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CURRENT COMMENT.

What the Press is Saying of the World's Happenings.

Need More Room.

We should adopt territorial expansion because of the need of more room. It may be said that our own continent is not yet overcrowded. True, but it is more completely filled than the older parts of it were at any of our previous periods of expansion. If our people in 1803, when Illinois was a Territory, felt the need of more room across the Mississippi, there is more need for room now when we have three States with two millions and a half of inhabitants on the Pacific.—*New York Journal.*

Would Be Absurd.

Ex-Senator Sherman has sounded the key-note of whatever opposition there may be in the Senate to the ratification of the peace treaty in his declaration that it will be absurd to pay $20,000,000 for the Philippines. Very little has been said about this provision in the forecasts that have been made as to the fate of the treaty in the Senate, and it does not appear to have been taken seriously into the account, but there is no other point of opposition so serious as this, except the actual taking of the Philippines. How much opposition may develop on the subject of paying for the islands is still a problem. There may be so much as to delay the ratification for a long time or even to defeat it.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

An Educated Suffrage.

Every Southern State which contains a large body of ignorant inhabitants should take measure to restrict suffrage to those who can read and understand the organic law of the land. This is really no hardship. Those who are ignorant but ambitious to exercise all the rights of citizenship, can easily qualify themselves. So far as the negroes are concerned, an educational restriction would only provide them with a fresh incentive for securing an education. More than that, it would for a time, remove the race problem out of politics, where it has proved to be such a disturbing, such a dangerous factor, and this alleviation would go far toward settling the whole question. This is so clear that the most intelligent of the negro leaders do not offer any opposition to plans to restrict suffrage.—*Atlanta Constitution (Dem.)*

A Long Sentence.

Moore, the New York robber, gets nineteen years. It is doubtless one of the longest sentences for the crime ever made. Here is a man of excellent family, educated in a college and given every opportunity, and yet he ends in jail, with what is practically a life sentence. It is even worse than that, for we must think of the good men and women who are his relatives and who must suffer most keenly for his crimes. There s a touch of sadness even in the Christmas joys!—*Baltimore American.*

The Present Development.

The present development of the American character is the very same which England underwent in the great days of Elizabeth. The ferment through which the national spirit then passed left its rich results—not oply in the deeds of soldiers and statesmen, but also in the pages of Shakespeare and the other men of letters who look small only because they have to suffer by comparison with the supreme creative artist. Is it too much to hope that American literature and art may derive a similar result from the tremendous events which the last twelve months have brought in their train—that the American pen will be tipped with a finer fibre, the American brush and chisel acquire a subtler and surer touch, because the courage and limitless self-sacrifice of American soldiers and sailors have lent a novel dignity and splendor to the flag? We cannot think so, but prefer to believe that the eyes of this nation, looking out upon a wider horizon, will be gladdened by the sight of those grander and fairer forms of thought and fancy which belong not to an age but to all time.—*New Orleans Times-Democrat.*

WHEN FINIS COMES.

When Finis comes, the book we close,
And somewhat sadly, fancy goes,
With backward step, from stage to stage,
Of that accomplished pilgrimage.
The thorn lies thicker than the rose!

There is so much that no one knows—
So much unreached that none suppose;
What flaws! what faults!—on every page,
When Finis comes!

Still—they must pass! The swift tide flows,
Though not for all the laurel grows,
Perchance, in this be-slande ed age,
The worker, mainly, wins his wage;
And time will sweep both friends and foes
When Finis comes!

—AUSTIN DOBSON.

THE MERRY HOLIDAYS.

These are the days when the old King dies,
King Year, with his locks so white;
But there's never a tear in his sparkling eyes
Nor a break in his voice to night.
He has run his race and has reached his goal
He was all that a King should be—
And he laughed at death, and with merry soul,
"He calls for his pipe and he calls for his bowl,
And he calls for his fiddlers three."

—*New York Herald.*

Two Pointed Questions Answered.

What is the use of making a better article than your competitor if you cannot get a better price for it?

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Farmers and Merchants National Bank.

EASTON, Md., Dec. 6, 1898.

Notice is hereby given to the Stockholders of this institution that an election will take place at the Banking House on TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1899, between the hours of 11 a. m. and 1 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of electing directors to serve for the ensuing year. F. C. GOLDSBOROUGH, Cashier.

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TOWN TAXES FOR 1898 MUST BE PAID.

The act of Assembly passed at the last session provides that town taxes MUST BE PAID by January 1 succeeding the year they were levied. If the taxes for 1898 are not paid as above, I must immediately proceed to collect them by legal process.

C. E. NICOLS, Collector.

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The following letter from Mr. N. M. Tabor, the we known Colorado millionaire is well worth your consideratio

Denver, Col., January 28, 1890.

GENTLEMEN:

In reply to your favor of the 25th asking for my estimate of the value of life insurance, I beg to say that I carry a large line for two reasons:

First, No man is infallible. Some misfortune that he cannot ward off may take from him his accumulated fortune, whether it be large or small; and a policy, such as I have, would afford a competence for old age.

Second, I consider that one dollar of cash to an estate in event of death will usually save two dollars to the estate.

Yours truly,
N. M. TABER.

Life insurance lifts mortgages.
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