the Irishmen in the United States in their approval of the Boer fighting and success against English arms in South Africa. It has been suggested that large numbers of the Irishmen in the cities of the United States, holding jobs as policemen, might form a brigade and go over to help the Boers. But there are so many opportunities for political promotion for foreigners in this country that the Dutch in South Africa will probably get no reinforcements hence except from "native Americans." After the war is over, if there are nice, easy places on the police force to be secured, South Africa may receive invoices of ambitious aliens, who can be induced to take political places of that sort.

A HYBRID GOVERNMENT.

Perhaps, for the purpose of bringing the heathen Filipinos into the refinements, amenities and lofty morals of the American systems of government gradually, so as not to scare them by a too sudden vision of our perfections, Senators Quay, Clark of Montana and Blackburn of Kentucky had better be constituted a commission to form a temporary oligarchy for them.

THE CONSERVATIVE suggests, in case these great statesmen get the job, that they try a cross of Kentucky gun government upon Montana dollar government and energize the hybrid with political morals from Pennsylvania of the Quay brand. An organization syndicating brute force, the money power and Quay morals all into a monopoly for the acceleration of "benevolent assimilation" in the Philippines would be of infinite service to humanity.

"SO."

A short time ago THE CONSERVATIVE commented on the fact that the word "so" is largely used, by those who speak English by nature, as an adjective, meaning "true;" and expressed some wonder that the dictionaries should have failed to recognize this usage.

We have been favored with an obliging note from the Standard Dictionary people, explaining that "'so' is used colloquially as the equivalent of 'indeed,' which itself means 'in reality, in truth.' In this use, 'so' is an adverb."

This is undeniable, and yet we still think something has been overlooked. We do not see, for instance, that this definition covers Goldsmith's use of the word in one passage which we cited, wherein he promised that certain statements which he was about to make would be found *strictly so*. "Strictly indeed" is not the idea at all in that passage.

Since our fathers at one time all said "so" for "true," and since most of us do so still to a certain extent, it seems quite clear that the use of the word has been continuous from the beginning, and that therefore its correctness is established by the highest possible authority.

A FEAST.

There are a great many annual festivals observed by mankind in Europe, Asia, Africa and America. The feast and festival of Ground Hog Day, the 2nd of February, is just coming into general observance among farmers and climatologists. The predominant edible on the occasion of the observance of ground hog day is pork sausage—ground hog.

It is proposed to introduce ground hog sagacity into American politics. When any officer, from president down, serving the American people, crawls out of his office and sees a shadow of bad deeds, wicked, extravagant and corrupt administration flitting over the land he shall go back into the quietude and inconspicuousness of private life to remain at least six weeks entirely out of public view. There are several citizens now in high positions who, if they have the sense of a ground hog, must already see shadows of misdeeds plainly enough to make them seek that repose which private life grants.