

and the two sons posed behind them and flanked by an aged negro and a small, wistful little colored girl. It is all well enough to paint pictures of the Merrimac hero as he appears at present, but the reproduction of the family album is an indication of a corrupted taste on the part of the public, of bad judgment in the publishers, and a lack of proper reserve in the Hobson family. A distinguished member of a large family cannot provide a halo for his kinfolds. The mighty Napoleon tried it and failed, and the yellow newspapers will have to give it up. The public is only faintly interested in the occupants of the Hobson porch, and the scrupulous part of it must regret that his mother and father, sisters and brother are willing to have the family group on the porch reproduced in the newspapers of the country for the sake of notoriety.

Since colonial days the territory of the United States has been slowly increasing. Beginning with a narrow strip along the Atlantic coast, the colonists bought, and, in some cases, stole land from the Indians. The extension of the territory to the Mississippi and beyond it, the French and Indian war with its territorial accessions, the Mexican grab, the Louisiana and Alaska purchases, are indications of the tendency of a large and growing nation to keep on growing. Having driven Spain out of the Philippines, the inevitable consequences, such as the rights of the inhabitants and the duties of a conqueror, force an American occupation and administration of the group of islands. Those who object to annexation have nothing better to propose. Why should those who believe that in the United States exists the germ of liberty give back the islands to Spain, who has shown by the colonial failures of seven hundred years that Spanish rule is cruel, corrupt, and finally unbearable, or to Germany, whose emperor believes in the divine right of kings, and has established a military despotism so securely that an officer can kill a peasant by accidentally shoving him, or some such trifling rudeness, and only be reprimanded by his superior; or why should we give them to France, whose republican government totters from day to day? There is no reason why the people who have paid for the war should not receive the victor's spoils, except the sentimental one, that it is unamerican. The survival of the strongest is the survival of the fittest. At first, France, Spain, Portugal and the English colonists occupied North America. The others have been gradually moving out until at the present time England and the United States own everything except the extreme southern part of the continent.

The acquisition of the Philippines, Cuba and Hawaii is strictly in the line of development. Their government is a problem, but we can manage it better than Spain has, or than Germany or France could. And there is no reason why we should spend blood and treasure for Germany or France, more especially when history shows that we can do a better job of governing than either one of them.

What will the republicans do in this congressional district? This is a serious question when propounded to republicans, for the situation from their standpoint is grave. It is time for them to consider. If they move on through the congressional convention, which meets here in Lincoln on August 2, according to the plans and specifications laid out by the late Lancaster county convention, they will fall way below their opportunity and come far short of their duty to their

party, to President McKinley, to the nation, and to the intelligent republicans of this splendid district.

What is their duty? What does the president desire? What does the national congress require? What does the nation expect in this year of great achievements from the First Congressional district of Nebraska? And what has the patriotic and prosperous community a right to demand? If the answer could come from the clouds as did the voice from Mount Sinai, it would say, "Send the strongest, wisest, most mature and reliable material you have to the next congress, for there will be work to do there which will require statesmanship and master minds." It is no time for experiments. The nation's need calls for the assembling of her wisest men. Our battle ships, riding the sea, are magnificent. Our naval commanders are superb. Our land forces are game to the last. As a mighty Christian nation at war in defense of humanity, we are challenging the admiration of the civilized world.

This war, with the new environments which it is creating, is ushering us as a nation into new relations with the governments of the earth. The next congress must know how to deal with questions that reach further than the Canadian boundary on the north or the Gulf of Mexico on the south.

The next republican congressional convention, if it thinks a while, as it ought to, before it acts, will consider the increased responsibility which will rest upon the next American congress, and will have very little interest in the personal ambitions of young men who would like to experiment on themselves, believing that with a few years' practice at the national capital they would grow into real congressmen.

The American people have been putting too low an estimate on our national congress. They have sent too many ordinary men there, as if it were a national kindergarten, where beginners could learn statesmanship and grow up with the country.

Nebraska people have been putting too low an estimate on public office. Here in Lincoln, especially, there has grown up a system whereby the conventions choose between those who offer themselves. So many ordinary men are crowded into public notice partly by their own efforts and partly by back ground manipulators, that the real and worthy man, seeing the low estimate which is put upon these positions disdains to enter into competition for them. If the republicans of this district attempt to put into the next congress a man who will lower the general average of ability there, they will humiliate the president, disappoint the republican voters of this district, and fall far below the opportunities of the hour.

The election of Mrs. Lowe of Georgia as president of the general federation of women's clubs over Mrs. Breed of Massachusetts by a majority of more than two to one, threatens to detach the Massachusetts clubs from the general federation. All such amputations are to be regretted and must decrease the strength and influence of the federation, though in this case the effect will be imperceptible to the main body, whereas the limb which has insisted upon the operation will lose vitality and significance. As I said last week the organization has another meaning than the study of arts, literature, or even to satisfy the universal craving for office-holding and newspaper mention. That purpose took definite form, though it was not generally recognized, at the Denver Biennial. The federa-

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tion unites the women of the north, south, east and west. It reveals the universal dissatisfaction with political impotency and the strength of the organized and unified effort which can effect a change. The general federation can do this better than suffrage organizations, because the latter are aggressive and at times bitter. There is reason for both bitterness and aggression in the long refusal to recognize that the principal of representation and taxation applies to every member of the state but the woman suffrage propaganda has not accomplished much in comparison with the energy expended. In the federation woman is learning fundamental principles and practicing parliamentary thinking that will inevitably bring her to one goal. The road does not branch, those who walk in it will have to climb over logic if they wish to go nowhere. If Massachusetts withdraws from the general federation she will miss the inspiration of reaching the promised land in company with those who have kept the middle of the road. Massachusetts has wealth, a large culture, it is philanthropic and in the last analysis, good natured. But it is unsportsmanlike not to play because she cannot name the umpire. She showed her pluck by sending seventy-two delegates and sixty-eight visitors 1,900 miles to help elect her candidate for the presidency. That candidate was considered ineligible not because she was a resident of Massachusetts, but because she has never shown any positive qualifications for the place; because she has exerted all her influence for many months to secure it; because those who knew her best and longest acknowledged her unfitness, and because Mrs. Henrotin, who has more influence with club woman than any other, refrained from expressing at any time approval of Mrs. Breed's ambition. There were many other signs of ineligibility for such an office, such as lack of any personal magnetism or evidences of a

catholic love for her kind and sex. The two little Japanese women whom she induced the Japanese empress to send to America and especially to Denver while the Biennial was in session, were too much in the way of exhibits. They themselves were charming, modest, graceful women and the federation gave them an unmistakable welcome as representatives of Japan while disapproving of their appearance as exhibits. If Mrs. Breed does not use her personal influence against the proposed withdrawal of Massachusetts from the general federation, it will confirm the good judgment of that body in refusing to make her its leader. Such a secession will deprive Massachusetts of the influence in the national council her ancestry, history and present accomplishments entitle her to. The citizens of that state have concentrated opportunities of culture which have been scattered over Kansas and Nebraska prairies, Wyoming's foothills, Colorado's mountains, Utah's long reaches of desert and irrigated farms and Washington's forests. Massachusetts can afford to be generous to the south and the west. She cannot afford to be selfish or sulk like an amateur sportsman.

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