

At that time Joseph French Johnson was financial editor of the Chicago Tribune. He, too, liked Vanderlip, and directed him in a course of study on money, banking, and economics at large, partly by himself and partly in connection with a special course at the University of Illinois. Vanderlip presently succeeded Johnson on the Tribune.

"When President McKinley invited Mr. Gage into the cabinet, Mr. Vanderlip applied for the position of private secretary to the secretary of the treasury, and came with Mr. Gage to Washington. From his first post he was raised to be assistant secretary of the treasury, and then cast his eyes towards New York. On the advice of his old instructor, Mr. Johnson, now professor of finance at the University of Pennsylvania, he determined to go abroad and study some more; so the two friends sailed March 11, 1901. When he returns he will step into a business berth in New York which is now making ready for him. Meanwhile he has supported a widowed mother and two sisters, and extended aid to several young men, as he had been helped himself."

The well-known publishing house of Jacob North & Co., of Lincoln, Neb., will soon bring out the "History of Nebraska," of which Dr. Geo. L. Miller and J. Sterling Morton are the supervising editors. These volumes will contain biographies of prominent citizens in each county, and record as faithfully as possible the development of Nebraska from its earliest settlement down to 1901. All citizens having historical data supposed to be of value are requested to send the same to the address of Mr. Morton, care of Jay Amos Barrett, State Historical Society, Lincoln, Neb. The publication will be hurried up and all data to be used must be sent in at once.

Col. Bowlby, in his valuable Crete Democrat of the 13th instant, bewails the shutting down and the shutting up of the Argo starch works at Nebraska City. But the Colonel is entirely divergent from the facts and a long ways from the actual truth.

The Argo starch factory is running now and has been running all winter and will be running until the time for the annual pause for repairs and cleaning up comes during the spring or summer. But the eloquent speakers to whom Col. Bowlby pathetically alludes in the same article are "shut up." And unless the supreme court of Nebraska interferes, the Argo plant will be enlarged during the next twelve months. Wages are paid promptly. They are more nourishing than the speeches of Oldham, J. Ham Lewis, ex-Attorney

General Smyth and the Peerless One to whose efforts against the Argo owners Col. Bowlby refers with gushing tenderness. The kindly complimentary references to the Mortons which Col. Bowlby weaves into his article are accepted with gratitude, humility and thanks.

Senator Proctor of Vermont is now in Cuba, as a

special envoy of the president, to investigate the political and civil affairs of the island and particularly to report the feeling in regard to the limitations congress has proposed to place upon the Cuban constitution. This trip recalls another made by Senator Proctor to the same place. Three years ago, in company with several other senators, he went to Cuba to investigate the reports of Spanish cruelty and inquire into the justice of Cuban demands for independence.

Upon his return to the United States the senator thus expressed himself in regard to the wishes of the islanders:

"There is no doubt that General Blanco is acting in entire good faith; that he desires to give the Cubans a fair measure of autonomy \* \* \*

"I inquired in regard to autonomy of men of wealth and men as prominent in business as any in the city of Habana, Matanzas, and Sagua, bankers, merchants, lawyers and autonomist officials, some of them Spanish born but Cuban bred, one prominent Englishman, several of them known as autonomists, and several of them telling me that they were still believers in autonomy, if practicable, but without exception they replied that it was 'too late' for that.

"I am not in favor of annexation; not because I would apprehend any particular trouble from it, but because it is not wise policy to take in any people of foreign tongue and training, and without any strong guiding American element. The fear that if free the people of Cuba would be revolutionary is not so well founded as has been supposed, and the conditions for good self-government are far more favorable. The large number of educated and patriotic men, the great sacrifices they have endured, the peaceable temperament of the people, whites and blacks, the wonderful prosperity that would surely come with peace and good home rule, the large influx of American and English immigration and money, would all be strong factors for stable institutions."

In view of the above summary of Cuban wants THE CONSERVATIVE is unable to see why

Why?

Mr. Proctor should again go to Cuba.

Did he not state to the American people three years ago that the offer of autonomy and home rule by General Blanco was made in "good faith?" Did he not, then, state that the Cubans would decline all overtures short of absolute and unconditional independence? Did he

not also report to his government that the Cubans were capable of independence and that the "conditions were favorable for good self-government?" Influenced by the advice and counsel of men who, like Proctor, had personally investigated the conditions upon the ill-fated island, our country was plunged into a war with Spain to "free Cuba." Congress, acting upon the advice of Proctor, incorporated in the war resolution the declaration that "the people of Cuba are and of right ought to be free and independent." Is Proctor now in Cuba to accumulate evidence to show why the promise, made upon his recommendation, should be broken? Is he to report that he did not tell the truth upon his first visit and that the war with Spain was undertaken, and the promise of Cuban independence given, as a result of unreliable information supplied by himself? And if Proctor makes such a humiliating report and repudiates former utterances, should we trust implicitly the judgment of one confessedly prone to err?

#### THE STATE LIBRARIES.

It is certainly to be hoped by all means that the present legislature will deal generously with the State Historical Society, granting it the full amount of money that has been asked for; to the end that the society may at last be able to buy some of the books that form the very rudiments of western history.

If any inquiring legislator should visit the library of the University of Nebraska in search of information concerning the Greeks, he will find abundance of maps of Athens and Hellas generally at all periods, as well as accounts of travels and explorations any time in the last three thousand years. But if he should ask for the explorations of Lewis & Clark, Pike, Long, Mackenzie, Carver, Farnham, Murray, Wyeth or any other of the men who opened up unknown regions of North America within the last hundred years, he will learn that the library has nothing in that line.

The reason is that the state maintaining a special library of Nebraska history in the same building, the two institutions have divided the field between them; the one is to gather a collection dealing with the history of the state and the west, while the other devotes itself to the Greeks and other matters of that class, at which the young idea of Nebraska is, whether wisely or not, encouraged to shoot.

Then, since the Historical Society is, or has been hitherto, left without funds for the purchase of the few needful books, the result is that our next generation of fathers and mothers may be vastly wise concerning the Greeks, but know nothing of the process whereby the wilderness of the Louisiana Purchase was converted into the western states of the union. A. T. R.