

to a friend in the following words: "Oh-o-h Jim! Ma hat blew into the creek!"—Theodore Roosevelt, in Scribner's for February.

THE OCTOPUS, THE SHARK AND THE LITTLE FISH.

A Shark, while swimming at a great distance from his Home, came upon a small Fish which was struggling in the Grasp of an Octopus. The Spectacle roused his Moral Indignation, and biting off one arm of the monster he compelled it to relinquish its grasp. Impressed with the tenderness and edibility of the Fish, he was on the point of swallowing it, when the latter protested, and seeing escape impossible weakly tried to bite. "Base wretch," cried the Shark, "have you no feelings of Proper Gratitude." Therefore a policy of Benevolent Assimilation was immediately ratified.—Springfield Republican.

THE IMPERIALIST, THE MUGWUMP, AND THE ETHIOPIAN.

An Imperialist and a Mugwump while traveling together (for a short distance) came upon an Ethiopian who was attacked by a Robber. Running quickly to the rescue, they threw stones at the Robber, and made him surrender his Booty. Struck by the beauty and value of his possessions, the Imperialist said to the Ethiopian, "All these things were Ceded to us by that Robber, and we will extend to them a Benevolent Assimilation. In return, let me give you this Bible." The Ethiopian, on this announcement, desisted from his Protestations of Gratitude and picked up his Club. The Mugwump, who had listened to the Conversation, timidly protested against robbing him of what he had been fighting for. While they were still debating the question, the indignant Ethiopian began to lay about him with his Club. "There," said the Angry Imperialist to the Mugwump, "your treason has excited this man to Open Rebellion." Then he made an end of the Ethiopian.—Springfield Republican.

ONLY CERTIFICATES OF OWNERSHIP.

"Last week," says the New York Journal of the 4th inst., "Mr. Rockefeller made \$5,000,000 in one day by the rise in the price of Standard Oil certificates. Yesterday he lost \$18,000,000 by a drop in the price of the same securities. And the country was neither a cent richer nor a cent poorer any of the time, nor did the amount of actual, tangible property owned by Mr. Rockefeller vary by the weight of a feather."

Stocks and bonds certify that the holders may lawfully collect toll from labor and property. But in the true sense they are not property. There are billions upon billions of them in existence, yet everyone of them might be destroyed and there would be just the same amount of property and wealth in the world as before.—Dubuque Daily Telegraph.

THE REPUBLIC THREATENED.

In what cause do Dewey's cannon roar? In the cause of human disfranchisement. The Filipinos demand the right to select their own government by popular election. They have been fighting for it for years. Dewey's guns are shooting down that demand.

In what cause do Dewey's cannon roar? In the cause of a government which does not "obtain its just powers from the consent of the governed."

The first gun fired in Manila on last Saturday threatened the extinction of the republic, and the elevation upon its ruins of a colonizing empire, whose acquisitions of territory will be in defiance of the will of its people. A republic whose attempts to rule a people without its consent or extending to it the franchise is a political inconsistency, a civic paradox, an economic hermaphrodite, a state doomed to decay in infancy or to develop into an imperial monster.—Judge E. F. Dunne, President of the Monticello Club of Chicago, before the Club, Feb. 11.

A PARABLE.

A certain very rich man said unto himself: "I have many interests, and I will turn over the most important of them to a body of men whom I'll choose for a year or two years, and I'll call them a legislature." And he did it, and went on his way. And the body of men met, and they made money with the rich man's goods, and sold some and mortgaged others and despoiled others. And the sutlers and lobbyists flocked around as vultures around a carrion, and the rich man remonstrated and held a mass meeting and screamed himself hoarse. And the body of men looked at him derisively and said to itself: "Surely we have worked for these offices, and they are ours, and you can't put us out, nor reverse our acts, but are bound by them." And they laughed in their sleeves at the rich man.

Again an election came round, and the rich man chose another set of men of the same sort, and having untrammelled power. They did likewise. And many moons waxed and waned, and the rich man did not seem to learn by ex-

perience, but really he was growing very angry; and at last he rose up and said: "I will choose you as councilors, but you shall do naught that I do not wish, and you shall do the things I wish, and I'll veto any acts of yours that I do not like by the referendum, and if you will not pass the laws I wish I myself will start them by the initiative."

And the latter end of that man was better than the former.—Eltweed Pomeroy.

WHERE SPAIN IS DEGENERATE.

An extract from an article entitled "An American in Madrid During the War," by Edmond Kelly. Published in The Century for January.

It is not the Spanish people which has degenerated; it is its governing class. The Spanish peasant is the finest fellow in the world. He is thrifty, sober and industrious, the only peasant who produces wine and drinks water. He makes, or used to make, the strongest infantry in Europe; until the battle of Rocroi it was proverbially unconquerable. Since then defeat has for centuries attended Spanish arms. The reason is not far to seek. The Spanish peasant is to-day almost as ignorant and as bigoted as he was in the sixteenth century; the opportunities which have been extended by wise governments in other nations have been refused to him; he remains poor when those of his neighbor France grow comparatively rich. He still plows with wooden plowshares, he does not know the use of manure, and a somewhat infertile soil hardly leaves him the barest necessities of life. Spain produces an average of 11.13 bushels of wheat to the acre, while England produces 29. Now, if the peasant is the best thing in Spain, and the government the worst, what must the government be?

The first thing that struck me on crossing the frontier—and the impression deepened as I advanced—was that Spain is industrially as much in the hands of foreigners as Egypt. The gage of Spanish railroads is not the same as that of France, so there is a change of cars at the frontier; but the Spanish car bears upon it in the middle the arms of England, and at one end the words "dining car," and at the other the word "restaurant." The name and place of its manufacturers are also inscribed upon it, namely, "Societe Internationale des Wagons-Lits, St.-Quen, Seine." Upon the engine we read the name of a Glasgow firm. In Madrid the finest private building was con-

structed and is still owned by an American life assurance society; the only good circus is known as the Paris circus. Most of the mines as well as the railroads are worked by foreigners; and the very garbage of Madrid is removed and disposed of by a Belgian company. Industrially as well as agriculturally, Spain, with the single exception of Catalonia, remains stationary, while the rest of the world moves on. And the question, what factor in the nation is responsible for this? is perhaps best answered by the proposal seriously made by the administration of finance, as late as the eighteenth century, to transfer to the crown the little property still devoted to public education.

THE PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC.

The so-called Philippine republic was first organized in October, 1896, with Andreas Bonifacio as president. When he died in 1897 Aguinaldo became president and commander-in-chief. The act of proclaiming a republic thus early involved a declaration of independence, proving that independence had been contemplated by the Filipinos long before Dewey's victory. The pact of Biaonabato in December, 1897, between the insurgent leaders and the Spanish government provided that comprehensive reforms should be granted by Spain, in consideration of which the insurgent generals agreed to expatriate themselves for three years. The conditions thus imposed on both sides were very similar to those of the treaty of Zanjón by which the Ten Years' war in Cuba was brought to an end. The only feature of the pact which does not seem creditable from the western standpoint is the fact that the insurgent leaders accepted from Spain a sum of money in consideration of their expatriation. Aguinaldo's defense against the charge of bribery is that the insurgent leaders had lost all their property by fighting Spain, and yet had families to support. They were to go as exiles into strange lands. It does not seem unnatural or necessarily proof of a lack of patriotism, that a payment of money should have been demanded under such circumstances by the men who were to exile themselves. Aguinaldo deposited the money in a bank at Hong-Kong in an above-board manner, thus letting the world know of his possession of cash.

At any rate, Aguinaldo was not regarded as a traitor by his own people because of that transaction. They rallied to his standard with enthusiasm when he returned to Cavite in May, 1898. He again proclaimed the so-called

Philippine republic on June 12, and in August last he and his chiefs appealed to the world's powers for recognition of independence. The full text of that appeal was printed in the New York Tribune, September 24, 1898, proving beyond a doubt to the United States government and the American people that the object of the insurrectionist party was independence. What do the contradictory reports of United States consuls detailing private, unofficial conversations with insurgent chiefs amount to beside that august appeal to the world for recognition of independence?—Springfield Republican.

AN ELEPHANT STORY.

For The Public.

Once upon a time a great menagerie company quarreled and fought with a much smaller similar company, and came out victorious. The more powerful corporation was called the Uncle Sam Civilization Company, and the weaker one was the Hispanola Animal Show.

After the fight, and the surrender of the conquered corporation, the former belligerents spent several months trying to agree upon terms for a permanent peace. The General Manager, who was also President of the Uncle Sam concern, insisted that more elephants were needed in its collection of wild animals. It already had several elephants on hand, which were named, respectively, Finance, Indian, Negro, Trusts, Strikes and Landlordism. These elephants caused the menagerie managers a great deal of trouble, for they were never in a settled condition, though sometimes it was supposed they were quieted permanently. The biggest, oldest and toughest elephant in the list was Landlordism, and that one caused more expense than all the others.

And yet the President and directors of Uncle Sam's menagerie decided that the corporation must have a big, wild elephant belonging to the Hispanola Show, called Philippines. Now, this animal was a reckless creature, with a notion that it had a right to be free, and could take care of itself. So it had long resisted Hispanola authority, and caused trouble.

Yet the managers of the Uncle Sam show demanded that elephant, and were determined to have it. The demand was refused, but the Uncle Samites said to the other fellows:

"We shall take possession of the animal, anyhow, whether you consent or not. We have whipped you, and can make such terms as we please. That elephant is ours by right of conquest.

However, there is nothing mean about the Uncle Sam company, for it is a highly civilized and Christian corporation. So we will give you \$20,000 when we take the elephant. Our stockholders will be assessed extra on their stock to make up this amount, but they are accustomed to such things and can stand another turn of the thumbscrew. Remember, that we have a right to take your elephant, money or no money; but here are the \$20,000 we decided to give you. We will now take possession of the animal, and proceed to whip him till he is submissive to our authority and thoroughly imbued with our kind of civilization."

At the present time the stockholders in the Uncle Sam Menagerie are divided in opinion as to whether the President and directors bought the Hispanola elephant, or stole it.

RALPH HOYT.

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 8.

SINGLE TAX NEWS FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

For The Public.

In Glasgow the single tax stands better than ever. We still have our majority at the corporation, which has not only petitioned parliament in favor of taxing land values, but prepared a bill to submit to parliament on the subject.

It took time to get this length. The political thought of the city is with us, however, and there was no help for the council but to pass the bill. The opponents of the proposition at the council did splendid service by their obstruction. The discussion of it from time to time by the Glasgow corporation has had a wonderful influence in educating the public mind all over the country. They did what we found it difficult to do for many reasons. They sent the question through the newspapers into the homes of the people, and now the man in the street is expecting the taxation of land values.

It even brought the question before our local professors (heaven save the mark) of political economy. One of these gentlemen was asked about a year ago by one of our vice presidents, James Stewart, how he treated the question of taxing land values at his class. "Oh," replied the professor, "I am dead opposed to that." "What have you read on the subject?" asked Mr. Stewart. "The speeches, at the town council," was the reply. These speeches, as you can imagine, account for many things. Is there not a grim humor in the fact that the Glasgow corporation, which is appointed to see that the streets are kept clean, should stir a pro-