

graph had been agreed upon, the document was sent to a committee on Style who revised it with a single eye to its literary finish and distinction. After the instrument left the hands of the polishers, the convention received and adopted it, the members signed it and it was ratified by nine states. After that no change either in the substance or style could be made without using the cumbersome machinery provided by the document. This machinery is so difficult to set in motion that so small a correction as the use of a singular verb after the United States instead of a plural one is not likely to be made, although the change would be in the interests of truth and to the confirmation of what time has already accomplished.

\* \* \*

#### The Town Meeting

The Fourth, Fifth and Sixth wards held large meetings last week at which some of the candidates for the council were present. The scandal of the present council has been so great that men who ordinarily do not pay any attention to the primaries and vote their party ticket straight on election day attended these ward meetings in order to interrogate the candidates and find out if possible if they were inclined to represent the city or a corporation. It was an exhibition of civic interest and responsibility that demonstrates a healthful condition of the body politic. The present council was apparently unaware of the disapproval with which a large part of the membership is regarded by honest men of both parties. These ward meetings were attended by disgusted republicans who spoke their minds very freely. It is one of the glories of the republican party that when a republican office-holder neglects his duty, or steals, or hoodles, or becomes the tool of a corporation and forgets that he represents the people and only the people, the voters who elected him do not shield him. On the contrary the criticism from his own party is more severe than from the democrats or populists. In the fourth ward, Mr. Bacon, whose record is considered especially objectionable by his own party, did not attend the meeting, Mr. C. Y. Smith, a candidate from that ward, did. Mr. Smith is suspected of being a tool of the gas company. The voters who were quite seriously endeavoring to select a suitable candidate from the Fourth asked him some questions about his connection with and obligations to the gas company. Mr. Smith's replies were flippant, and out of harmony with the purpose of the meeting. No criticism has been made concerning his ability and good faith so severe as his own replies to the questions addressed to him by the Fourth ward voters. In accepting the services of a man who considers that he is really too good for the place, but that it is his duty, considering the taxes he pays for other people to represent the property in the council, the people felt that they were running too great a risk and accepting too much of a sacrifice from a young man.

The Americanism of a ward meeting is a survival of the old town-meeting, and of the witenagemot where the citizens met and expressed their minds about measures and politics. A candidate who can not appreciate its dignity and historical significance is unfit to represent anyone but himself. He is an egotist and forever foreign to our institutions. Humility and the consciousness of himself as one in many, of no more importance than the unit of democracy, is the first requisite of a real American citizen. The representative of the people is a servant and if he objects to the word and his preliminary examination it is an indubitable sign that he is not fit for the place to which he condescendingly asks his fellow citizens to elect him. Mr. Smith is a young man, and for such there is sometimes salvation. But political preferment seldom waits upon the superior young man who announces in a card to the public that he does not particularly care for the office to which he invites it to elect him and that, if so-minded, the ward may nominate someone else.

The city is a corporation and very frequently the interests of a corporate city conflict with the interests of a gas, or a traction, or a telephone, or a railroad corporation.

The representatives of the city would do well to imitate the conduct and the policy of the employees of a railroad company. Railroad employees, from the higher officers to the lower ones, as a general thing serve the company faithfully. They represent the railroad company and its interests at all times. They do not attempt to nominally serve the company and actually try to bankrupt it. A few conductors hold up fares, but considering the thousands employed, theft is very rare. Whereas an absolutely incorruptible council, a council as devoted to the interests of the city as the railroad employees are to the company is very hard to find.

\* \* \*

#### The Schley Case

The president's revision of the Schley case is comprehensive. As he is a just man and a brave one it is idle for those who comprehend the president's character to claim that he was influenced in his decision by anything except the desire to declare the truth. Schley's partisans sincerely believe that an organized clique exists at Washington which has the confidence and support of the administration and of the higher naval officers, whose *raison d'être* is the elevation of Sampson and the degradation of Schley. When men express themselves as aggrieved by the treatment which Schley has received they do not profess a knowledge of the facts in the case, but they answer all references to the loop and to the fact that Sampson was the commander-in-chief, according to the testimony of all the ship commanders, by saying that it is all a part of the same plot to belittle Schley and exalt Sampson.

One captain or lieutenant commander might have joined a diabolical cabal to obstruct justice and give the credit of

the victory to a man who had not earned it, but it is inconceivable that the President, the Secretary of War, the admirals, and the former President McKinley were members of this cabal. President McKinley in consultation with the Secretary of War, appointed Admiral Sampson commander-in-chief of the Atlantic squadron. The President expected to live, to complete his term of office and to retire with the consciousness of possessing the affection, gratitude, and respect of seventy-five million Americans. Moreover and above all, President McKinley had an exacting conscience. He was generous to his fellow man. When the police were mauling the man who had shot him and while his own life blood was spurting from the wound President McKinley said, "Don't let them hurt him." Is it likely then that he would join with others to do an injustice to a man with the naval record and the personal loveliness of Schley?

Notwithstanding his generosity the President appointed Admiral Sampson to the command of the squadron that he hoped would capture Admiral Cervera's fleet because he thought him the best man for the place. In such a supreme decision at such a moment, no American can believe that the President was actuated by any other motives than those wholly based on the welfare of the American cause.

"A war cloud was gathering from over-seas, and soon its shadow might shroud the nation. It was for us a national question of right and wrong, and if the storm must break, it were well to be prepared. The brunt would bear first upon the weakest arm of the service—our untried navy. The President called his counsellors about him and there were long deliberations. If war must come the ships must be put in order and the commander-in-chief appointed. The President read slowly down the list of naval officers. Finally his finger stopped. "There is the man," he said, "He should be the commander-in-chief of our provisional battle squadron." The name was far down the list. It was ranked by a score but the President said: "I'll make him a rear admiral if it ever comes to the point." The war cloud was not coming out of Spain. The President was not William McKinley, the head of a republican administration, jumping Sampson over the heads of some of his senior captains for partisanship, or favoritism or what else. The president was Grover Cleveland. The time was 1894, and he was jumping Sampson not only over the heads of a few captains, but of nearly all of the captains. Cleveland then had never seen Sampson." (Condensed from The Sun of February 8.)

The war was averted, but when war was actually declared against Spain another administration was ruling this country. But the republican President selected the same man that the democratic President had designated as his choice.

Sampson has never been a popular man. He is an aristocrat although of very humble birth. He is pharasaical and oratorical where Schley is modest and democratic. But the virtues and faults alluded to have nothing to do with the case. The President tried to select the greatest naval commander in the service and the verdict of posterity will doubtless ratify his judgment. The weight of contemporary judgment is against Schley. The commanders of all the other ships, the Secretary of War, three presidents, and almost without exception the voice of every naval officer, from second lieutenant to rear admiral, pronounces Sampson the greater man. Sampson's snobbery, the silly telegram in which he announced the destruction of Cervera's fleet, and claimed the whole credit, and the letter to the Secretary of War, wherein he advised against promoting warrant officers, however able, because he feared their lack of social graces would discredit the United States in foreign ports, as well as his failure to correct the MacClay proofs, are responsible for the prejudice against Sampson which most people feel. He has shown neither simplicity nor generosity, and he is not just. For all these faults the American people condemn him, but it

is fortunate for those same people that it was Sampson and not Schley who was in charge of the squadron that blockaded the harbor of Santiago.

Whether they like it or not the American people are forced by their good sense and by events to finally accept the verdict that has been expressed by the men best qualified to render it. They have said again and again that both in the battle and during the blockade and chase which preceded it Schley blundered, and although we like Schley as a man and brother we are forced to accept the decision of eye-witnesses and of naval authority in regard to his capacity.

## CLUB NOTES

### THE WEEK'S REVIEW

The art department of the Woman's club met on Wednesday. Mrs. H. M. Bushnell talked of ancient and modern sculpture.

\* \* \*

The Round Table met Monday evening with Mr. A. J. Sawyer. The subject discussed was, "Central Bank with Branch Banks, and power to Issue Asset Currency." The leader was Mr. John B. Wright.

\* \* \*

The Fortnightly met Thursday afternoon with Mrs. A. J. Sawyer. Mrs. W. G. L. Taylor was the leader, subject, "Constitutional Aspects of the Relations between the United States and Dependencies."

\* \* \*

The regular meeting of the Woman's club will be held Monday afternoon at Walsh hall. The election of club officers, and of delegates to the national and state federations will consume the time for the meeting so there will be no program. A full attendance is desired.

\* \* \*

The Candlelight club met Monday evening at the Lincoln hotel. The commercial relations of the United States and Japan were discussed with Mr. O. J. King as leader. New members elected were Auditor Charles Weston, Messieurs J. B. Horton, H. O. Barber, I. S. P. Weeks.

\* \* \*

The members of the Matinee Musicale and their escorts occupied boxes, and a large part of the parquet at the Hoffmann recital last night.

The next regular meeting of the Matinee Musicale will occur Monday, March the tenth. A Bach and Beethoven program will be given under the direction of Mrs. R. A. Holyoke and Miss Haywood.

\* \* \*

Mrs. M. H. Everett returned Thursday from Washington, D. C., where she went to attend the annual convention of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Mrs. Everett represented the Lincoln chapter, of which she is regent and acted as state regent in place of Mrs. S. B. Pound, who could not attend the meeting. Mrs. Pound was re-elected state regent.

\* \* \*

The New Book Review club met on Wednesday with Mrs. J. H. Stevens. Mrs. W. M. Widener gave a fine review of "Kim," which received many compliments from those who hear it. Miss Howland gave a biographical sketch of Rudyard Kipling. Mrs. Warner sang a pretty song, and Mrs. Elias Baker contributed to the enjoyment of the afternoon by singing some of Kipling's poems set to music. The club will meet next with Mrs. C. H. Warner.

\* \* \*

The W. R. P. C. club met last Friday with Mrs. O. R. Eller and Mrs. H. E. Gregory at 2816 T street. Mrs. I. M. Heckler, vice president, was in the chair. A song by the club opened the program. Mrs. Maple conducted the lesson, Mrs. Eller and Mrs. Maple played a piano duet, Miss Green read a paper on "The Passion Play," Mrs. Rush read a poem, "The Schoolmaster's Guests," Mrs. Sinclair read a paper on John Winthrop and music was rendered by Mrs. Maple, Master Harold Baker, and Miss Florence Butler. Blue and white refreshments were served.



The Dr. Bailey Sanatorium.

Thoroughly equipped and beautifully furnished—every electric current useful in treatment of sick—ideal Turkish, Russian, and Medicated Baths—only non-contagious chronic diseases received. This institution is not a hotel, not a hospital, but a home.