THROUGH COLORED GLASSES

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Apropos of the tempest raging in the withstanding.

There was a time when America and for and dying for,-but that was in the culpable. good old days, in glorious reminiscences of which the veterans are living, and deflag. There was a time when our free institutions stood for a great principle, and when statesmen and jurists, spotless in character, pure in motive and grand in ability, stood champions in their behalf. There was a time when our laws were enacted on behalf of society, when they were executed with honor and integrity, and passed upon in the clear light of reason and justice between man and man.

But the time of good and honest government has passed. The grand old statesmen and jurists, of high ideals and lofty purposes have gone, and their places have never been filled. A people who believed in democracy, equality and our fall. justice have been replaced by a people who believe only in the dollar, and any way to get it. Our free institutions, cemented with the life's blood of patriot fathers, have come to be a mockery and next spring. a farce in the hands of degenerate sons.

Official life,-we say it and know it, is corrupt. Dishonesty and fraud are at a premium. Bad laws may be bought of the law makers, good laws may be rendered null and void by the purchase of their executors, and justice, in bedraggled ermine, with both eyes open wide, allows her scales to be freely tipped with bags of gold. These things not only may be, but are. We know it, because we see it here at home.

There is not a good citizen of Lincoln but knows that the administration of our city government reeks in stultified dishonesty, shameless indecency and brazen defiance of every principle of a good, pure government. There is not an intelligent citizen of Nebraska but knows that many of the laws on our statute books were bought and paid for; that while fraud and corruption have been unearthed galore in the administration of state institutions, what has been discovered is as nothing to what is daily practiced and unrecorded.

From the policeman on his beat to the judge on the bench and the executive at his desk, every official in public today looks upon his office as a private snap. Public dishonesty and peculation are not considered a private disgrace.

Such is the condition of our government today. This is the meaning of "Free America" modernized and up to date. If there was ever

"Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne"

it is here and now. Not even the president of the United States is exempt from the universal belief in general public dishonesty. And as for congress,rendesvouz of such men as Dave Hill and Matt Quay and Cal. Brice,-it swarms with the lobbyists that infest and disgrace it, until even the president has found that bribery is the only way in which it is possible to secure the passage of a law. It is an open secret that gie, backed by the all pervading withal, can secure from our government today never be forthcoming in response to the of those we ought to help." petition of a million voters.

G. A. R. tea pot because of Professor immorality, -it is everywhere. In every cans, that freedom and justice are not Fossier and the American flag, it may city, in every state, throughout the to the refined and intelligent alone, but not be amiss to remark that Americans nation the festering gangrene of public that even a "half-civilized and halfnever had so solemnly appropriate an dishonor is fast eating away the integ- savage" race has, in the eye of God, tempered. It is not frivolous or visionoccasion to feel ashamed for their flag rity and morality of the American equal rights even with the British emas they have in this year of our Lord, people. Politics, it is a game of the pire. 1896-Farragut post to the contrary not- partisanship of the many and the greed There will be no war over Venezuela. make dishonesty possible, who vote for land-grabbing. liberty-crushing policy free government were worth fighting it and hurrah for it,—they are the most of England has received a decisive set

et al., are the inevitable effects.

But, as I started in to say, our flag, what does it stand for? Today it means nothing more or less than a careless, ignorant people knowingly sanctioping public dishonesty and national morrow soon to dawn, it will represent a people themselves dishonest, sordid and debased, and unfit for self government. Then will come our Caesar,-and then

And in the meantime, the saintly, slept the eternal sleep. scholarly city of Lincoln may be depenced on to elect any yellow dog that runs for office on the republican ticket

The complete works of Robert Browning have recently been published in a single volume by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. The typography of the volume is very clear and the paper and binding tasty and substantial. I am glad thus to see Browning put in reach of all classes of people, and, as this volume is published at a very moderate price, would suggest that Lincoln culture, which has so signalized itself by its greedy appreciation of "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush" and the "Prisoner of Zenda," might still further evince its existence by adding Browning to its visiting list.

The doctors disagree. Our duty as a "Christian nation" toward Venezuela does not seem to be clearly marked. One minister arises in his pulpit and declares that we will be acting in an unchristian manner if we take one of two possible courses, and another minister at the same time declares our action will be reprehensible if we take the other course. It seems a clear case of "be damned if you do, and be damned if you don't."

Said Dr. Rowlands, sermon last Sunday:

"Venezuela is a turbulent, half-civilized and half-savage, misnamed 'republic' in South America," and he declares that:

"So far as the interests of civilization, morality and religion are concerned, it would be a blessing if the British flag waved over every inch of Venezuela."

Rev. C. M. Shepherd, on the other hand, says:

"In the relation of kinsman he always is to be condemned who fails of brotherly kindness. Nay, more, the sturdy man In human gore imbued." who refuses to answer the appeal of a sobbing child in the hands of brutality wins the lasting contempt of fellowmen, and this nation in its strength slowly puts to death a young and strugthe dictum of a Rotshchild or a Carne- gling republic without men feeling contempt for its selfishness.

We trust war will not be, yet it is to legislation and favoritism that would be preferred to a dishonorable desertion

These words would indicate that the

first speaker does not agree with Dr. Rowlands that the interests of "civilization, morality and religion" require British conquest and domination of Venezuela.

Rev. Shepherd evidently believes with Corruption, shameless dishonesty and the great body of liberty-loving Ameri-

of the few. And the many,-they who King Pelf will never permit it. But the back. Our government has declared The citizens of Lincoln who voted for boldly and firmly that America is for Frank Graham and prostitution and American rule, not European aggrandfending which they speak for their gambling and bad government, because izement. We have said that we will they were on the republican ticket, and protect American self-rule, if need be, against morality and good government by a resort to arms. The oppression because they were running as demo- England metes out to India and Irecrats,-they are the real criminals, land she can never plant on American They are the cause, -Frank Graham, soil-not even though the best interests of civilization and religion require it.

> The mourner in a darkened room bowed in grief above his dead. He wept for her who was gone, and in his sorrow he found no grain of comfort. immorality. Tomorrow, and that a She was dead, and he would see her no more forever.

> > He was old and bent and wrinkled. His poor, thin hand shook as with a palsy, and the tears rolled slowly down his face and fell on the face of her who

> > And he who wept lived again the days that had gone by,-days happy and full of joy. He looked back through the long vista of the departed years and saw her who now lay cold and still walking with him hand in hand, a maiden, through quiet groves and along grassy lanes as the sun sank low in golden splendor. He lived again the years they had lived together and together builded a home, toiling and struggling on and on through the heavy days and weeks and months, sustained and comforted in life's hardships by the comradeship of a perfect mutual sym-

> > And now she was dead and gone. He was alone. Then, in his grief, he dreamed a dream,—and all was well. He saw the dead alive, revivified. She walked through grassy pastures, along quiet streams-and waited for him. In some mysterious way death had been overcome, and she over whose body he was bending even then, in the beauty and radiance of her maiden youth, awaited his coming on the further shore.

So was the mourner comforted. His dream became real to him. He called it instinct. He looked on the world, and lo! it glowed and gleamed in the soft and loving hues of the amber and the I M. RAYMOND, violet.

And while he lived his life and dreamed his dream, while he saw the world through the seven hued arch of radiant hope, she who had died, was dead. Only the dreamer did not

"But see, amid the mimic rout

A crawling shape intrude! A blood-red thing that writhes from out

The scenic solitude. It writhes!-it writhes!-with mortal

pangs The mimec become its food, And the angels sob at vermin fangs

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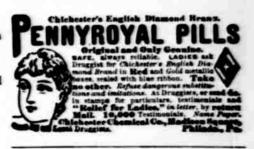
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