

WHAT OF THE MORROW?

Editor Conservative :

As that semi-philosopher, Ingersoll, said: "We must think." When I consider the decadence of morality in public life (to say nothing of that in private life) and the immeasurable increase in the recklessness, brutality, savagery and numbers of criminals and crimes; the failures of the efforts to effect reforms not only in individuals but in all methods for free and enlightened government; the insatiable greed and the oppression that come of gratifying it; the many cruelties and mockeries of justice in the uses and dispensations of public charities; the base ends to which the uses of education are put; the factional selfishness which weakens nearly all organizations—social, moral, political and religious—destroying the great power harmony and unity of action would give them for a right and beneficial use of endless opportunities, and so the creating of overwhelming ethical force, I am not much in love with many of my fellow men, and I seem to grow pessimistic as the years advance.

Present Day "Statesmen."

The same extent of personal liberty I have had, I would like should be the heritage of my children; but I begin to fear that such evolution is in progress that it will not be. The irretrievable complications into which the government has been forced by mere partisan politicians, occupying the places intended for statesmen, with the daily additions made to them by those whose ambitions for personal gain and aggrandizement without a thought for the general welfare, are, in their effects upon the body politic, much like a carbuncle on the human organism. As one cell breaks down and suppurates, the one next to it follows, and it spreads until it may become fatal or the surgeon's knife alone can give relief. As a remedy is sought for each complication others grow up around those already existing, and quack statesmen, by constant mal-practice, aggravate the disease until no surgeon can cure it but the suddenly-risen "man on horseback," who comes with his sword and adherents and establishes a new order of things, and the struggle begins over again to recover lost liberties and overthrow usurpers by internecine strife.

There is for us Americans the humiliation of hypocrisy. We half bankrupted the treasury in an aggressive war on Spain, on pretense that her cruelty in the reconcentrado for the niggers of Cuba shocked our sense of humanity; and we stand quietly by and see England carry on a like course of oppression on white men,

women and children without so much as an official protest; what hypocrisy could be greater and what humiliation more galling and depressing? The barbarism which has characterized the English government in its conduct of the war in South Africa, without an official protest from every civilized government, ought to shame all nations of the world; for it exceeds that of the Mohammedans in the spread of their religion by the sword.

Capital and Labor.

While combinations of capital, for the conduct of great beneficial enterprises are entirely legitimate and necessary, such consolidations as have created some trusts (made to stifle competition, control production and markets, fix prices, and even dictate the number of laborers, their hours for labor and compensation) are wholly illegitimate and unnecessary. These, on the one hand, and labor combinations on the other hand, evolve forces which are complicated in their operations with the irresistible operations of natural laws, which are antagonistic to them. Natural force alone can maintain equilibrium. The forces in conflict with it, from the causes I have stated, are an unknown quantity and there are no X-rays which can disclose them to us. The quack statesmen are constantly trying to obstruct or evade the operations of natural force by creating some artificial force by legislative enactment, which only drives the natural forces to act in new directions, making more and more involved complications. The operations of both are full of danger. That the results are being manipulated by men ignorant of their trend and blind to their possibilities in shaping the results in human affairs in all relations, is evident enough. We, "the plain people of the land," can only sit still and wait until the operations of the natural forces disclose their course and results; and see whether the attempts to evade or obstruct them will destroy equilibrium in trade, commerce and finance, or whether the time-servers and money-grabbers, who have ignored the natural laws and sought to substitute human enactments in place of them, will be overthrown in a universal financial panic that will make paupers of them and bankrupt nations. The antagonism cannot go on in peace always.

Something of the insane folly in the impulses which control too many men—would-be statesmen—who come into control of public affairs, is illustrated by the contest between Hanna and Foraker in Ohio; and on a lower plane between McLaurin and Tillman in South Carolina. Neither of the latter is a democrat nor republican while each is a sort of hermaphrodite parti-

san, "going in a gang by himself." It is to be hoped the senate will unseat both.

Our "Colonial" Policy.

The effect of the decisions of the supreme court has placed the government in a maelstrom of complications from which extrication, except by honest (even if unprofitable pecuniarily) methods seems impossible. But honest methods will not be tried. Every effort to solve the difficult problems arising, seems like killing the hydra which grew many new heads for each one cut off. We face equal dangers whether we hold on or let go, whether we stop where we are or continue to follow the labyrinth in the dark.

With our great territory, advantages and resources, why could we not be content to mind our own affairs and leave Deity to manage and take care of His creatures in other nations in His own way and time, and not undertake to do His work by finite means with only finite knowledge? With all our sacrifice of life and treasure, what good have we done for ourselves or for anyone or anything else? What part of the world or of humanity has been, in any respect, made better or better off? And now, for years to come, it is clear that, with great numbers of men, and ships, war munitions and supplies, we must continue marching, sailing, fighting, killing and burning among a semi-savage people, ten thousand miles away, who never did us any harm or sought anything from us, and who are occupying an area of land and water in the tropics nearly equal to our own, to what end? For what purpose? We are only another illustration where "vaulting ambition o'erleaps itself and falls on the other side." We furnish strong evidence that the church dogma of "the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man" is only a barren ideality with us.

Centuries ago, with a glib tongue and one impractical idea, Peter the Hermit so imposed upon and appealed to the ignorance, emotions, the cupidity, and the instincts of the savage in men as to bring on the Crusades, some echoes of which are coming to us now from Jerusalem, where Christians (?) are fighting about which denomination shall sweep some portion of the floor in a church.

A Day of Reckoning Coming.

We were blessed with every element a Deity could create and give us to make us a powerful, enlightened, wealthy, prosperous, moral, and peaceable people; unlimited territory and natural resources, protected by oceans and distance against aggression by other nations, with a representative republican form of government under a written constitution;