

Hon. T. Estrada
THE PRESIDENT. Palma, of Central Valley, New York, is seeing the sights in Cuba. If he likes the country he may settle there.

Prince Henry's
A NOTEWORTHY EXCEPTION. statement that American crowds are orderly and "their own controllers" leads us to believe that he did not visit the senate chamber, after all.

An enthusiastic
CAUTION. Briton declares that his countrymen are ready to explode with patriotism when the peace terms are made public. To guard against a premature discharge, the fuse had better be cut long enough to outlast Paul Kruger.

Investigation has
BARBAROUS. proved that the "water cure" applied to the sullen citizen in the Philippines is a form of torture worse than the wheel, more diabolical than the Indian methods, and almost as bad as the West Point hazings.

What we call corn
ABOUT CORN. is an American institution, both the grain itself and the name we apply to it. Abroad they call it maize. In England wheat and rye are corn too. The pilgrim fathers called this native grain sometimes Indian wheat, sometimes Indian corn. When it began to assume such great importance as a crop they called it just corn for short. It seems to have been raised forever in this country. They find ears of it stowed away along with the mummies in South American countries—little runty nubbins with blue kernels, such as the Mexicans make atole out of to this day. It has never become such a favorite anywhere else as it is here; do you suppose this fact has had anything to do with the making of history? The United States leads in its production by a vast majority against all the world, including the rest of America. We produced in 1900 2,100 million bushels, out of a world crop of 2,800 million; 75 per cent. The next competitor is not one of the Central or South American countries, as one might suppose, but Austria-Hungary, which furnishes 6 per cent of the total. Most of the southern European nations raise a little corn; but probably they feed it to their horses, instead of to their children as we do.

Most people usually eschew parlor
A GOOD GAME AND A BAD ONE. games on account of their tediousness and insipidity, but one recently in-

roduced by social leaders of the fairer sex is not only exceedingly interesting, but it rewards virtue.

In this game the contestants are provided with the requisite material and requested to write down as many slang expressions as possible within a given time. Each searches her brain for bits of vulgarity, and some surprisingly long lists of questionable phrases and expressive abbreviations are handed in to the judges, who promptly bestow the prize upon the lady who has conjured up the *least* slang.

This is very pretty in its way, and the successful contestant has reason to be proud of the reward which her unsophisticatedness has earned; while the deceit upon the part of the ladies having charge of the entertainment is excusable, as it is practiced in a good cause.

A similar confidence game is being worked upon inhabitants of the Philippines, and the end in nowise justifies the means. The native official of a pueblo is requested to report the condition of their municipality to the American commissioners. He does so,—it must be admitted not without indulging in the Asiatic habit of exaggeration—and, having painted a glowing picture of the conditions in his city, its peacefulness, industry, thrift and contentment, forwards the report to the proper authorities, and with hopeful solicitude awaits the granting of additional rights and privileges to his people, feeling that their loyalty and obedience deserve reward.

But, instead of being accepted as proof that the people of this community are entitled to a greater measure of confidence, and to be rewarded accordingly, the report turns up months afterwards as an indorsement of the American policy, and to reinforce a petition for the retention of an American military officer in actual control of the affairs of the municipality.

To trap a lady into the confession of her inability to be vulgar and then to reward her innocence, is justifiable deceit; to inveigle a childish dependent into a confession of virtue, and then to use that confession to defeat the very purpose which it was so confidently expected to accomplish, is shameless deception,—especially when practiced upon a people in whose minds we are ostensibly endeavoring to instill the great principles of honesty and morality.

Mr. C. C. Boslaw,
UNJUST DIS- clerk of York county,
CRIMINATION. Nebraska, assesses the assessors at a valuation somewhat lower than that at which they hold themselves.

Among other pungent remarks upon the subject, Mr. Boslaw says:

"Do not discriminate unjustly. The merchant, the banker, the lawyer, or the man of leisure, have no rights that inure to them to the detriment of the farmer and the laborer. On the other hand, the farmer and the laborer should not expect an extension of any special favors which would be detrimental to the interests of the tradesman or professional man. Do not assess one for the position he occupies, but for the property you find he has on hand.

"The law governing the assessment of property specifically provides that all property shall be assessed at its cash value and action could be brought against every assessor who violates these provisions and his oath of office by returning property otherwise than at its cash value. If, however, you are determined to follow a precedent established by long use of abuse in this particular, in violating the law, I would suggest that you do so more systematically."

You have all heard of the man who stood so straight that he leaned backward, and the schoolmaster who whipped his little brother is not unknown to you. The same spirit prevails among assessors, who, lest they be charged with favoring the rich or powerful, take every opportunity to "gouge" them.

After having sworn to assess all property found, the assessors meet and agree to "allow" each farmer several hundred bushels of corn for seed and feed, but neglect to exempt the washboard over which the poor widow bends to win her daily bread. This is slightly out of line with their openly announced intention of protecting the needy, but the needy one in this case doesn't happen to be a farmer, as the majority of assessors are.

The railroads catch it. In many counties where land is worth from \$50 to \$75 per acre the narrow right-of-way is assessed at a higher valuation than the land for two miles on each side of it. Nobody takes the trouble to champion the cause of the railroad company, and it would avail them little if they did, but it is pleasant to hear the truth spoken once in a while, and Mr. Boslaw's suggestion that "the average assessor does not understand the importance of the office which he holds" and the further caution to abuse the law systematically, if at all, are particularly refreshing, though there is room to doubt the efficacy of his remarks to cure the evil, and to fear that in future as in the past, in York county, and elsewhere, the hod-carrier will pay as great a tax upon his \$500 house as the farmer will upon eighty acres of land worth \$8,500.