

if there was to be any government at all, and they went no further back in their analysis than the states which were the constituent members of the federal Union."

Individuals, democrats and republicans, the country over, admit that men are not born equal; and individuals, democrats and republicans, the country over, admit the limited application of self-government. But when politicians and some editors express themselves on these subjects it is charitable to believe that they hesitate to express their sentiments for fear of being misunderstood by the fetish worshippers. At any rate, Mr. Bryan advocates what all men of affairs recognize as an impossible American policy in the Philippines. What Mr. Bryan calls "an easy, honest, honorable solution of the Philippine question," is thus outlined: "First, to establish a stable form of government in the Philippine Islands. Second, to give independence to the Filipinos. Third, to protect Filipinos from outside interference." Mr. Shaw points out that the first proposition contradicts most of the oration which Mr. Bryan chose to deliver at Indianapolis. "If, indeed, the Filipinos possess, as he affirms, the absolute right to govern themselves, then we can have no business to establish a stable government, or any other kind of a government among them. Aguinaldo and his supporters have asserted all along that they are eminently capable of establishing their own government, and that our business is simply to clear out. The administration at Washington and Judge Taft's commission, now in the Philippines, made up of democrats and republicans alike, are doing all in their power to establish a stable government in the archipelago. Mr. Bryan's second proposition does not mean anything, because it is sandwiched in between two other propositions, which recommend radical limitations upon independence."

#### Make-Believe.

I know who the anti imperialists are, but I do not know what they are. It has been asserted that Europe and Asia have lost confidence in the integrity of this republic, that Europe and Asia are now indubitably convinced that Americans, as represented by the administration, are piratical land-grabbers and tyrants. Russia and China are the largest and richest nations in Asia, and England is an over-balancing part of Europe. The Chinese administration cannot be accused of credulousness. The system of espionage employed in China and the baffling, incomprehensible character of Chinese diplomacy may be accepted as a indication that they do not bestow undeserved confidence upon either their fellow-citizens or foreigners. Yet the Chinese turn with instinctive and irrepensible confidence to representatives of the United States in this, the greatest crisis of their history. And Russia exhibits the same confidence in American integrity and loyalty to democracy. England expressed the mind of Europe when Admiral Dewey first sailed into Asiatic waters. It is timely to remind some Americans of our Asiatic and European reputation, for some Americans make believe that the administration has broken with tradition and blackened American fame with the nations of the world.

#### French Women and Clubs.

Mrs. May Wright Sewall reports a most successful mission to France. She says, in an interview taken from The Sun and reprinted on another page of this paper, that the French women, or rather the Paris women,

do not need clubs. They already take an intelligent interest in national affairs, and they talk about them with aplomb, and a clever French woman's opinion on affairs is sought and respected. The French woman has a salon, wherein her guests entertain her and each other by a flashing wit and by keen observations. The French hostess never strains her powers of invention to provide an amusing game for her guests to play. Progressive euchre parties are unknown and tidilywinks and all other toys made for the amusement of a company with crude ideas of the pleasures and possibilities of conversation were made for the American trade. Mrs. Sewall is an enthusiastic club woman. She is convinced that their successful propagation will hasten the reforms which will be apparent when woman takes a hand and an interest in the management of the world. And when Mrs. Sewall says that the French women do not need the social stimulus of clubs, it is comparatively certain that she is right.

#### Savagery.

"The thickest ice that ever froze  
Can only o'er the river close;  
The living stream lies deep below  
And flows, and can not cease to flow."

The philosophy expressed by the foregoing stanza is exemplified in some part of this country nearly every day, by mobs, or white-caps, whose desire to kill is not restrained by any fear of a mayor or a governor whom they have elected and who wish a re-election.

Kipling and Henry Seton Thompson testify that a pack of wolves chooses a leader and he convokes the pack to kill an offending, law-breaking wolf. When the leader himself grows too old and weak to lead the pack, it kills him. But while he is leader, he is obeyed. American mobs have not the self control of a pack of wolves. An American mob, composed of ruffians and loafers, is allowed, whenever it gathers, to hang and burn and torture the innocent if its victim has been spirited out of town. The members of such a mob are not punished. The anarchists at Chicago who fired upon and killed the policemen were finally convicted and hung, to the relief of all-America. It was a unique retribution, the only instance I remember wherein a mob gathered to kill and, killing, was punished by the execution of its ringleaders. The St. Louis mob killed men and boys, and tore the clothes from poor women, some of whom were on an errand of life and death. Yet the murders and assaults are unpunished. The property the mobs destroyed will be paid for by industrious men and women who are misled by socialist cant, which is in the way of conferring despotic power upon men who ought to be walking with the lock step to and from their meals, and of allowing them to plunder other men whose industry, energy and brilliant gifts for attending to their own business have made them capitalists. The industrious, the saving, the law-abiding get ahead, in the long run, only to be derided by a mob whom the servants of the people are afraid to restrain. A recognition by officers and officials that it is only necessary to scratch the skin of the average man to find the savage might prevent some of the mob-murders and save millions of dollars worth of property. If somebody must be killed every time a mob gathers to lynch a negro without a trial, efficient officers could provide the mob a victim from among the rioters themselves. If the officers, en-

trenched behind stone walls, were in the habit of killing avengers, mobs would be harder to raise and communities might gradually be purged of the loafers that compose the grown-up part of mobs.

#### Their Opinion.

The Czar of Russia is a man of few words, carefully selected, so that there is little need of their revision and a new edition. He notified our state department that Russian troops would evacuate Peking immediately. The Russian minister's communication was not conditional upon the consent of any other nation. There is no suggestion of trading or of conditions. It is a communication to the state department of the United States from the Russian minister through the Russian representative in this country, stating that "Russia has directed the Russian minister to retire with his official personnel from Peking, that the Russian troops will likewise be withdrawn, and that when the government of China shall regain the reins of government and afford an authority with which the other powers can deal, and shall express a desire to enter into negotiations, the Russian government will also name a representative for that purpose." By leaving the Chinese to regain their own equilibrium, the czar has shown that the Peace Rescript was genuine. By his instant and preferred avowal to the United States of his intentions in regard to China, he has exhibited a trust in this country and a sympathy with and understanding of the administration that all Americans might emulate.

#### A Decent Respect.

The low standard of propriety held by the average reporter vulgarizes still more a life which is sordid and vulgar enough anyway. Where a family's, or church's, or individual's right ends, is settled by the reporters, and they are influenced only by the amount of space they are expected to fill in the paper. The Presbyterian church of this city has been discussing a change of pastors. The members of the church and the pastor expressed the desire to settle the matter themselves without newspaper notoriety. Fifty years ago, or even thirty years ago, publishers of newspapers still had respect for the proprieties of life. They left the president of the United States some parts of the White House, nor ventured to photograph him without his consent. "A decent respect for the opinions of mankind," is a phrase in a book to most reporters. Their copy is, of course, unsigned, and frequently has all the impudence, cowardice and self-righteousness of anonymous letters. A family or a church in trouble, especially if they show a disposition to make it up by compromise and conference, have an ethical right to insist that a discussion of their affairs be not published, at least until a settlement has been reached. The reserve, self-control and resistance of the prelates and bishops of the Catholic church in dealing with unscrupulous reporters are admirable. The efforts of the pastor and members of the Presbyterian church and elders of this city to keep the speeches made in a quiet little prayer-meeting to themselves were unavailing. The matter was written up in the cheaply exultant style of a police reporter who is quite sure he is right and willing to go ahead.

Reporters—not all reporters, an occasional gentle-man strays into the business whose breeding resists the

associations, exigencies and temptations of the job—plume themselves in print for the unworthy, unmanly tricks that tear secrets from breasts that would hide them.

Every other winter the Nebraska legislature passes about a hundred bills—they average about a hundred, taking the last five sessions as examples of the capacity of the modern Nebraska law-maker. It is curious that with the addition of a hundred bills every biennium, applying to the rules of some department of activity or life, nobody knows any difference. There would be no money in it, but if the press could be restrained from interfering with private affairs, without interfering with its liberties in regard to public affairs, much mischief would be averted. After all, the question is one of discrimination and good taste, and no law can infuse that quality into an individual or a newspaper. But it is odd that in the rapid manufacture of laws not one is made to enlarge the freedom of the individual. Most of the laws that are passed at such large expense, and with so much noise of argument, are restrictive of individual liberty.

#### Not Demi-God Nor Devil.

In 1896, all that large part of the nation out of work was willing to accept any sort of a suggestion that promised relief. A drowning man, a starving man, a man desperate from any cause whatever, does not commonly exercise his best judgment. Therefore, in 1896 Mr. Bryan acquired, rather easily, the status of a prophet and a Moses. This year he is obliged to re-establish his reputation, in the face of the failure of his prophecies. Moreover, he is now confronted with a well-fed, busy people, who could, were the opportunity afforded, give concrete answers to his theories. There is another reason why the stations, at which Mr. Bryan's train stops, are not crowded with people. Americans are as curious as antelope, and they have all seen Mr. Bryan. Presumably those who do attend the Bryan meetings, are those who were in Europe four years ago this time, or were sick-a-bed and did not get a chance to see him. There is little doubt that the apathetic audiences who respond to Mr. Bryan's invitation to listen to his diagnosis of what ails them, are not convinced that they need any treatment at all, such is the influence of prosperity on a full stomach. The apathy of a republic on the brink of an empire is incomprehensible to Mr. Bryan, and he is surprised by the absence of curiosity and of interest in him all over the country. As he is neither the president of the United States, nor demi-god, nor devil, it is only natural that he should have become an old story. Other and greater men have suffered the same shock after a period of dizzy popularity. Mr. Bryan is a good citizen, an impeccable family man, a good "provider" and a kind neighbor. All these he is, and he has, besides, extraordinary gifts, as an orator. He can not only write a very creditable "piece," as Mr. Dooley calls it, but he can deliver it brilliantly and effectively, and his inspiration, in the act of delivery, does not stale. His is not cab-wit that occurs to him when he is going home after the occasion for it is past, but he replies without catching his breath, to the questioning heretic who intends to embarrass him. Nevertheless, he is not the man for president of this country. When he was a lawyer, he was not a case-winner and even his friends—and he had many—took their important law cases to some other practitioner. He general-