



# THE COURIER

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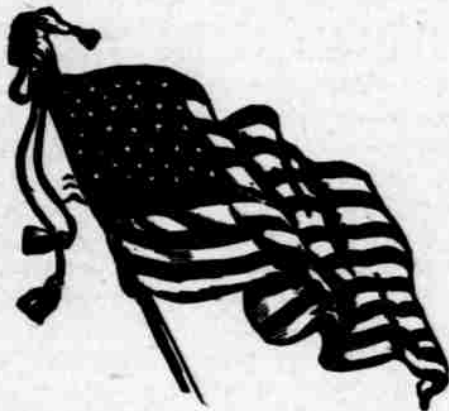
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## OBSERVATIONS.

From all accounts the Porto Ricans are superior to the Cuban half breeds who have so narrow a conception of freedom as to form a plan to despoil and kill all the Spanish residents after the withdrawal of the Spanish forces from Cuba. Porto Rico is flatter than Cuba. There are no dense thickets and mountain passes to conceal an insurgent force. Therefore the inhabitants have been forced to bear the oppression of Spain without the customary uprisings. On the other hand, they are not embittered and impoverished by a long revolution and the Americans will receive from them a warm welcome, unhampered by de-

mands to be allowed to rule despotically. Nevertheless the Porto Ricans "must not forget that their Cuban brothers have fertilized with their blood the tree that will bear them such bountiful fruit."

The State Federation of Women's clubs will be held in Omaha October 11th, 12th and 13th. Mrs Stoutenborough, the president, hopes that the program committee will devote the first day to business with a conference on recommended work, and the following two days will be given up to a congress of clubs. It has been found in previous conventions that the informal and extempore conferences and experience meetings of club members are more helpful than labored addresses and it is hoped that this sort of a chorale may be arranged for the October meeting.

The musical fortnightly to be published by Messrs. Dunroy and Harrison will be out the first of next month. It has been named The Medley and will be a commentary on and history of the musical organizations of the state. It will be a medium of communication between musicians who are frequently isolated in communities not especially interested in music. It is hoped that The Medley will stimulate interest in concerts and melody makers and encourage expression from the musicians themselves. The publishers have the field all to themselves, as there is nothing of the kind in the state. Both Mr. Harrison and Mr. Dunroy are experienced newspaper men and in addition the latter is a poet of ability and fine feeling, whose songs have vogue in this and other states. Their venture has the good will and best hopes of THE COURIER.

If this government cannot stand the test of colonization it is not worth the effort which thousands of brave men are making to extend its influence and assert its right to oppose tyranny when it comes too near this country. Freedom and democracy can be cultivated in any soil and in any zone. It has heretofore blossomed more freely in the temperate zone but with a little culture it will take root in any soil the sun shines on. The God of battle has never had a chosen people but principles which certain peoples have selected to guide them, are, of necessity, a part of the Goodness and Justice which is creative and must eventually be victorious. To resign the island of Luzon to any other government, because we fear that it is too far away to be incorporated with

the United States is a denial of the universal application of democracy. There may be diplomatic reasons why we should surrender the part of the archipelago we have surrounded by our navy and army, but if Spain, with her impossible and antiquated form of government, has been able to hold on to and govern the Philippines, interrupted by revolutions, for more than two centuries, there is ground to believe that we can accomplish the civilization of the people in a shorter time. Orientalism and savagery are obstacles almost insuperable to everything but time, patience and justice. These three can meet any irresistible force and send it spinning the other way. Fortunately our religion is of oriental origin and is thus adapted to the eastern mind, unless we insist upon occidental interpretations. Some missionaries have made this mistake and thus made the vast expenditure of money and effort unproductive. The wise and good Phillips Brooks said when he returned from a trip through China and India that the Bible would never be adopted by the inhabitants of that country until they were permitted to read and interpret it by the light of orientalism. Between Calvinism and fatalism there is not more than a terminological difference, and between Buddhism and the doctrine of love called after Christ there is no more difference, only that Buddhism attempts to designate the dwelling place and the form of the spirit after separation and Christianity does not locate the soul when it has left the body. If evolution is true, orientals can learn the form of self government adapted to hot countries. There is no reason to distrust it as a remedy for the Philippines. Democracy or individual responsibility is the only universal remedy for tyranny and oppression. The islands of the sea will not be the only beneficiaries if they are a part of the United States. From our isolated position, we are in danger of becoming provincial. Protection, which has become a fixed element in American policy, will and must be dislodged, or at least modified by the contemplated expansion. If we are to be respected by the nations of the earth, even as England is, we must tear down the Chinese wall around our trade, even as England has. An empire which stretches two-thirds of the way around the globe cannot legislate for the manufacturers in opposition to the rights of all other classes. Expansion means a diffusion of liberty, and for America the elimination of class legislation.

The establishment of a standing army, enlarged to correspond with Co-

lumbia's greatness and power, will prevent the recurrence of the scenes attending the transportation of the sick soldiers from Cuba to this country. We may never know whose fault it was, though the final cause seems to me to be Secretary Alger's inability to rise to the demands of extraordinary circumstances. The blame has been shifted from shoulder to shoulder, but it as often returns to Secretary Alger, who has only shown the lack of foresight, which has been the undoing of many another commonplace, uninspired placehunter, whose success gives fate a chance to advertise the man's incompetency. However, if the regular army had been large enough for the country, or if the possibilities of the regular army had been exhausted before any political appointments were made, the fatal results of ignorance and unreadiness would have, at least, been mitigated, if not prevented. The beauty of a system is that it runs itself and once in operation, blundering ignorance, in the shape of political colonels and secretaries nominally in control of the system, cannot hurt it much. A moderate standing army, moderate in proportion to the size of the country, with a thoroughly organized hospital corps, will prevent war, will prolong peace and will make us strong among nations. Spain might have listened to our advice and finally to our demands before the war if we had respected our regular army and supported it as every other first class power does. But instead we thought to insure peace by not keeping in condition to demand it, and in consequence Europe classified us as a third rate naval power and Spain as a first rate. Encouraged by these statistics no wonder Spain thought Uncle Sam impertinent when he told her to stop abusing Cuba or he would make her. No wonder Spanish officers dared to blow up the Maine. No wonder that the Spanish thought we were deceived by Mason and Dixon's line and that as soon as the central government was preoccupied with a foreign war, the south would secede again. We did not know ourselves that the line had evaporated so completely until the Spanish began to look for it in vain. The result of the engagement has been a surprise to us and the rest of the world. The surprise should never be repeated and it will not, unless the army and navy are again neglected as useless survivals of a warlike age, which, in reality, still is. The patriotism which was shown by the simultaneous enlistment of the young men of this country was unforeseen and unreckoned upon by foreigners and al-