

HOAR EXPLAINS HIS OPPOSITION TO BRYAN.

In response to the request of THE CONSERVATIVE, Senator Hoar gave this paper the following lucid exposition of his views:

"Mr Bryan has put his case with great power and with great dexterity. Many good men, the first time they read it, will be much impressed by it; but they will like it less on more careful consideration.

"His defense of his course in procuring the ratification of the treaty by which the Philippine islands were acquired from Spain is exceedingly weak and lame. It will not bear examination for a moment. The senate was the strong fortress, the West Point of the opponents of imperialism. The treaty by which the people of the Philippine islands were purchased and the faith of the country was pledged to pay twenty million dollars for sovereignty over ten millions of unwilling subjects, and by which on the faith of the country it was further pledged that congress and not the people themselves should determine what disposal should be made of them, required the vote of two-thirds of the senate for ratification. The opinion of senators enough—of far more than one-third of the senate—against it, was well known and freely expressed. In this condition of things, Mr. Bryan was not content with a mere opinion. He put forth all his power as a great party leader, the last candidate of his party for the presidency and then reasonably sure to be the next candidate, to secure the ratification of the treaty. Not content with writing letters, he came to Washington in person to overcome the reluctance of his followers. Seventeen of them voted for the treaty of whom only four or five at most had been previously known to be in its favor. He now says that he thought the war would go on; that there was a doubt whether Spain would have ratified a treaty if it had been amended by inserting in it a provision like that relative to Cuba. It was perfectly well known then, as it is now, from documents that had been made public and had been sent in to the senate, that Spain was compelled to do whatever the United States exacted of her, and that her commissioners expressly so declared. A change would have been agreed to in two days upon a request by our government communicated to her across the ocean by cable. Mr. Bryan says he thought that a resolution like that offered by Mr. Bacon would be passed afterward, which would do as well. But every man who knows anything about the constitution knows that by the constitution a treaty becomes the law of the land. It is the law of strongest obligation, because congress not only declares it to be the law of the land, but pledges the faith of the government and the people. Such a resolu-

tion passed by the senate would have been the merest and idlest mockery, without the assent of the house of representatives and the president, neither of which could be obtained.

Conduct Like a Traitor's.

"I said the senate was to the opponents of imperialism what West Point was to our fathers in the Revolution. Mr. Bryan's conduct is as if some general in the Revolutionary army, a great leader of the people like Washington or Greene, had given up West Point to the British and had induced the continental congress to declare that King George was our lawful sovereign and the British parliament our lawful legislature, on the plea that he wanted to stop the war, and expected afterward to get some votes through one or the other house of British parliament granting us independence. The war with Spain was over; we had no title, as President McKinley declared again and again, to anything in the Philippines but the city of Manila. At that point in came Mr. Bryan and got all that were needed of his followers to force through the senate a treaty which made lawful our ownership of the whole of the Philippines and pledged the faith of the country that we should pay for them and that congress thereafter should legislate for them, and, according to many high constitutional authorities, made it the duty of the president to reduce them to submission. That act was itself a declaration of war upon the people of the Philippines, and the strife which had been but an accidental outbreak, which Aguinaldo disclaimed and disowned, became war. And for that war Mr. Bryan is more responsible than any other single person since the treaty left the hands of the president.

"I did myself, in my humble way, everything in my power to prevent the treaty. I do not understand that any opponent of imperialism charges me with failing to do my full duty as a senator, both by vote and speech. I did it at the cost of what was as dear to me as my life—the approval and sympathy of men who had been my friends and political companions for more than 30 years. Everything I tried to do was brought to naught by the action taken by Mr. Bryan, an action taken against the remonstrance of the wisest leaders in his own party.

"He is not to get the reward of this conduct, if I can help it. I do not give him my confidence in this matter.

"No—the anti-imperialism of Mr. Bryan and that of his party is but a mask—it is a mask to cover the things they have had most at heart from the beginning—it is a mask to cover their purpose to establish the free coinage of silver, a mask to cover their purpose to overthrow the banking system, a mask to cover an attack on the supreme court."

AN IMPERIAL WAGER.

Crocker, the only monarch in America, is an "anti-imperialist" who, according to the Omaha World-Herald, bet twenty thousand dollars on August 31, 1900, that Bryan is to be elected president of the United States. That amount is to "the plain people," to the "poor man" an imperial fortune. Crocker wagers it because he loves honesty in administration—the "thrifty" honesty of Tammany. Some other plutocrat, however, bets fifty thousand dollars against Crocker's twenty that Bryan cannot be elected. The emperor of Tammany loves his own kind even to extravagant wagers. He is a martyr to Bryanarchy and Reform—all Tammanyites are with him in the glorious cause.

CONSENT.

It has been philanthropically suggested, in view of the mistakes, bungles and botches which Governor Poynter has made in his attempts to select a government for the "feeble-minded institute" at Beatrice, that the inmates be allowed to select and elect their own superintendents. They could not show more genuine feeble-mindedness in their choice than Gov. Poynter has developed in the many selections he has made. "The consent of the governed" is essential, it seems, in an institution for Nebraska idiots so long as the state is controlled by journeymen office hunters and office holders of fusion.

NO DANGER.

When the Civil war closed in 1865 many good citizens believed that the republic would perish and a military despotism take its place. But the hundreds of thousands of soldiers quietly disbanded and returned to their homes and the pursuits of peace. At that time in New York City there was published regularly a periodical called "The Imperialist." It was well edited and well advertised but did not "fill a long felt want" and so died after a brief life of comparatively few months. There was no danger of a military usurpation of the government of the United States in 1865, and there is none now in 1900.

THE FREMONT MYTH.

John Brown and Captain Fremont did not trot in the same class, and the Pathfinder would probably have been very ill pleased with a comparison between them, and yet they are alike in one respect. The travels of both are over long ago, but their souls are still marching on. Fremont penetrated to some remote places in the body, but his name, having taken up the task independently, is still taking possession of places that its owner never thought of reaching. THE CONSERVATIVE has called attention to a number of instances of this phenomenon, and will continue to do so as long as