

A COMMENDABLE EXAMPLE.

Probably many of us have heard of the old Scotchman who was so pious that nobody suspected him of wrong-doing, and yet he was one day caught by his next neighbor in the act of climbing over the wall which divided their possessions, with the evident intention of stealing apples from the temptingly laden trees.

"Where are you going?" roared out his neighbor.

"Back again!" was the meek reply of the incipient thief, and suiting the action to the word, he withdrew the offending leg and slid down his own side of the wall.

The position was rather humiliating, but still, it was better to back out of the scrape with clean hands than to declare his errand and attempt by stratagem or force to secure the coveted booty.

This little incident contains a moral for us Americans which we would do well to ponder, and an example which we shall follow, if we be wise.

We have gone farther than did the Scotchman into encroachment upon our neighbors' possessions, but not so far as to be unable to "go back again," although every hour of delay and every mistaken act of political chicanery make the necessary restitution more difficult, and deepen the stain upon our national honor. *The stain upon our national honor.*

Who thinks of that, excepting a small minority of thoughtful and truly patriotic Americans, at home and abroad, whose words of reproof and warning are unheeded in the uproar of the prevailing clamor for continued conquests, which goes up from the mass of the people, encouraged by the example of a self-seeking executive and a subservient congress?

Perhaps it is the latter class of protesters—the truly patriotic Americans living abroad—who appreciate most fully the degradation of our country in the eyes of the rest of the world, through our dishonorable and treacherous policy during the present republican administration.

The outrage against private property and individual freedom, perpetrated in the theft of the De Lome letter, and the disgraceful use made of its contents, was a shock to the finer feelings of cultured nations, which will not soon be forgotten. The greed which precipitated the war with Spain, under the hypocritical pretence of sympathy with the oppressed; the obstinate refusal to make promises good, now that the war is over; the dastardly double-dealing, from first to last, with the Filipino; all these political crimes have lowered immensely the respect and confidence of foreigners towards the United States. Our own citizens have still greater reason for complaint. The acquisition of foreign territory was an open challenge

to the constitution, a direct blow to the liberties of the people.

It means the ruin of the republic. The boldly uttered word, "imperialism," has disturbed the serene air of the heights of liberty, thereby starting an avalanche which will not stop until it has destroyed the very foundations of freedom and fraternity in what might have become the home of enduring prosperity and peace.

It is useless to waste eloquence upon "American Ideals," as so many writers and speakers are doing at present, in the vain hope of bringing good out of the evils which they and we have suffered to accumulate. The time to talk and write will be, if ever, when we have proved our sincerity by removing what insults and defames those ideals, and this can be done only by going "back again"—that is, leaving Cuba to govern itself, and renouncing our unjust and illegal pretensions to the ownership of the Philippines.

The next thing in order is to have a reckoning with the responsible source and sources of our calamities. We have long known that the proclamation to the Filipinos, which aroused their hostility, was the unauthorized act of the president, and that by his order, throughout the whole course of the war, the people have been deceived by false representations, and insulted by the withholding and altering of authentic dispatches; and now we know, after the long-suppressed Spanish correspondence has been divulged, that the Cuban war might have been avoided, that every effort was made on the part of Spain, and every demand granted in the hope of preserving peace, and that the president's indifference to the pathetic letter of the queen, and to the pacific endeavors of the pope—rather, let us say, his selfish absorption in schemes for his success in the approaching election—induced him to suppress the extent of the Spanish overtures, as well as the earnest suggestions of our minister, and to send his belligerent message, unaltered to congress, with only a formal postscript which was sure to be unheeded, or regarded as merely an attempt to shift upon congress the responsibility for a war which he and they considered advisable for the securing of selfish ends.

The disclosure of the trickery practiced in all these matters, especially by the president, involves a vital question; namely, this: Is it possible that American citizens are going to submit quietly to such impositions, with all the disastrous consequences, including the loss of national honor?

The present suppression, by newspapers favorable to the government, of the long-withheld and only recently-published Spanish dispatches, shows how fatal to the administration that information is considered to be, and how

much it is hoped that delay in spreading the news may calm the indignation of the people, and induce them to yield again, without protest or inquiry, to the autocratic authority which has dictated their conduct since these troubles began. "As a Christian, peace-loving people," to quote the hypocritical expression of the president, we are expected to learn, without a murmur, that we have been cajoled into cruel wars, and disgraced before the civilized world, in order to further the ambitious designs of one would-be statesman, and the mercenary schemes of a few unscrupulous capitalists. But, it is to be hoped that these expectations will not be realized; that there is still enough force and independence and sense of right in our nation to undo the mischief accomplished and contemplated, and to bring the offenders to judgment. At the bar of history, they are already condemned, and that verdict will remain; but we must see to it that the next chapter of our record shall be in accordance with the principles which we have so long professed, and, alas! so often disregarded; we must give voice and action to our indignation at the insulting deceptions of which most of us have been unconscious victims, and as to any and all attempts to steal our neighbors' liberty and goods, we must go "back again."

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THE DEMAND FOR YOUNG MEN.

The present is essentially—in America, at least—the day of the young man. He is in demand. If he be mentally well equipped and have character and common sense to back his knowledge, he will find that there are opportunities open to him, often on the very threshold of his business career, such as the young man of an earlier day would dream of as the goal only of long years of waiting and working, says the Scientific American. During a recent visit to that hive of industry which swarms around Pittsburg, and in the valleys of the Monongahela and Allegheny, we were impressed with the fact that in most of the great manufacturing establishments the highest positions of responsibility were filled by men who were yet several years on this side of the prime of life. That such young heads should so often be directing vast industrial concerns is due in part to the amazing rapidity with which new industries have sprung up during the past decade, and in part to the fact that the keen competition of the age calls for the adaptiveness and energy which are the natural qualities of youth. Time was when there was an overplus, especially in the technical trades and professions, of the supply of qualified young men, but today conditions are entirely reversed. Clear proof of this was shown at the recent annual com-