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LOUIS F. POST, Editor.

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The eternal fitness of things was exemplified on the 11th in Washington when Gen. Shafter, before a Presbyterian club of early pietists, said this regarding the Philippine situation: "My plan would be to disarm the natives in the Philippine islands, even if we kill half of them in doing it; then I would treat the rest of them with perfect justice." It would be interesting to know what Gen. Shafter's idea of justice is, and what those pious young men think of Christianity.

One of the New York papers publishes a Washington interview with some member of the senate committee on foreign relations whose name is withheld, in which the person interviewed says: "If I were the executive of this government I should order the arrest of Messrs. Agoncillo and Lopez to-morrow morning." Agoncillo and Lopez are respectively the representative of the Philippine republic and his secretary, who are now in this country. The ground on which their arrest is advocated is a published interview in which Agoncillo gave it as his opinion that the Filipinos would never consent to become a dependent colony, and that their soldiers would not lay down their arms until Aguinaldo tells them to; and in which also he asserted that American consular officers had promised the Filipinos absolute independence as soon as the islands were taken from Spain. In the same interview, when asked if the Filipinos would resist annexation, he refused to express an opinion, but said he hoped that all differences would be adjusted in a friendly manner and bloodshed

avoided. The imperialistic idea has truly made long strides, when a senator of the United States can on such ground advocate arbitrary arrests. Is Caesar so near at hand?

The administration is beginning to show a better disposition toward the Philippine question. Instead of the belligerent news items which have been coming from the white house and the war department ever since the Filipinos captured Iloilo, we are now favored with inspired prognostications of a smoother presidential policy. This change was emphasized by the speech of Senator Foraker in the senate on the 11th, in which he intimated, as one authorized to do so, that the president has no purpose of setting up a government in the Philippines by force, and maintaining a perpetual colonial system there; but intends only to take possession temporarily as a necessary precaution against the greed of Germany, which has a fleet in the neighborhood. It must be remembered, however, that the president himself makes no such declaration. If he should, it could not be overlooked that he has more than once repudiated solemn declarations. His declarations are less significant than his actions, and they will yet bear watching. Incidentally, let us inquire how we could hold the Philippines only temporarily, without at some time hauling down the American flag, which the president has said must never be hauled down anywhere.

Despite their jubilant exclamations about prosperity, the newspapers themselves are squeezing down wages and dropping men from their pay rolls. This era of prosperity has only a dismal message for the working masses. Often enough we are told that any man able and willing to work

can find work to do if he hunts for it. It is false, as every man out of a job knows full well. It is false, as every man with a job instinctively feels, feels with such a fullness of realization that he would lose his manhood almost rather than lose his job. But even if it were true, what would it prove? Would there be any comfort in the fact, if it were a fact, that any man able and willing to work can find work to do if he hunts for it? Time was, and not long ago either, when men able and willing to work were being hunted for. The demand for them was persistent. Lazy men, even incompetent men, then found it difficult to avoid work. No one needed to hunt for it. From that condition to one in which the able and willing can find work only if they hunt for it is a distinct descent. If that indicates the direction in which the world is moving, conditions are coming, even if they have not yet arrived, when able and willing men will not be able to find work though they do hunt for it. It is only a question of keeping on.

And we are keeping on at a steady gait. The struggle for existence becomes every day fiercer and more horrible; and every now and again the sensitive among us are shocked by some novel manifestation of the pressure of poverty. Hardly have we become accustomed to having our boots blacked by women, when other women, urged on by the baying of the wolf, startle us by appearing upon the streets as walking advertisements. Fancy 20 or 30 women got up in headgear of the sunbonnet type—probably to hide their faces—and with gowns of bright colors covered with glaring advertisements, parading city streets after the manner of "sandwich men," and you have the latest sensational testimony to poverty's increasing pressure. Many