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## THE GOLDEN ERA.

Gold has been described by a user of fanciful language as "the celestial fire Prometheus drew from heaven." Nothing could sound finer and nothing be more diametrically opposite to the truth. As a rule, those who flock to new gold fields or lose some if not all of their judgment when they hear of paying and accessible discoveries, would not be drawn any distance nor take the slightest interest in anything which really came from heaven, as an evidence of which its choicest blessings are constantly ignored or slighted in the persistent worship of this same golden calf.

There is no longer any question in the minds of the carefully thoughtful that silver is doomed to comparative disuse except for articles of utility or ornament; this may occur at once or be deferred a few months longer, but that it will come is as certain as that day follows night, unless there be a mighty and at present wholly unexpected check in the prevailing tendencies. Whether such desuetude shall be permanent or temporary is a matter totally beyond the judgment of any one to determine, depending as it does altogether upon the extent to which gold shall be found and put in circulation, the final awakening that will come to Europe through non-production, and many other things. Abundance has produced contempt, and it may be that a year or so of the world's principal money confined (as it would be sooner or later) to the hands of a few would make the demand for a return to the white metal so universal and so pressing that it would reach a high point in the financial scale and stay there. But this is mere speculation.

What is better known than anything else in this connection is that the conspiring speculators and silverphobists acting jointly have about accomplished the object of their long and altogether nefarious campaign. At the same time nature seems to have come to the rescue just in the nick of time, for nearly all the great discoveries that are being made now are of gold. Utah, as usual, is in the lead. She was nearly so as a silver producer and would have been absolutely so but for the discouragements of recent years whereby much of that which was discovered has been but indifferently worked and perhaps nine-tenths of that which might have been discovered has not even been sought for. Now we proceed upon another tack, as it were. If the world does not want our silver it need not have it; we seem to be well stocked with that which will not be refused until man's nature and circumstances undergo a complete revolution.

That the stories which drift along from the San Juan discoveries are more or less colored, if not in some cases highly exaggerated, is quite probable; but making the necessary deductions it seems certain that there is an immense gold field in the great canyon hedging in the southern flow of the San Juan river. From Indian creek, in Beaver county, the reports are not quite so rose-colored, but the preponderance of the evidence is to the effect that the finds are genuine. We seem to be on the eve of great events, and these are likely in more respects than one.

## FIAT JUSTITIA.

There are two extreme views generally taken of every noted murder case, especially after the accused is convicted. One is born of mawkish sentimentality and expresses itself in sympathetic terms written or spoken; the other comes of the spirit which upholds and applauds the action of vigilance committees even when the laws are in full sway. The former is the product of a weak and timid nature oftener than otherwise, or occasionally it may be through the mind being charged with maudlin romance, a disgusting yearning for the novel and sensational, or something of that kind; the other shows a nature disposed to cruelty, hardness of heart, lack of sympathy, destructiveness abnormally developed, a desire to be conspicuous through not exhibiting symptoms of weakness, and so on. Between these extreme points there is as usual the broader and higher ground of moderation, reason, common sense, justice.

The case of Florence Maybrick is one that goes beyond the domain of mere jurisprudence for a defense, just as the merits and demerits have gone beyond the boundaries of the *ipso in quo* and become the common property of the civilized world. She was convicted on unconnected circumstantial evidence, the jury being in substance instructed to find a verdict of guilty by the court. The judge was stoned by the populace as he was leaving the court, showing that the popular verdict and that of his honor did not correspond, even among the people she is charged with having outraged. They were acquainted with the facts, and these showed that Maybrick was a confirmed arsenic eater; under such circumstances it would have been wonderful if the poison had not been found in his stomach at the post mortem examination; that his wife gave it to him is doubtless true, but that it was given without his desire or direction, no one not belonging to the class last described can believe, as it seems to us, and we question seriously if all of them believe it.

No notice was taken of the importance attaching to a doubt in such cases. The defendant was given the benefit of no unsure deductions whatever; and yet the circumstances as shown were such as to cause nearly everybody but the court and jury to doubt, and not a few to utterly disbelieve, as shown by the stormy incident above spoken of. It is pretty well understood that a certain limited class of our English

consins felt a rankling in their breasts over the then recent hanging of Maxwell, the notorious trunk murderer, at St. Louis and that a well crystallized sentiment of revenge—a determination to "get even" as it was often expressed—had become manifest, and the first American charged with murder on British soil was made a victim contrary to the wish and will of a great majority of that justice-loving people. Under such circumstances the petitions for her pardon have a more substantial foundation than "sentiment" or "sympathy." They have become so numerous and so pressing, from Englishmen as well as foreigners, that it would seem as if the British home secretary could not much longer turn a deaf ear to them. That there are no proofs of her innocence (other than her countenance) is nothing; that there are no direct proofs of her guilt is everything.

## A GREAT DAY.

With a simplicity profoundly appropriate to a popular government, and a brevity which will add to rather than diminish the interest in the proceedings, the World's Fair will be opened on the first of next May. To pronounce it in advance the greatest of all the international expositions, at least in modern times, would be objectionable; not because invidious, for invidiousness is permissible, but because the superlative degree suggests a comparison with the others and there can be no comparison, strictly speaking; there is only a contrast. The area of ground occupied the magnitude, magnificence and number of buildings; the arrangement and classification looking to regularity, system and convenience; and the grandeur attaching to the spectacle as a whole will place the Chicago attraction a long way ahead of any other that we have any knowledge of, the great Centennial exposition not excepted.

One of the gratifying and distinctly appropriate features of the occasion will be the formal opening address by the President of the United States, Grover Cleveland. He is not classed among the great orators, perhaps because the present is not an oratorical cycle and we have no such wonder-workers in the domain of lingual expression as they had half a century ago; but Mr. Cleveland has no superior in the matter of being able to say the right thing at the right time and in words simple and appropriate if not forceful. It will be a great day.

## EXTERMINATION ARRESTED.

It was a wise and timely proceeding on the part of the government when it set apart a corner of the public domain to be dedicated and held to the perpetual sway of nature undefiled. The frontier was long since swept away and piece by piece the erosive hand of civilization is supplanting the wastes with productive fields. The next generation will find no wilderness within our borders that cannot be crossed in a day or less, unless we ex-