

to it and the club will not pluck or condition, though there are certain rewards of appreciation and recognition that members bestow on able and conscientious work that are not despised by the most ambitious.

In considering the benefits and emoluments of culture clubs, I have heard of a number of young women graduated by the university of Nebraska who have returned to their homes in the small western towns of the state and refused to join the clubs established with a view to help themselves and others by women who love culture, but who have lacked the collegiate opportunity to acquire it. The reason given was the insufficient one that university graduates had nothing to gain from associating with those who were trying to make up to themselves what fortune had refused them earlier.

Now culture that cannot be shared with or used for society is not worth the price that each graduate costs the state. A student who returns to the farming or village community which has been taxed for his education and scornfully refuses to contribute in any way to the society whose foresight is educating the youth of the state, repudiates his debt and hinders evolution. He is a thankless beggar because he has been associating with the best writers on economics, with Shakspeare, Homer and Dante, all of whom gave back again to our use that which God gave them. A truly learned soul yearns to share, to help and to express the first and the last lesson of culture: "Help one another." Besides, it is not true that the unlettered cannot teach the college graduate, who has been separated from the toiling masses in the cloisters of learning. The humble learn more than the haughty though they cannot always spell it. They have been living, loving and toiling, while the student has only been reading and the latter has yet to prove that he has learned anything worth what we have spent on him.

The result of the election is a vindication of those who oppose what is known as the administration party in this city. The three republicans who were defeated can serve their fellow citizens best by retiring into private life along with the other members of the ring which has disgraced the administration. There never was a time till now in the political history of this city when practically all of the respectable portion of the population took a personal interest in the choice of good and capable men to administer the affairs of the city. The defeat of Finley in the first, refuted the slander that a bar tender was good enough to represent that ward and emphasized the fact that even in the first the opponents of the administration are in the majority. Myer's defeat in the seventh is due to the same distrust of the administration and determination to work it out of our system as fast as possible.

With the new council there is every reason for cheerfulness in regard to the water system. The professional experience of the new water commissioner prepares him for the duties of the office which demands more technical knowledge than has been possessed by the politicians who have heretofore farmed it out. H. W. Brown and J. C. Harpham can be trusted to manage the police and fire departments and the saloons, according to the dictates of a good conscience and an enlightened and uncommon common sense. Police Judge Comstock has made a reputation as a champion of justice and right which will be put to many a strain in the police court. But he will be so closely watched by the enemies

he has made that the insidious assaults of police court routine may only toughen the fibre which has helped him to be such a good friend to the taxpayers during his term in the council. Judge Webster has the respect of the bar and that is what no dishonest or incompetent lawyer can obtain. The inexcusable assaults made upon his character by the Call, undoubtedly increased his majority. There is no unprejudiced citizen who does not believe that the interests which the city has entrusted to him are safe. The members of the board of education are especially fitted to administrate school affairs. Taken altogether it looks as if the city's income would be wisely expended in the coming two years.

The scholarly editor of the Omaha Excelsior published a translation of Heine's well known poem- Die Lorelei, which was so literal that nobody who was familiar with the much copied German poem could fail to recognize it. But Mr. Chase, in his airy, graceful style, said:

The following original poem, contributed by Mrs. Alexander Hamilton de Peyster, shows that richly endowed woman to be possessed of gifts of fancy and of versification as great as they are uncommon, and which we cordially commend to those of our friends who write verses and who contemplate favoring us with the fruit of their dalliance with the muse:

The next week when the misrepresented translator had informed him that the poem was so palpable a translation that she had thought it unnecessary to label it, Mr. Chase announced that Mrs. Alexander Hamilton de Peyster's poem is a translation of Heine's Lorelei.

In considering the Spanish question a writer in one of the month's magazines says, that properly speaking Spain is not a civilized country and that in blowing up the Maine the Spaniards were but complying with their traditions. Should we go to war with Spain, that country's history in which poisoning and all other treacherous means of injuring an enemy is recognized as legitimate, our soldiers and sailors would, of course, fight like brave men, not like cowardly savages who have no code in regard to an enemy except to kill him by any means at hand. The Americans would be hampered by their code. The Spaniards can count at all times upon meeting men. The Americans can only safely arrange their campaign upon the basis that their enemies are savages who have shown that they are capable of blowing up a ship full of sailors which was the property of a friendly nation. The Spaniards are as rapacious as the Turks, but unlike the Moslem the Spaniards are not controlled by the rules of temperance which makes of the good Mahometan a man not without conscience. The cruel treatment of the Armenians was partly the result of a religious frenzy. The Cuban insurgents are of the same nationality, the same religion, the same race as their butchers. The Spaniards have shown no mercy to the non-combatants, to women or to children and have no right to appeal to the law of nations. When war is declared Americans can safely track their enemies with the caution and dispatch they would show to wild beasts or venomous serpents.

The wise diplomacy of the president in consulting congress and taking pains to inform himself of the opinions of the senate and house has cooled down the impatient and warlike in congress and out of it. The procedure of President Cleveland was no different that we find ourselves unprepared for such consideration. Mr. Cleveland considered himself

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the state and when he was once convinced that he was right, and those occasions were very rare when he was troubled with doubts, he paid no attention to the dissenting arguments of the representatives of sixty million people. For the past few weeks the special Washington correspondents have been relating how deputations of congressmen belonging to the war party have visited the president determined to tell him they would not stand any more foolishness in this Spanish business and how they have been listened to by him with such gracious consideration, and how they have been convinced before they left that the president was anxious to do the will of the house of representatives, the senate and the people of the United States. Many have gone to see him, but all have left his presence determined to give him the time he asked for and impressed with his exalted patriotism and singleness of motive. President McKinley has been able to sink his own personality in his office. In his public papers pronouns of the first person singular are infrequent and in personal interviews with those who disagree with him on matters of policy his opponents are not irritated by any exhibitions of the impenetrable egotism which characterized his predecessor in the presidential office.

As for giving Spain her ultimatum more quickly, the street corner warriors who advocate war do not expect to fight, and they are at liberty to say what they

like without the chance of their words accomplishing anything more than setting in motion a wave of air which will not stop, it is said, until it reaches China. Having reached the antipodes the little air wave will subside, in spite of the long distance it has come without accomplishing anything. The greater the responsibility the fewer air waves are set in motion. The tendency of men in whom thousands of other men have put their trust is to keep still and act only upon deliberation. The president has been giving directions, which, when he finally says the word, will make a declaration of war with Spain, a very serious matter for Spain. We have seen that it requires several years for the two most celebrated citizens of this country to arrange a little meeting which will settle the dispute as to which is the best man. Such meetings seldom result fatally yet experts do not consider two years an unreasonable time in which to arrange a bloody but not mortal combat between two pugilists. Upon the president's decision depend hundreds of really brave men's lives, millions of money and a nation's honor and reputation. He would be blamed and would deserve blame if he did not try every honorable resource of diplomacy before declaring war. If war is finally averted it will be because of the president's delays which have given us time to enlist men, get war ships ready, build coast defenses and sink mines for harbor protection. With a complete armament on land and sea the United States can demand the independence of Cuba from Spain and there is a strong probability that it will be conceded.