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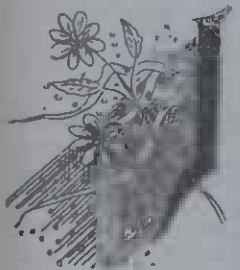
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UNCLE SAM'S FOREIGN POLICY.

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OMAHA, May 20th, 1896.



HAVE COME from Chicago to Omaha to have a talk with General Charles F. Manderson, the ex-United States Senator from Nebraska. Senator Manderson volun-

tarily retired from Congress at the close of his last term, and he is now at the head of the legal department of the Burlington railroad system having charge of all the business west of the Missouri river. He lives here in a beautiful three-story brick in the most fashionable part of the city and leads a more comfortable life in many respects than he did at Washington. There is a large vacant lot just opposite his house, in which some of his favorite fast horses may be seen grazing, and in the second story of the brick stable at the back of his yard there is a carpenter's bench, at which he amuses himself with the saw and plane every morning before going down to work. Senator Manderson's home is beautifully furnished. It is, in fact, a very museum of curios picked up by him in his travels and of mementoes of his varied career. Among the most interesting of his household goods are his autograph letters and pictures of the famous men of the United States with whom he had been associated. Photographs of the greatest of our Senators look down upon you from the walls of the sitting room, and upon a side table in his "den" I saw a characteristic photograph of Senators Manderson, Allison and Hale chatting together, and evidently discussing some of the great questions before the country, or, what is more likely, telling fish stories. My chat with Senator Manderson covered a wide range. He is a man of ideas. He has for the past twelve years been closely associated with public matters and public men, and he is noted as one of the shrewdest of our political observers. He is one of the few public men who are not afraid to express their opinions and when during his remarks I reminded him that such statements were rather radical for a presidential or vice-presidential candidate he replied:

"As to that, I am not a presidential candidate enough to hunt, and I hope the bee will never buzz so loudly in my bonnet that I will not dare to give my

opinion as an American citizen. You remember the politician who concluded his speech by saying: 'Feller citizens, them is my sentiments, and if them sentiments don't suit you they can be changed.' Now I don't mean to say that my sentiments cannot be changed, but they can be changed only by convincing arguments. I have my own views and I have never yet hesitated to express them, nor to correct them when convinced that they were wrong."

"What is your idea as to the probable outcome at St. Louis?"

"I am not imbued with the spirit of prophecy. I think, however, that as far as Governor McKinley is concerned the question as to whether he can be nominated will be settled before the sitting of the convention. If he should triumph no one will rejoice more than myself. I have been acquainted with him from early manhood. He will not only make a strong candidate, but he will make a good president."

"Suppose, Senator, he should not be nominated on the first ballot?"

"Then the battle royal will be between one of the great eastern candidates—Speaker Reed or Governor Morton—and a western man, with Senator Allison in the lead. The time might come when some of the lesser lights might shine with increased vigor."

"How about Harrison, Senator, and how about yourself?"

"President Harrison," replied Senator Manderson, "while never consenting would probably consent if the nomination came to him without personal exertion. As for me, I am neither a seeker nor 'going into a decline.' I am like any other man, and feel, as Senator Cullom expressed it, 'that I am a human being.' As to my having been an aggressive candidate for the presidency, this statement is not true. For the past two years I have been urged by my friends to enter the contest for the nomination. I received letters by the hundreds from all parts of the country and personal appeals from leading republicans throughout Nebraska asking me to allow my name to be placed on the list of candidates. I refused to do this until last January, when I succumbed to the blandishments that were astounding to me by simply saying that I would neither seek nor decline."

"How about this 'favorite son' story, and the charge that you are in a combination to defeat McKinley?"

"That statement," replied Senator Manderson, "is absolutely false. I have neither directly nor indirectly had any communication, by letter or verbally, with the agents of any 'favored son' conspiracy, and if I know myself I believe I would be more content with the nomination of McKinley, Reed, Morton or

Allison than I would with my own nomination. I would say, however, that the responsibilities of the presidency have never been so great as they are likely to be within the next four years, and that any man sensitive to his own shortcomings and distrustful of his ability, or even a man of aggressive self-reliance, should shrink from their assumption.

"It seems to me," continued Senator Manderson, "that we have before us today greater problems than any with which we have yet had to deal. We are on the eve of a change. The day has come when the United States must inaugurate a vigorous foreign policy. Already questions of this kind are piling themselves one on top of the other. During the administration of President Cleveland we have had the Hawaiian question, the Cuban situation and the proposed building of the Nicaragua canal. There is today no European power that is not active and aggressive in reaching out for more territory. The nations of the world are now striving not for glory or renown, but for commercial supremacy and commercial advantage. This is the day of the politics of the pocket book, and if the United States would hold its own it would be forced, out of the very nature of things, for its own advancement and supremacy, to enter upon an aggressive policy. We cannot longer live within ourselves. The drawing together of the nations of Europe by the modern processes absolutely prohibits it. We must from now on keep what we can of our own markets and must use all means to obtain our share of the foreign markets."

"But, Senator, is it not a question of the currency as well as the markets? What is your idea of the financial question? I find many free silver men in Nebraska."

"I am not in favor of the free coinage of silver," said Senator Manderson. "I want to see more silver used because it is one of our greatest products, and because as a silver-producing nation we can rank the world. To believe, however, that we can enter upon the free and unlimited coinage of silver single handed and without reference to the other nations of the world, is a delusion and a snare. The international conditions are such, however, that I believe bimetalism on some safe basis will soon be forced by the united action of continental Europe and this country."

"What makes you think so?" said I.

"I think so," replied the Senator, "because of the competition which we are now having from all parts of the world. Not only along agricultural lines, but in manufacturing, are we meeting with competition such as was never thought of before. Our cotton has now to fight for its place with that of India and