

of intellect is only equaled by her largeness of heart, and who takes a liberal view of all public questions.

It is not the purpose of the "News" to engage in a discussion of this particular matter, and what it has to say has general application. The act of osculation is doubtless as old as the sexes, certainly as old as the human race since it evolved from barbaric conditions. A practice thus fortified by long usage, even though opposed in toto by a great many on sanitary grounds, is not to be wholly condemned nor brought under reproach. The only question for those occupying the proper medium ground would seem to be as to when and by whom kissing could take place without objection except from the class spoken of who object altogether and without making any exceptions. When a young man and a young woman are engaged in proper form to become husband and wife, a kiss now and then (when no one is looking!) can scarcely be opposed, at least successfully; while the kiss which passes between parent and child and is sanctified in that pure and unselfish regard which is born but never made, is too sweet and holy a thing to be questioned. The kiss of a husband and wife, when not for form's sake merely and without affectation, enters into the circle of things from which all other parties are excluded and becomes the private affair of the two alone. Promiscuous kissing is highly objectionable and not altogether free from reproach; this has reference to either sex and to all ages and conditions. Even among the juveniles whose social games contain a pretty big percentage of that diversion, and where it is not so decidedly wrong, it ought to be curtailed to something approaching reasonable limits.

It may be said with justification that a young woman who under ordinary circumstances would permit a young man to whom she is not related to kiss her, or an old one either except for some very unusual reason, would show an impulsive disposition to a degree approaching painfully close to the danger line. This situation would be emphasized if she went beyond permitting and asked him to do it, and would be still more emphasized if the one so solicited were not only not a relative but not even an acquaintance; and the climax would seem to be reached if it all occurred in a public place.

There often is, as usual in such cases, some allowance to be made. One of these is when no actual harm is intended or thought of, the other when the "party of the second part" has all at once become a conspicuous hero and thereby, through a rule of society, permitted to do many things with comparative immunity from criticism that plain folk are not supposed to engage in. Even then it is a bad practice, however innocent and thoughtless the parties to its execution, and its badness does not lie altogether in the act itself. It is a development of man-worshiping that amounts to sycophancy and addresses itself chiefly to those who lack innate dignity. It is quite possible to give a fitting meed of praise to those who do praiseworthy things; to bestow upon them encomiums which do not descend to flattery and applause which is not the mindless clacuating of the varlet or swashbuckler. The heroism of any man or woman stands out more acceptably to the thinking part of our race and to posterity when free from any of the meretricious surroundings spoken of. Besides, this is a republican nation where upright acts are the title deeds to honorable prominence and station and where the individual at no time and under no circumstances is greater or less in a political and social sense

than any of his fellows. Adulators, fawners and those who by any means cause a man to be "lifted up in the pride of his heart" because of some splendid achievement do him no good and the cause which the forefathers set out to make an enduring fixture among the institutions of mankind some little harm.

TWO POINTS OF VIEW.

Dr. Depew and Colonel Ingersoll have both spoken on the subject of our policy with regard to the Philippine Islands.

The former believes we ought to retain them, as a religious duty; the latter thinks the so-called law of the survival of the fittest demands of us to keep the prize.

Dr. Depew said:

"It seems that God came to the conclusion that the horrible tyranny that was clouding the fairest portions of the earth for three hundred years must cease. He has decreed it as clearly as if written in letters of fire strung in the clouds that we must teach our civilization to those who are falling under our protectorate as we would teach children."

Ingersoll is quoted as follows:

"There are other islands over which our flag now floats. A certain class in this country are afraid that we will grow. We can afford to grow. Of Porto Rico I say: 'Keep not for the purpose of oppressing people but to enlighten them. Manila bay we have made too valuable for any one else to hold. It is ours. The inferior races must go; the law of the survival of the fittest rules.'"

What a difference in premises, and yet substantially the same conclusion. One maintains that our destiny is to bring the Gospel of our civilization to a benighted race; the other that we wipe them out as unfit to live. "The inferior races must go," says the infidel.

PEACE.

The proclamation of President McKinley providing for the cessation of hostilities with Spain will be hailed with joy throughout the United States. The war was commenced for the purpose of liberating an oppressed race. The people realized that as a nation we had the same mission as a man endowed with physical strength has to strike down a ruffian who beats a woman or a child and refuses to desist. That mission was accepted with enthusiasm and it has been accomplished. The President's proclamation is the announcement of the triumph of a just cause.

The conditions Spain has agreed to are the relinquishment of all claims of sovereignty over Cuba; the cession to the United States of Porto Rico and all other Spanish islands in the West Indies, and also one island in the Ladrões. The fate of the Philippine Islands is to be decided by a commission and the United States is to hold Manila pending such decision. These terms are so moderate that they should insure the lasting friendship of Spain for this country. Wars often have resulted in deadly enmity between nations for long years, as, for instance, between treatment of a conquered foe by the treatment of conquered foe by the victor this time should have a lasting effect for good. There should be from now on a desire on the part of Spaniards to learn more about the Americans and their marvelous institutions.

The war has cost this country a great deal. It commenced on the 21st of April and the expenditures for the

army and navy up to the present date is estimated at about \$150,000,000. But this does not represent the actual cost. The New York Sun estimates the actual cost to this country at a total of \$943,000,000, as follows:

Current war expenses.....	\$400,000,000
State expenditures	15,000,000
Private contributions	15,000,000
War claims	20,000,000
Loss of soldiers' productive labor	100,000,000
Interest on war debt.....	90,000,000
Pensions	300,000,000
The Maine	3,000,000

This is an item that cannot, in justice to people of the United States, be left out of consideration when the peace commissioners meet and the question of the final disposition of the Philippine Islands and the debt Spain has saddled on her colonies come up for consideration. This country cannot justly be asked to relieve Spain of a portion of her financial burdens, or to renounce all claims to such compensation as Spain can give in lieu of the expenses incurred.

The exit of Spain from the West Indies may be considered another surgical operation—one similar to many previous ones—by which a kind Providence is seeking to stay the cancerous disease of which the nation is suffering. In the middle of the sixteenth century, Spain was the greatest empire since Rome in its most illustrious period. She ruled the oceans and swayed the destinies of Europe. With the reign of Philip the disintegration commenced. Before he died his country had lost nearly all her dependencies in North Africa, and then Burgundy, Naples, Sicily and Milan were wrested from her. In 1609 the Netherlands were lost; in 1628, Malacca, Ceylon, Java, and other islands; in 1640, Portugal; in 1648 all claims were renounced to Holland, Brabant and parts of Flanders; in 1649 were lost Maestricht, Hertogenbosch, Breda, Bergen-op-Zoom; in 1659 Ronsillon and Cardague were ceded to France, making the Pyrenees the boundary between the two countries; in 1668 to 1672, the last of Flanders was given up; in 1704, Gibraltar was lost; in 1791, the Nootka Sound settlements; in 1794, San Domingo; in 1800, Louisiana; in 1802, Trinidad; in 1819, Florida; from 1810-21 were lost Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Banda-Oriental, Paraguay, Patagonia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, San Salvador, Haiti and other islands pertaining to the American continents. Cuba and Porto Rico complete the long list of territorial losses in this hemisphere.

When Spain again shall have peace she would do well to consider the conditions which have caused all the disasters. Great Britain has, during this time, grown in power and prestige among the nations of the earth. The United States has attained the proportions of a giant. Germany has risen to a first-class power, while Spain has constantly been subjected to amputations. Let her seek a cure by letting in a flood of light in her national sick-chamber, and with it the fresh breezes of this century's civilization. Give the people an education and an opportunity to develop in an atmosphere of liberty. Strike down the bars of superstition and prejudice. Then there is hope. Spain may never again be a great nation, but under proper conditions her people may become happy and prosperous.

THE CHAIN LETTER FRAUD.

A friend of the "News" handed in a letter today soliciting subscription for "the ice plant auxiliary" in connection with the Red Cross society. The letter is one of a so-called chain of letters.