

absolute civil and religious liberty; every resource for a great destiny, and the highest education and civilization; and still men like Peter the Hermit, with glib tongues and single impracticable ideas, arose among us and commenced to preach a crusade. They succeeded in persuading the people that they could tax themselves into riches by destroying free trade, and establishing a tariff wall against the productions of other nations. They only succeeded in building up classes and castes, and put wealth and power in the hands of the few while the many were only like a tail to the kites of the rich.

Finally, there came one extraordinarily gifted with eloquence—but with a single impracticable idea for the cure of all public ills—and that idea was that, two things unequal in value anywhere in the world, could be made equal by local legislative enactment; and two principles utterly antagonistic and irreconcilable, could be made harmonious by the same method.

He succeeded in turning things upside down and they are not righted yet, while he continues to preach his fallacies. Another lot of hermits told us we could eat our cake and keep it too. So we resolved that we could take Cuba from Spain, protect her, let her form a government, become an independent nation, and guarantee her in her independence. We have kept military control ever since. She has formed her government and now it is more than hinted that she shall come into the Union as a state. That was a nice idea born of emotion, to set up and maintain a foreign nation and government within six hundred miles of our own shores. A new civilization has started on the shores of the yellow sea, and ere many years it will be indeed a "Yellow Peril." With our incurable itch for colonial possessions, we will not be content with Cuba, Porto Rico, the Danish island—(all in the midst of England's possessions) with Guam and the Sandwich Islands and the Philippines and Samoa. We will have to pitch in and war like other nations, throw peace and prosperity to the winds and, guided by the monopolists and men of one idea, fulfill our Beveridge-given mission to carry Christianity and liberty to all barbarians, as the chosen servant of Deity. Lord! What a lot of ungrateful hypocrites we are, and how we pervert and abuse the opportunities we have to bless ourselves, and through our example and influence the whole world!

C. H. REEVE.

Plymouth, Ind., Dec. 30, 1901.

GIFTS. The Conservative has received many tokens of regard and friendship during the Christmas week, and none more gratifying than

the hearty congratulations of good men and women upon the work it is doing. No presents have been so valuable as cordial and hearty commendations of The Conservative, its independence, fearlessness and its love of justice.

It is most agreeable to be entirely free from party restraint, and to tell the truth loudly

Freedom. whether it makes or breaks a political slate. It is pleasant to endorse a competent and economical public officer of the Nation or of the State who is faithfully performing his duties without regard to renomination. Presidents, governors, and county and city officers down to constables and policemen will, in time, be taught that the honest, fearless performance of official duties is the only certain insurance of a continuance in popular esteem, throughout the length and breadth of the American Republic.

Offices were created for usefulness to the public and not for the mere exaltation and profit of individuals.

The head of a Department at Washington or at Lincoln who permits payments to be made

Stealing. to a single unnecessary employee is guilty of stealing from the treasury of the people—just as much guilty as though he took that money and put it into his own pocket instead of into the pocket of a partisan favorite. Altruistic larceny is no better than auto-larceny. How many un-needed clerks, laborers and doorkeepers and watchmen are there in the United States who are paid out of the people's pockets?

On a gold basis
PEN MIGHTIER with hogs at six
THAN SWORD. dollars and fifty cents a hundred,

Farmer Bryan gazes affectionately into his herd and remarks without regard to his editorial glories or allusion to his incandescent military record, the pen—pig pen—is bigger and mightier than the sword.

The Smyth-Bryan-Oldham case against the National Starch Company doing business at Nebraska City, comes up in the Supreme Court of Nebraska on January 7th, 1902.

The starch manufactory itself—with two hundred employees—began grinding on January 1st. Since it shut down last summer, for improvements, the Argo Factory has absorbed over sixty-four thousand dollars in its new buildings and machinery, and it is now one of the largest, best and most promising Starch Plants in the world. And there is no patriotic citizen anywhere in this commonwealth who wishes it shut down and its owners deprived of the right to do business in Nebraska.

There are some goodly and shapely conifers on the lawn at Arbor

TREES ON THE LAWN. Lodge. Among them the Scotch Pine, the Douglas Spruce, the *Picea Pungens* and the Norway Spruce. When they were set out thirty years ago they were straightened up and pruned and shaped, and during three decades they have grown under direction and discipline until now their symmetry attracts attention and elicits praise from all beholders. But each tree has preserved the marks and peculiarities of the family to which it belongs. No amount of care, cutting and training could make the Scotch Pine as straight, sturdy and tall as the Douglas, nor as symmetrical as the Norway Spruce.

And when those trees were small and insignificant, there were likewise small boys sporting on

Boys on the Lawn. the same lawn. And they too received the thoughtful and formative care as to discipline of mind and evolution of character which was bestowed upon the trees. Symmetry and straightness, uprightness of motives and ambitions were made a daily lesson. And the same competent woman guided alike the trees and the boys into a higher plane of life. And now the similitude between the boys and the trees on the lawn is not vanished, because both were disciplined to right living and right growing. Parents, who think, cannot fail to observe how alike small trees and small children are in their development, nor fail to know that upon training and discipline both depend for their value when maturity is reached.

In a day or a single summer a tree like the cottonwood may achieve distinction by the celerity of its growth and so the cottonwood acquired reputation among the pioneers as a useful tree. But time and the drouths of summers have dissipated the early reputation of the cottonwood and nobody plants it now except in low out-of-the-way places.

Very different from reputation is character, as different as solid oak from veneering. And now the walnut, catalpa-speciosa, and the oak are planted, because they withstand the hot, dry winds of summer and each year record a solid growth in the ineffaceable layer of added circumference.

Character. And thus slowly character is evolved for a human being; and years and decades pass with it still becoming stronger and better, more and more useful, like the oak. Nurture may do much for trees and much for boys; but Nature does more. No cottonwood can be nursed into an oak, though it may be made, by care, a better cottonwood than it otherwise would have been, and no oak can be made soft and brash as cottonwood, no matter how much it may be neglected. Art cannot change nor time erase the characteristics which Nature has fixed for the breeds of men and trees.