

ALL EYES ON WASHINGTON.

The field is marked out, the lines are laid, the forces and munitions are in readiness and most of the leaders are chosen for the battle royal which begins in Washington on the 7th of next month. That it will be such becomes more and more evident as the time draws nearer; likewise the probability that it will not end in a day nor a week nor any other time less than several of them becomes stronger and stronger, as the aims, ends and dogged determination of the contending forces become more apparent. No matter; since it must be a fight, since a sectional contest must be fought with the Mississippi river as the dividing line and the South drifting incidentally with the West, let enough time be taken to fight it to a finish.

It is truly stated by an eastern paper that from all sides attention is directed to the United States. If bi-metalism is definitely abandoned here it will be useless to make a fight for it in Europe until gold monometalism has worked its full consequences on the people. The lesson may be—in fact, it cannot fail to be—an exceedingly costly one, but the world may be spared it if this country has the courage to stand by its convictions and insist that the industrial majority shall not be made the bond slaves of the gold-owning minority. After the first week in August the eyes of the world will be turned toward Washington; after the fight is all over they will be turned more than ever to the great West.

The Argonauts of '49 had a smooth and unencumbered pathway to prosperity compared with that of the knights of Argenta of recent years. The gold of the former attracted the people, the civilization and means for swift advancement all along the line to the land where the metal was produced, so that after the first year or two of hardships and privations the burdens incident to gold-getting were rapidly and steadily reduced, and in half a decade California was a more desirable place of residence from any point of view than almost anywhere else in the country. But the silver producers have a different history. They did as much to bring solid prosperity to the land as any other body of workers on the continent. But for the steady and ceaseless stream of wealth which flowed from the Comstock and its surroundings, it is questionable whether today there would be an East to oppress either the West or the South by iniquitous financial legislation; there might have been two governments instead of one, and the North deprived of the South would have had all it could do with all its resources—silver included—to maintain its commercial standing on this continent. Silver, if it did not save the nation, was a most potent factor in such salvation and it was never discredited or disgraced till the very men who welcomed it then concluded that there was more money in the situation for them by making silver a secondary money subject in all respects to the first. Then, by starting the false cry of over-production the infamy of demonetization was practically accomplished. "Over-production" of money! There never

was such a note sounded within the walls of civilization before, and after the session of Congress which begins next month we trust it may never be sounded again. "Overproduction" of money—good, constitutional money, not rags—when all the gold and silver combined that we have and can get, do not equal the interests on our debts and the volume of our daily traffic!

We firmly believe that the present financial constriction is in the play—that a pressure must be brought to bear to force the repeal of the Sherman law and when "hard times" are widespread the people and their representatives are prone to consenting to anything that amounts to a change. With that repealed and nothing better to take its place, the goldite conspirators would have the game in their own hands; and before it could be undone the amounts that they would wring from the hard hands of the country's toilers would be as colossal in bulk as the means employed were despicable.

That is the gage of battle—is it not a royal one?

ACCEPT NOT THE FALSEHOOD.

About the close of last year there appeared in an Omaha periodical an alleged encyclical letter of Pope Leo XIII "to the Jesuits, patriarchs, primates, archbishops, and other ordinaries in peace and communion with the apostolic see of the entire world." The letter, which consists of a little less than a thousand words, begins, with a clause explaining its purpose: "For the temporal reign of the future popes, in the land discovered by Christopher Columbus, known as the United States of America;" and concludes as follows: "Given at St. Peter's, Rome, on the 25th of December, 1891, the fifteenth year of our pontificate. Leo XIII, pope."

Despite the evidences of fraud and forgery in the clauses quoted, evidences which would at once be noticed by any one familiar with the Catholic church and its officers and system of church government, there were many who were deceived by the document, and in rabid anti-Catholic circles it made something of a furor. The fact that its tone was altogether treasonable and its teachings ridiculous and contemned the Constitution, laws and government of the United States and affected to absolve Catholics from all allegiance thereto, seemed to make no difference as to the degree of authenticity accorded it by those who wished to believe it. All such shut their eyes to the inconsistencies it contained, the absurdity of the teachings set forth, and the all-important fact that whatever charges may have been made heretofore against the Catholic church, it had never been accused or deemed capable of such idiosyncrasy as this document would have established. Other papers were found gullible enough or malicious enough to reproduce the article, and notably among certain second-rate and narrow-minded sectarian journals it has received extensive circulation.

At the time of its first appearance, a non-Mormon friend brought it to the

News for publication. Just then there was a desperate effort under way here to erect a mighty bug-a-hoo fabricated out of a union of church and state. Our friend, who was too sensible to credit any such nonsense as the Utah malcontents tried to conjure with, was nevertheless inclined to think there might be something in this Catholic scheme. "At any rate," he concluded in reply to the editor's unwillingness to circulate so transparent a falsity, "you have an chance to show that if, as your enemies assert, the Mormons have such plans of temporal conquest and theocratic supremacy, they are not without numerous and distinguished company." We declined to use the document on those or any other terms until our doubts as to its authenticity could be removed.

Recently the same article, published in another paper, has been again handed in with the request that it be used in the News and commented upon. The former part of the request is again denied; the latter part is herewith acceded to. For, having presented it to the chief officers of the Catholic church in this city, we are able to pronounce the whole thing a base and stupid forgery, false from beginning to end, and to warn against giving it respect or credence. The News takes up the cudgel in this case solely in the interest of truth and fairness, for it knows how swiftly a lie will travel if let alone, much more if reasonably encouraged, and how readily the most outrageous falsehood will be accepted if uttered against an unpopular person, party or people. The occasion is not inopportune for the advice that before according belief to stories affecting the good name and well-being of others—and the more sensational these stories the more necessary the precaution—it is always well to verify them from those most affected or from their friends. It will not do to depend too much on the impartiality of a confessed or convicted enemy; it is not always safe to rely even on his truthfulness.

OFF FOR THE POLE.

Lieutenant Peary has started for Greenland on board the British steamer Falcon, to push his way as far north as possible. His present enterprise represents an investment of \$25,000, all of which the arctic explorer has furnished himself without asking anybody for a cent, a feature of the expedition sufficiently novel to deserve special mention.

When Mr. Peary a year ago visited the northern coast of Greenland, he discovered that that country is a great island, for he saw both the eastern and western outlet of the channel that marks its northern edge. He also found mountain masses torn with jords and majestically raising their heads towards the sky in the distant north, and concluded that they are part of an archipelago, which may stretch perhaps as far as to the north pole. The object of the indefatigable traveler now is to investigate this further and to reach, if practicable, the pole itself.

The Falcon will take the explorers to Bowdoin bay, in Murchison sound, a little east of Lieutenant Peary's camp