

EVERETT P.
WHEELER.

THE CONSERVATIVE welcomes an article from its highly-prized friend, Everett P. Wheeler, of New York City. He is well known throughout the United States as one of the foremost lawyers of that metropolis. He is an honest and a fearless advocate of everything in which he believes. Therefore his communication upon Christianity is entitled to the most respectful and candid consideration.

AN ERROR IN
FAME.

"To die for one's country and then have his name spelled wrong in the Gazette" seems to have been the fate of the Hon. Orator Kern, Kern, who was a candidate Nov. 6, 1900, for the governorship of Indiana, on a silver platform which endorsed all the other fallacies and vagaries of Bryanarchy. Kern recently made a post mortem materialization, at a banquet of ghosts in Lincoln, where he told of the beatitudes of constant and peerless defeat under the constant and peerless orations of the populist candidate for the presidency. THE CONSERVATIVE on page one, of this issue, referring to Dr. Kern, has his immortal name spelled "Kerr;" this occurrence shows how fleeting even notoriety may become among the quick-action statesmen of Indiana. Such a mistake is not likely to occur again in these columns for embalming silver-plated talking apparatuses.

THE THRESHING
MACHINE.

At the dyspepsia-evolving and gout-developing banquet, given in Lincoln, on December 26, 1900, to honor the defeated populist presidential candidate, ice water, soup, salad, pickles, candy, roast beef, turkey and oratory were simultaneously served. Choicest, most succulent and appetizing elocution dripped from the eloquent lips of Colonel Bryan himself, as honey from the wings of a myriad busy bees. From the mellifluousness of the post-prandial confections of speech indulged in by the populist candidate for the presidency THE CONSERVATIVE culls this:

"For four years we have heard this talk of reorganization, but it has been at high priced hotels and not beside the threshing machine."

Reluctantly the attention of the military hero and civic phenomenon who uttered the foregoing is called, by THE CONSERVATIVE, to the fact that considerable "talk," indicating the need of "reorganization," was heard around that "threshing machine" which, with a ballot-box attachment, was running full head on November 6, 1900, in every state of the American Union. What a day for threshing that was and how strange that the chaff blown away by the machine should still float on the wind!

34 YEARS AGO
TODAY.

January 3, 1866, the members of the territorial legislative assembly from the county of Otoe left Nebraska City for Omaha to attend to their respective duties in the house of representatives and the council. The councilmen were Oliver P. Mason and John B. Bennet. The representatives were Albert Tuxbury, James Thorn, John H. Maxon, James R. Gillmore and M. S. Campbell. The latter is the only one still living in Otoe county.

Colonel Tuxbury and Mr. Gillmore died some years ago as did also Hon. Oliver P. Mason, who had served the state of Nebraska as its first chief justice.

John H. Maxon now lives in St. Louis, John B. Bennet in Denver, and James Thorn is a citizen of Oregon.

January 6, 1866, Hon. James G. Megeath—who is still a resident of Omaha, and in fine condition physically and financially—was elected speaker of the house of representatives. His complexion and good nature remain the same as when they, combined with his ability, secured him that honorable office.

A diary when, like wine, it has aged a few years, becomes desirably interesting. During forty-six years' residence in Nebraska, more than forty-five of which have been upon the same quarter section and under the roof of Arbor Lodge—THE CONSERVATIVE has made forty years of daily journalism, more or less complete.

And now these journals are sketches and limnings, sometimes, of days, months and years of contentment, happiness and moderate success and again they are sombre pictures of struggles and despondencies illuminated with fluttering wings of grasshoppers, shimmering in the burning sun heat of remorseless inexorable drouth. When the skies were bronze and the sun a roasting fire before which, as on a spit, was daily baking and shriveling to a crisp, every leaf, flower and blade of grass from the Missouri river banks to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains on the west, the memoranda is only canned gloom, conserved apprehension. Some time this data, as written down in those disastrous days of drought and grasshoppers, may be given to a patient public.

But the then and now of the cost of living is set forth by an entry of January 22, 1866:

Bought three gallons coal oil at \$1.25 per gallon (\$3.75.). Compare that with fifteen cents a gallon today for a far better article. And that was prior to the crime of 1873 and previous to that mastodon of extortion, The Standard Oil Company, antecedent to Rockefeller, Carnegie and their donations to colleges and libraries.

IMPERIALISM.

Those democrats, who recently supported a populist for the presidency, declared that imperialism could be averted only by electing their candidate. THE CONSERVATIVE was unable to share in this opinion. On the one hand there were but tendencies—on the other a distinct threat, an immediate danger. Populism attacked the integrity of our courts and sought to destroy the currency of the country. THE CONSERVATIVE believed that the dangers of populism at home were greater than the dangers of imperialism without. As the wellbeing of the family, of the home, is above all other considerations, so the prosperity and security of our own people should take precedence over the welfare of any other people. Hence THE CONSERVATIVE supported Mr. McKinley. But it still believed the Porto Rican tariff to be unjust. It believed the constitutional principle involved to be a dangerous precedent. It believed it to be wrong to forcibly annex remote territory peopled, in the main, by semi-barbaric tribes, ill suited to our form of government.

It is now evident that a majority of the American people were, in the late election, prompted by like motives.

Choice of Evils. Now that an opportunity is given to directly approve or oppose the foreign policy of the present administration, without thrusting upon the country greater perils at home, thousands of good citizens throughout the country, who favored the reelection of President McKinley, are now determinedly opposing policies relating to the newly acquired territory. Generally speaking republican newspapers have ceased to defend the war in the Philippines. They no longer point out the commercial advantages of distant possessions. The republican leaders who today stand the highest in public confidence are those who oppose republican leadership in respect to insular territory.

This is as it should be. It is an indication of the decay of intense and radical partisanship and proof of the willingness of the people to break away from their party associations when vital principles of government are involved. In 1896 and again in 1900 democratic voters declined to accept the leadership of their party when it was pledged to overthrow and destroy the nation's currency. They believed such a course meant repudiation and dishonor. Now this danger has been avoided and the time has come to resist the tendency to ignore constitutional limitations and prohibitions and the opportunity is fitting for independent, courageous and patriotic political action on the part of republicans. Ex President Harrison, ex Speaker Reed, Senators Hoar and Hale, Representatives McCall and Littlefield have set an example worthy of the emulation of those entrusted with the lawmaking power.