

HARRISON'S "HAIL COLUMBIA."

Ex-President Harrison in replying to the toast, "Hail Columbia," at a recent banquet of the Columbia Club in Indianapolis, took occasion to justify his utterances concerning the relation of the constitution to the Philippines and Porto Rico, and in doing so gave to captious republicans and to exuberant Bryanites some advice in which humor and wisdom were pleasantly mingled.

Upon the issue involved in our relations to the islands he said: "I have no argument to make, here or anywhere, against territorial expansion, but I do not, as some do, look to expansion as the safest or most attractive avenue of national development. By the advantages of abundant and cheap coal and iron, of an enormous surplus of food products, of an invention and economy in production, we are now leading by a nose the original and the greatest of the colonizing nations. Australia and New Zealand loyally send their contingents to South Africa, but Great Britain cannot hold the trade of its colonies against American offerings of a better or cheaper product. The Central and South American states, assured of our purpose, not only to respect but to defend their autonomy, and finding the peace and social order, which a closer and larger commercial intercourse with the world will bring, offer to our commerce a field the full development of which will realize the El Dorado. Hail to Columbia, the home of the free, and from which only freedom can go out."

Having thus stated his views upon the main question he next turned his attention to the critics who have charged him with acting in a manner unworthy of an ex-president. These critics, it will be remembered, have asserted that a former president should not condemn the acts of an existing administration. Mr. Harrison met the charge with delightful banter by saying: "The decapitation of the ex-president when the oath of office has been administered to his successor would greatly vivify a somewhat tiresome ceremonial. And we may some time solve the newspaper problem what to do with our ex-presidents in that conclusive way. Until then I hope an ex president may be permitted to live somewhere midway between the house of gossip and the crypt of the mummy. He will know perhaps in an especial way how to show the highest honor to the presidential office and the most courteous deference to the president. Upon great questions, however, especially upon questions of constitutional law, you must give an ex-president his freedom or the ax, and it is too late to give me the ax."

In conclusion he referred to the claims made by some democrats that his opposition to "imperialism" is leading him to Bryanism, and said: "To me the democratic party has never been less

attractive than now. No plan of reorganization suggests itself to me, except that suggested by a waggish lieutenant of my regiment to a captain whose platoons were inverted. He said: 'Captain, if I were in your place I would break ranks and have the orderly call the roll.' Perhaps even this hopeful programme may fail for an inability to agree as to the roll and as to the orderly."

Here is wit and wisdom combined. The touch upon each issue is light but effective. It is not likely any intelligent republican will hereafter deny the right of a former president of the United States to speak upon the political questions of the day, and if he choose to dissent from the policy of his successor; nor will any Bryanite regard Mr. Harrison as a probable convert to democracy. To both classes of critics he has given "Hail, Columbia," in more senses than one.—San Francisco Call (rep.).

TO MAINTAIN PARITY OF MONEY.

A bill to maintain the parity of the money of the United States has been introduced by Representative Overstreet of Indiana and is intended to supplement the gold standard law. It reads as follows:

Sec. 1. That all gold and silver coins of the United States, except subsidiary coins, shall be exchangeable for each other at par at the treasury of the United States at the demand of the holder.

Sec. 2. That, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, the secretary of the treasury may employ any part of the reserve fund of gold coin and bullion established by section 2 of the act of March 14, 1900, entitled "An act to define and fix the standard of value to maintain the parity of all forms of money issued or coined by the United States to refund the public debt and for other purposes," and money received in exchange for gold coin or bullion, under the provisions of this act, shall be held in said reserve fund, and not paid out, except in the manner provided in regard to United States notes in said section 2 of the act of March 14, 1900.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

THE PUBLIC EDITS THE MAGAZINES.

"It is the public that edits a magazine," writes Edward Bok in the January Ladies' Home Journal. "The editor simply edits the public's thought as it comes to him for expression through his magazine. In the manner in which he presents that thought he may stamp his personality upon it, and so we know that there is an individuality behind the printed page. But the thought remains that of the public, whether edited by the editor in manuscript or expressed with his own pen. He remains simply a

medium placed in control of a channel of expression. That channel represents certain principles, and those principles become what is called the policy of a magazine. This policy determines whether certain questions shall be discussed in the affirmative or the negative, or whether the questions are important enough to be discussed at all. For instance, the Ladies' Home Journal believes in everything that will make a woman's life simpler, more restful and more cheerful. That is its policy because it is the principle of its conductors—that principle being based upon observation, experience and conviction. On this policy the magazine either ignores altogether or opposes anything which its conductors are convinced, for well-grounded reasons, will complicate the lives of women or make them restless, and therefore less happy. Such a policy, one might say, is the backbone of a magazine. Upon it it rests, and this it reflects in its opinions."

THE REAL ISSUE IN THE ARMY BILL

The advocates of the pending Army Bill should be frank enough to state squarely what everybody knows—that the plan of saddling American taxpayers with the expense of a hundred thousand regulars is due solely and simply to the need of a large army to keep the American flag from being driven out of the Philippines.

This argument is straightforward and intelligible. It brings the country face to face with the question whether it is willing to go on spending a hundred millions or so a year for the purpose of maintaining some scores of hemmed and harassed garrisons in a Malay archipelago ten thousand miles from Washington. This is the real issue involved in the policy of making the army four times as large as it was three years ago, and the champions of the retention of the Philippines ought to be sufficiently courageous to avow it and fight on it.

The assumption that we need a hundred thousand men, or half that number, to man the batteries of our seacoast forts is as untenable as the theory that the jealous, jangling Powers of Europe, with their bitter rivalries and intrigues in China and elsewhere, are likely to attempt the task of invading a nation of seventy-five millions, separated from them by three thousand miles of ocean.—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin (Rep).

BRYAN'S PAPER.

It isn't likely that W. J. Bryan will pay much attention to such small per-simmons as J. Sterling Morton when he gets down to business in his Commoner, but the very fact that Mr. Bryan knows Morton as well as if he had the moulding of him, will cause that perfunctory to become more docile.—Rushville Standard.