

UNCLASSIFIED.

Did we not hear some place that the military officers in the Spanish colonies indulged in peculations?

When the term "inocuous desuetude" first appeared Senator Thurston created quite a little of his alleged humor by assuming to not understand the term. He might, perchance at this time, make an exposition.

Altgeld got another chance to measure his popularity. He opposed Carter Harrison and that gentleman increased his vote 7,000 over two years ago and received the highest ever cast for a Chicago mayor.

It now transpires that Carter's opposition to the river and harbor bill was not its great size but because he failed to make it large enough to carry a pet appropriation of his own. Another Republican idol smashed.

As hazing has for its object and never failed in its effect to make honorable gentlemen out of the "plebs," it would appear that Fred J. Barrows and his coterie of army thieves must have missed this refining influence and the moral suasion of Tabasco sauce.

The administration hurled its most terrific bolt at the Philippines; too terrific for us to believe they can be so inhuman from their standpoint. The proclamation declares that no man who does not take the oath by April 1st *cannot hold office*. No Republican could doubt the efficacy of that dire threat.

Why not shut up a legislature the same as a jury when they ballot for senator and stay shut up until they elect. When the campaign closes by which members are elected they know what their constituents want as well as they ever will. With candidates and lobby shut out agreement would soon come.

Admiral Sampson should not fail to be heard on the advancement of Funston. It is said that Funston can't waltz, nor tell pink tea from circus lemonade. It would be very humiliating for the admiral to meet the general sometime "in society." For Funston's "culcher" is known in Kansas as of the "short grass" type.

McKinley shows his love for the civil service and the real fulfillment of the platform, by appointing Rodenberg of East St. Louis upon the commission, a man who fought openly not only against civil service but the very existence of

the commission. His only record as a member of congress was his attempt to defeat the appropriation in toto for its continuance.

The chaplain of the legislature asserts that 93 out of 133 members are communicants of the Christian church and expresses the opinion that it is a record for the legislature to view with pride. He throws the charitable mantle of silence over the frame of mind with which the church can survey such a statement. There appears to be no humiliation too great for the church to suffer, these days of degeneracy.

If Admiral Sampson would provide for his gunners being sent to West Point for a little drill in the "exercises" for which that institution is renowned, they would, without doubt, come out "gentlemen." The favorite weapon of the admiral's namesake appears to have proved a boomerang. Every time the pink tea and prize money admiral uses his jaw bone, the people become more firmly fixed in their instructive estimate of him; an estimate that the power of the government cannot shake. "He is a snob."

The "peerless" gives a vivid illustration of his emotions when buying strawberries. It has always been supposed that strawberries in March were strictly a plutocratic luxury. Would it not be in better taste for this great defender of the masses to wait for strawberries to become "commoner?" The ten-dollar-a-plate banquet with the great Tammany prophet has evidently corrupted the friend of the lowly. It is evident that farming the farmer produces early strawberries.

Those deluded fanatics who forced the suppression of the army canteen will obtain an object lesson in temperance if they will visit Fort Sheridan near Chicago. See the hundreds of low dives that have sprung up near it. The career of vice and crime beyond the reach of the officers is appalling. The horrors of the dance house are added to that of drunkenness. Will reformers never learn to be temperate? It required three affidavits to establish the presumption that Allen was sober one day last session. They were also kind enough to specify the day, so that the senator's friends could, "point with pride." Yet Nebraska will always feel a sense of gratitude toward Allen. He never so far forgot himself as to publish a poem.

The democracy are to be congratulated in that Bryan has assumed the role of opposition. When he plunged into

the democratic arena he found a democratic president, senate and lower house. He found the great states of New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, with democratic governors and senators. He left it without a governor or senator outside of the South, which was solid enough to withstand him, though West Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland and North Carolina lost their democratic virginity. But there is now hope for democracy. Bryan himself led the attack upon the democratic mayor of St. Louis. His lieutenant fought Carter Harrison in Chicago. The result—a regular Bryanesque victory. It is not so very long ago that Mr. Bryan was voted for in Chicago. Does he consider Harrison's election as an endorsement of confusion and silver? As soon as the Bryan idea is once divorced from democracy the people will return to their old faith. The "common people" have often endorsed democracy, never populism.

A gentleman, who was once a democrat and continues to still so allege himself to be, in an editorial, says:

"No one who understands the history of the last ten years can doubt the influence which the populist party has exerted upon public affairs. It has been a great educational factor and the democratic party has strengthened rather than weakened itself by endorsing a number of propositions which are called 'populistic.'"

Six dollars is hereby offered as a prize to any person, the eloquent editor included, who will point out first the authority for injecting populistic or any other non-democratic principle into our national platform. Second—the particular populistic tenet or tenets that have acted as a tonic to democracy and third, the particular spot in the United States where this alleged strength is to be found. The democracy will be pleased to have the learned gentleman point to the portion of the returns last fall that offer proof of the strength yielded us by populistic injections. We have a sample of democratic returns free from any taint of populism in those of 1892. Are there any since that date that have caused the heart of democracy to make one joyous bound? This quotation simply proves that the writer is still peerless in framing sentences of record-breaking inaccuracy. T. M. S.

The attention of the readers of THE CONSERVATIVE is called to the last page of this issue. Very few clubbing offers embrace such a combination of good reading as is offered in this instance. Very frequently one reads of three monthly publications being offered at a reasonable price, but, it is left for THE CONSERVATIVE to offer in its list one weekly publication. This is an advantage worth remembering.