

CURRENT COMMENT.

Senator Quay, of Pennsylvania, chairman of the republican national committee, has at last made a denial of the charges against him. He has made a complete denial, in fact he has denied *in toto*. After the lapse of a year from the time when the charges were first made against him, he has seen fit to make an explicit and dispassionate denial. His denial is remarkable for the fact that it is only a denial, nothing more. Not one word was adduced in support of it. In a carefully prepared, worded, and committed speech, he denied—what? Charges the most serious that could be brought against a public officer without indicting him for treason. The charges were explicit and the accusers were responsible; yet no suits followed. No investigating committee has been called for. Senator Quay did not even call upon Senator Cameron to say anything in regard to that part of the accusation in which the names of the two men were associated. Set over against accusations with proofs is the personal denial of them by Matthew Stanley Quay. Will such a thing humbug people? Senator Quay will find out.

The tenth census has brought to light many startling facts and furnished the data for reversing many former notions. One of the best examples with regard to the respective growths of the white and the negro populations. For many years it had been the almost universal belief that the fecundity of the negroes was considerably greater than that of the whites. This fact, as it was then regarded, formed the basis of many theories for solving the negro problem. Many books were written on the problem with this fact as their basal proposition. The most noted example is Tourgee's "Appeal to Caesar." Many predictions were made of the time when the negroes would be in the majority in this country. Some prophets set the time as fifty years hence. The near possibility of such a thing made the subject a bugbear to many good people. Alas! it is sad but all this energy of fear has been spent in vain. Those cold, dry things, statistics, in the tenth census say in effect that the white race still has the lead in proportionate increase as well as in other things. The negro will still be with us and in increasingly large numbers, but we will still be here in still greater numbers. Thus one great bugbear has been removed from before the progress of the Anglo-Saxon race. This, however, does not by any means remove the negro problem from all consideration. A vast and increasing population of illiterates is as much a menace now as ever. That must never be forgotten.

When the so-called force bill was set aside Senator Hoar declared that it meant the death of the republican party. Allowance must, of course, be made for this remark as coming from one who had so earnestly championed the bill and was at that time smarting over its defeat. There is, however, much food for thought in the remark. The federal elections bill was, as it were, the last attempt of the republican party to carry out its policy in the issues upon which it was started. It may be truly said that when the senate finally laid aside the elections bill a national rebuke was given to certain campaign issues that have been before this country for twenty-five years. The "Bloody Shirt," the rebels in congress, the solid South, and the war of the rebellion have furnished the republican party for long years with a large part of its campaign thunder. These things are out of date entirely and the senate has so declared. Accordingly if the "Grand Old Party" cannot become a

"Grand New Party" its time is over. Senator Hoar evidently believed it could not. Hence his remark. Time will tell whether he was right in his belief. This, certainly no one can deny, that when the republican party turns its back on the old issues, whether voluntarily or not, it can hardly expect to find any new line of policy that will hold unitedly those that followed it on the old issues. The times are rapidly progressing. Parties, like institutions, must fight for and justify their existence.

That the study of geography is still of advantage becomes apparent whenever one reads in an English periodical some article touching upon affairs in the United States. An amusing instance of the ridiculous ideas even educated Englishmen have of the geography of this country occurs in the *Spectator* of January 10. "If the ultimate result (of the Indian outbreak) is a battle in which the whites are worsted, large districts will be in great peril; and accordingly the states of Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska are calling out their militia and making other active preparations. Col. Cody (Buffalo Bill) is said to take a gloomy view of the situation." The man who wrote the above evidently took down a map of the United States and measured with his finger the distance between Pine Ridge agency and Missouri and Kansas. Finding that it took but a joint or two of his finger, and knowing that Nebraska had called out her militia he probably concluded that Missouri and Kansas would of course do likewise. A very natural conclusion! People in the east undoubtedly had as ridiculous notions. We have heard of one fond mother in New Jersey who wrote to her darling boy in Lincoln that she hoped the Indians wouldn't get hold of him. She was in great fear that they would because Lincoln was such a short distance from them. Truly one half of the world knows neither where the other half is nor what it is doing. We believe, however, that the next two presidential elections will open the eyes of the east considerably with respect to the "wild west". Even England in the case of a war with the United States, would have occasion to find out that America's hardiest sons were in the "Unknown West."

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