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OBSERVATIONS.

Mr. Thompson's delegation (it is a misnomer to call it the Lancaster delegation) oppose a caucus with an optional, secret or open ballot, for the reason that anybody who votes secretly will rest under the suspicion of having voted for Mr. Thompson. This delegation, according to the daily papers, naively asks, "Why should a legislator desire to vote secretly if his vote is not for Mr. Thompson?" The inference is that Nebraska republicans will have a grudge against any man who votes for Mr. Thompson and that, in self-protection, the blame must rest on the caucus rather than on the individuals composing it. But it is somewhat unusual, is it not, for a candidate's own supporters to be quite so frank? Mr. Field's and Mr. Hayward's support is a self-respecting open advocacy which fears neither detection nor future reproaches.

Any man or woman with a sense of humour or of pathos can make an effective appeal to children. They will laugh or cry, instigated thereto by the most ordinary elocution and defective logic. Not because they are not bright but precisely because they are. Their imagination is new and unjaded. They are unacquainted with the aspect of suspicious circumstances. When an orator, after awakening their interest or sympathy in a cause, asks them to give of their small store of pennies, unless restrained, they would empty their banks at his requests. Since the fashion of savings banks came into vogue the public school children have been the constant object

of schemers. This country is quite able to build battleships and take care of its soldiers. The rules which protect children and prohibit teachers from making appeals to the children should be strengthened. Because of their tender age, their quick sympathies and lack of distrust the children should be protected from designing men and women who are willing to use the child's ignorance and responsiveness to accomplish their own ends. The habit of saving nickels and pennies is of questionable benefit. Whereas spending them is to children an unalloyed delight. In later life when thrift has accumulated thousands there is no especial joy in spending. If the grasshopper has not danced when the summer and flowers made a warm ballroom of out doors he never will, because winter and dearth comes in the fall when all grasshoppers must die. Habits of economy and saving are all very well, but they will not avail against destiny, and it is a pity to spoil a grasshopper's short frolic by fables and exhortations. Those who have spent their income in making themselves and others happy and later have felt the need of their savings, to procure the necessities of life, are seldom heard from. It is only those who have toiled to reach an eminence of prosperity that strike an attitude when they reach the top, and tell the hungry people, below, how it was by denying appetite and youth and desire that such an altitude was attained. The hungry below do not often answer back because it is a prominent citizen who speaks. If they did they might tell him of the morning, of the fragrance of unselfishness and of sympathy with their kind, and of their unwillingness to exchange his smug satisfaction for their experiences.

One of the suggestions concerning the statue of Lincoln which it has been proposed to erect in Lincoln is that the teachers in the public schools be asked to address to their pupils an eulogium on the life of Lincoln and their debt as small citizens of a united and powerful country to the man who was shot after having wiped out slavery and effected what is just beginning to be a reconciliation between the north and the south. It would be easy to work the children for such a theme. The pathos and the real greatness of Lincoln's life children will appreciate quickly and the impulse through which great singers receive gifts of flowers and jewels will lead the children to empty their hoards at the feet of Lincoln. Nevertheless such an appeal to the children should not be permitted.

It is not quite clear what it is that the little Americans desire this country to do. In fact they are shrewd enough to give no advice at all. It is surmised that they want the president and congress to accept the twenty million dollars that we agreed to pay

to Spain and take our soldiers and sailors and go home, leaving the country for Aguinaldo and his fellow conspirators to establish whatever kind of absolute government they have power to. The Philippines have been left on our doorstep and we can not abandon them without receiving the just condemnation of the civilized world. It is neither the intention of congress nor of the president to bring them up to wait on us in a tyranny worse than Spanish. Exactly how American freedom is to be transplanted and cultivated in the Philippines, nobody knows. That it will be transplanted and will eventually be tended by brown hands just as jealously as in this country, nobody really doubts, not counting the little Americans. We cannot establish an absolute government and ignore the natives. Just give us a chance and a little time and we will demonstrate that we wish only to trade with the Philippines and that we feel responsible for the maintenance of good order there. For the rest we will not interfere with the law nor with the customs, nor with the religion of the people. Grover Cleveland, Senator Hoar and that set, profess to believe that there is an elaborate plot to destroy local self-government in the Philippines and to ignore the natives. In reality the administration is seeking to harmonize and combine democracy with the native crudeness and savagery. It is a most difficult task and the president should be assisted by the theoretical believers in democracy and the supporters of the foreign missionary system instead of being denounced by them.

The controversies between Admirals Sampson and Schley, between Generals Miles and Eagan, and between Secretary Alger and all of them, has made plain one thing, that the best man was across the sea in the harbor of Manila, neither jawing nor sulking, nor giving interviews to newspapers, but in control of the situation at all times. Admiral Dewey has had a long training, which, added to his common sense and inclination to taciturnity, distinguishes him above all other soldiers who have fought and conquered in this war which has started discussions and investigations enough to last many years.

The Miles court of inquiry seems to be going about its work with a definite intention of discovering something. The members are under no obligations to the president or secretary or to General Miles. There is a general impression that a thorough job is going to be made of this attempt so that it will not need to be done over again. The industries connected with beef, beginning with raising and ending with canning and exporting, have been injured by General Miles' charges that the beef was embalmed or chemically treated. Nevertheless if the

charges are true the loss does not signify, if men are worth more than money. To be sure, wherever the two have been pitted against each other men have got the worst of it, but hope will never die that an occasion will arrive where men shall be considered of more importance than commerce. If the beef was not chemically treated General Miles was hasty in ascribing its repulsive appearance and smell to chemicals rather than to a tropical heat. If it were embalmed, it still took a brave man, even if that man commanded an army, to call the beef embalmed and arraign against himself an army as large as his own, supported by over a hundred million dollars. That army is composed of the ranchmen, transportation companies, packers, and exporters of cattle, and their wealth is the sum of the profits made by them. The investigation has proceeded far enough to show that General Miles is of a hasty temper and lacking in patience and the judicial temperament. The commissary was an untrained and irresponsible body of men, who refused to assume responsibilities made necessary by the sudden enlistment of so large a body of men. Experienced train dispatchers would have forwarded the supplies and not allowed them to accumulate in yards and on wharves while the army was clamoring for them. But these most important and high salaried positions were bestowed upon favorite sons of politicians and the result was just as predicted, when the appointments were made. General Miles, feeling that Secretary Alger was discriminating against him, may have made his charges on insufficient evidence. If he did the court of inquiry will gladly make such a finding, both on account of the large interests involved and because the villainy of such conduct on the part of the packers is inconceivable.

The amount of work done by a circulating library book in a year depends upon its popularity, newness and upon the reputation of its author as well as upon the rules of the library which owns it. An average volume is taken out to be read ten times a year. In an instructive and interesting article on libraries in Literature by Marrion Wilcox, she says that a map has been prepared of one of the branch distributing public libraries showing how far people will go for a look. On this map a dot indicates approximately the place of residence of each person who draws books from that library. The shading made by these dots is heaviest just around the spot which shows the location of the library, and becomes rapidly lighter as the distance from the library increases in any direction. Practically all of the dots lie within the circumference of a circle drawn from the library as a center, with a radius of three quarters of a mile. The conclusion is, therefore, that people will not go more