

upon the federation. To me they were a goodly sight, those women from Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois. They were wholesome and handsome, open-handed and free-hearted. They were as earnest and anxious to please as any of our Nebraska women. They were sincere and frank and cordial. There were no signs of Philadelphia or Boston or New York exclusiveness in their simple-hearted appreciation of Colorado hospitality and of the beauties and glories of the west. They will be long remembered and the lesson of their long journey and hearty assumption of any duties laid upon them will not soon be forgotten by western women who may have had an unconscious grudge against them because they can hear the best music and see Duse and pageants and breathe an atmosphere compound of art, music and literature that educates without effort. But we have forgiven them all this for their sweet service and for their happiness we shall ever pray.

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The assassination of Empress Elizabeth of Austria by an Italian anarchist who is very complacent over his cowardly deed, has induced the governments of Europe to begin concerted movements against anarchists. But against an assassin with a stiletto up his sleeve it is not easy to arm oneself. Among a crowd there is nothing to distinguish him from the rest except unless it be a very dirty face and a super-conceited manner as of one who could have made a better world. The police must perceive more definite signs of suspicion than offensively dirty face and hands and a supercilious manner. They are not trained psychologists who can pick out a man carrying concealed weapons and having designs upon the life of some human being who happens to be of royal blood, by his expression and the faint signs that unmistakably mark a type. Policemen must see the butt of a pistol or the gleam of a dagger before they make an arrest for carrying concealed weapons, and the anarchists, like the crazy men and women they are, conceal their deadly arms very cunningly. The long list of assassinated kings and queens and presidents who have a body-guard more or less complete, at all times, shows that it is impossible to guard against assassination. The peculiar code accepted by anarchists makes it noble to strike down a defenseless man or woman, if he or she happen to be of royal blood. Their honor is dishonored and cowardice to the rest of the world, who do not claim to be able to reform it.

There is no adequate punishment for a crime like Lauchini's. The death penalty is not enforced in Switzerland and if it were the death of an overweening wretch like the murderer would be of no particular significance. A life sentence will burden society with his support but there seems to be nothing else. The incident will probably keep crowned heads out of Switzerland for some years to come. Men like these make the name of republic a reproach, for they use the wider liberty to cloak onerous deeds. Against anarchists of the Chicago and Geneva type a combination of the governments of the earth would be welcomed by any people, however free, but the difficulty of identification before the act would make such a combination ineffectual.

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The investigation committee appointed by the president to inquire into the selection of camp sites and the appointment of volunteer army officers, to investigate the quartermasters', surgeon generals' and commissary generals' branches of the war

department and to locate the blame for the mismanagement of the war, will need strong wills and a genius for system to keep their heads above the mass of documents and the amount of testimony writing for a committee to undertake it. So far as possible the members of such a committee should not be either special friends or enemies of Secretary Alger or General Miles. Upon the strictly neutral and disinterested character of the committee depends the amount of respect the public will have for its final decision. As General Schofield has been a rival of and is known to dislike General Miles it is desirable that he be not made the chairman of a committee which will eventually, as a result of investigation, be obliged to criticize either the secretary of war or the commander in chief. Noting the objections which General Miles makes to the selection of General Schofield as chairman, the substitution of some other man, even though he be less competent and no more fairer minded than General Schofield, will tend to increase confidence in the committee of investigation.

President McKinley's loyalty to his friends is one reason why he has so many. Unlike either President Harrison or President Cleveland, President McKinley is a warm-blooded, sociable man who loves his friends with a warm, human, unexalted friendliness which his election intensified rather than froze. His democratic predecessor was as grateful to the men who had spent money and damaged their vocal chords past repair to secure his election, as a cross-legged Chinese god is to his worshippers and about as responsive. Mr. Cleveland was never impressed with anything but his own infallibility. He considered his service sacred and its own reward. Any favors from him to those upon whose shoulders he mounted to the presidential chair where uncalled for according to his appreciation of his relation to other men, which is somewhat like that of Emperor William's conception of him who is divinely appointed to rule and receive the homage of an empire. Mr. Harrison was not so aggressively and fathomlessly conceited, but he was cold. He made happy speeches and was at his best in assemblies of men. In an office, in his daily intercourse with his fellowmen when he did not receive them in groups, the atmosphere was arctic. The friendliness and simplicity of President McKinley is heightened by the hauteur and isolation of his two immediate predecessors, but absolutely and without comparison he is a man whom other men like. His disposition to remember favors and his uncritical acceptance of men for what they seem to be, probably led him to appoint General Alger secretary of war. The appointment was recognized at the time, by those who knew General Alger, as weak, but if war had not occurred, the secretary's incapacity for large affairs would have been safe from discovery. President McKinley is of course anxious to have his judgment vindicated, but in face of the selection of unhealthy camp and hospital sites and the lack of preparations for the comfort of the soldiers at Montauk Point when the department had more than a fortnight to prepare for them, it looks dark for the secretary of state.

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Whatever the committee may decide the system of political appointments in war time is the main cause of the sickness and suffering. Ignorant volunteer officers, men of subordinate positions in civil life, and of inferior ability were put in charge of a company of men because an uncle or

a father had a pull. If one man is as good as another, it is most un-American to sacrifice a whole company to the ambition of a weakling whose papa has used his influence to make him a captain. Competent officers in the regular army have been passed over in order that unpatriotic governors and congressmen may exercise their prerogatives of patronage. To their appointees added to the helplessness of the head of the department is the cruel loss of life due.

The volunteer soldiery were picked men, flawless according to the doctor's certificate. All men with latent difficulties were rejected. It is therefore unfair to compare the percentage of deaths to that in a crowded city community. Youth and youth at its strongest was slaughtered at Chickamauga and Montauk Point by selfishness, and the patronage system made the murders possible. The republic has broken faith with those who were ready to die for its glory and it is time to acknowledge it in order to make its recurrence impossible.

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For how many years the deceased wife's sister bill has sought repeal in the English house of lords is not known known to me, but probably the interdiction has been the cause of many a widower leaving his native land to marry his sister-in-law in a foreign country, who might, otherwise have married out of the family. It is said that the tendency of man to break or evade a nonsensical, sumptuary law is inducing widowers in vast quantities to marry deceased wives' sisters. The law is accomplishing what it was designed to prevent, except in the case of deceased wives' husbands who lack the means of escape to a foreign country for the celebration of the nuptials. Such being the facts of human nature and the history of the conduct of widowers in England, it behooves the bishops and other clergy, who are the chief opponents to the annulling clause, to reflect that their pious opposition is really creating an artificial demand for the deceased wife's sisters and tends to a monopoly of eligible men by one family. Class legislation is deprecated by all students who reflect upon the principles of free government and deceased wives' sisters have done nothing to deserve the snap granted them by this law, and our free-born single English sisters have opposed it for a century. It is said they are marshalling their forces for a combined attack on the British parliament this fall.

The opponents of enforced vaccination will succeed in their efforts to repeal a bill which they accuse of being a serious invasion of their natural rights. Compulsory vaccination has prevented all but a few sporadic cases of smallpox and the number of these is constantly decreasing. When so trifling an imposition as compulsory termination of so loathsome and so deadly a disease as smallpox, the few rudimentary anarchists who are never ready to sacrifice an opinion or an abstract and irrelevant principle for the general good, should be ignored and the beneficent law upheld. If the compulsory vaccination bill should be repealed and the deceased wife's sister's bill again repulse, the attacks of the spinsters of Britain, the coincidence will be another commentary on the conservative tendencies of the land of mutton, ale and squires.

Mrs. Van Buren—Don't you think Mr. Wabash is just splendid? Such nice company, you know.

Mrs. Lake Shore (coldly)—I never thought so. He was about the most disagreeable husband I ever had.

#### CARL SMITH.

For nearly three years the seventh column of the Chicago Record's editorial page has been filled every morning of the paper's publication with the inimitable whimsicalities of Mr. Carl Smith. Only a few hours have passed since the angry rapids of the Saguenay beat the life out of his strong young body, and his unfettered laugh is not yet hushed in the ears of those who knew him. His spirit seems diffused about the walls of his home, and one would not embarrass him with words of sentimentality nor slip into hackneyed expressions of commiseration that would arouse his ever ready sense of the ridiculous.

Carl Smith was a hard-headed, pernaculous little boy, who realized at an early age that he was at the bottom of things. He determined to climb, though he was handicapped by having a number of persons to drag with him. But he sacrificed his childhood to this determination, and was bearing a man's burthen when other boys are playing ball. This was, perhaps, the reason that after he reached manhood he had a quality of singular childishness, as if he were trying to wrest from fate that which it had endeavored to withhold. He knew almost nothing of schools, yet at fourteen he was a telegraph operator and at twenty-one a newspaper writer of recognized ability, the possessor of a strong and picturesque vocabulary and the power to read German, French and Swedish. The person who saw him upon the street, with his eccentric dress, his careless air and his infantile blue eyes, might have thought him the most confirmed of provincials. But he was in reality a natural cosmopolitan, and if his duties had taken him among the Zulus he would have managed to get at their point of view, and would presently have been explaining them to themselves.

Mr. Smith was "set up" in the east, as his friends, the printers, would say, but his matrix was cast in the west, and he had a western man's way of going at things. He entered journalism by writing an advertisement for the World-Herald of Omaha which won him the prize—a gold watch—and made people wonder what he meant. The people were not able to make him out, even after his rhymed baseball reports were the talk of the country. Omaha was unable to decide whether he was a fool or a genius, nor did it gather much illumination on that subject till certain well-known eastern publications began to print his poems and his sketches. But this disregard of his abilities did not distress Mr. Smith. It probably amused him—almost everything did. If he had an antagonist he unseated him with a jest. If he had a friend he lavished his spontaneous witticisms upon him. When success came to him he took it as a sort of joke. Meantime, before success came, he made himself jack of all the newspaper trades. He could set a stickful of type to fill a vacancy in a column while the stereotypes waited—and the Typographical union boys gaped. He could sketch a recognizable portrait or make a fancy sketch on a chalk plate and save the credit of the "art department" when the artist was ill; he could manage a linotype, "make up" a paper and meet any possible emergency of a newspaper office. His resources were only equalled by his bravado. On one occasion Mr. Peattie, who was then managing editor of the World-Herald, sent him to Schuyler, Nebr., where there had been a lynching. Mr. Smith reached the town at a quarter of midnight. The prominent citizens who had participated in