

indicated that she had been dipping—her pen—into her own wares. We give it herewith:

"Whether it is ever wise to correct misrepresentation in the press is an open question. As a rule, I remain silent, believing the truth is mighty and will ultimately prevail. It seems to me, however, inasmuch as I am not 'a traveling agent for a California wine trust,' and inasmuch as the *Tribune* has devoted a clever editorial to 'A Modern Hebe' on account of this supposed agency, that I am justified in denying this impeachment. It is one thing to believe that the road to temperance in this country lies in the substitution of light, pure native wines at meals for the perpendicular drinking of ardent spirits between meals, and to prepare a lecture on temperance versus prohibition. It is quite another thing to be a drummer for 'a California wine trust' of which I never heard and the existence of which I doubt. I have lived too much in Europe not to know that the soberest nations are those that drink wine. I have traveled too much in prohibition States not to know that human nature cannot be legislated into total abstinence. My experience in Iowa two years ago led me to the study of drinking in all ages. Later experience in California has shown me how temperance reform can be gradually brought about in this country. If it be ignoble to accept from the State treasury of California the wherewithal to compensate me for delivering five lectures which are as likely to be given in private as in public, then it is equally ignoble for Miss Willard to receive compensation for her labors in behalf of the W. C. T. U. and for Mrs. Livermore to be paid for prohibition addresses. It may be that Mrs. Foster settled her own bills when assisting the republican party in the late campaign. It may be that James G. Blaine was also allowed to put his hands in his open pocket, but I don't believe it. I doubt not the earnest motives of these representative Americans, because they are not supernaturally philanthropic and do not devote themselves to their cause without regard to purse or scrip. Nor do I think my past record should warrant the statement, however complimentary to my capacity, that I 'can make the worse appear the better reason.' My conscience has never been for sale and never will be. With all due deference to the *Tribune*, I never yet tried to convert others to what was not my own faith. I should be a lamentable failure if I made the attempt. As to criticism of California wine I leave that subject to the honorable men of that State, who, appointed by the Governor, represent the Viticultural Commission. Yours truly,—"

The only indication there is in the foregoing of the now faded brilliancy of the writer is the drift in the direction of the main chance, which is Kate's ruling passion. She has managed adroitly to get the

Tribune to insert a telling advertisement of her California light wines, the "road to temperance" being according to her theory, the substitution of those beverages for the lightning striking liquids swallowed by the average American.

She also says: "My experience in Iowa two years ago led me to the study of drinking in all ages." This is susceptible of a double construction. It was intended to mean in all ages of the world, but the public journals intimate that her practical opportunities for pursuing that department of knowledge at a somewhat advanced age of life have not been small. Kate is by no means an infant.

DRIFTING TO A CLIMAX.

THE situation of affairs regarding Samoa is rapidly passing beyond the stage in which "words, words, words" are all that appear, and it is quite apparent that unless something occurs at once to change the prevailing drift of things, we might possibly, but not very likely, have a severe, and it might be prolonged, war with Germany. It is unnecessary, even if the disposition existed, to enact the role of scaremonger; bold, patent facts, and the logic of circumstances have apparently brought us to the verge of a crisis.

It is already stated in the East without reservation, that if James G. Blaine held the place occupied by Thomas F. Bayard, the fiat would have gone forth weeks ago; that as soon as it was known at the Department of State that our flag had not only been insulted but torn down, trailed in the dust and destroyed by German soldiery in the very presence of the men it was supposed to protect, there would have been a demand for reparation both substantial and sentimental made upon Bismarck, and he would have been given only so much time as was necessary to draft the one and count out the other and get them here by the most direct route. This is of course idle and serves no other useful purpose than to show in what direction and form public sentiment in this country is crystallizing. It is more profitable to discuss what the present administration may be compelled to do than to speculate as to what may be the temper and inclination of its successor.

It is such a state of things that causes us to look around and see how well we are equipped for a

passage at arms with a first-class power. There would be one apparent advantage in our favor—we would be much nearer the bone of contention than our opponent would be—nearer by 5,000 miles, or counting from our west coast 8,000 miles, nearly a third of the earth's circuit and a distance requiring many weeks to cover. While Germany was making her way to the theatre of the conflict, the United States could easily take possession of the Samoan group, take the Germans there captive, confiscate their property, and thoroughly fortify the shores. That would be so much. But suppose Germany should not see fit to make Samoa the battle ground? Instead of fighting where advantages would be so greatly against her, suppose she was to send half a dozen powerful war ships to New York City, half as many to New Orleans and half as many to San Francisco and lay them under tribute for more than those Pacific islands are worth—how would that be? And what effectual means of resistance could be brought to bear against such a programme? The contemplation of such a proceeding, with the awful fact before us that neither of those cities is fortified and must suffer great if not irreparable ruin before the German vessels could be bought or beaten off, is unpleasant, but it is one of those painful things against which it is worse than folly to shut our eyes.

Through the activity and persistence of Secretary Whitney, aided largely but not adequately by Congress, we have the inception of what may become a powerful navy. It is powerful now as far as it goes, but it is only an equipment of the fourth class, while that of Germany is in or near the first class, ranking fifth in order in that grade, and on the water mailed vessels, powerful in every department and ample in number, would give our nucleus a more up-hill fight than they would have at Samoa.

In the late telegraphic reports are a number of opinions from statesmen and journals regarding the situation, the burden of which is that while it is serious, war is not inevitable. Perhaps the most significant feature in connection with the whole matter is England's disclaimer regarding responsibility jointly with the United States. This gives color to the belief previously but not widely existent that there is a tacit if not a definite understanding between Germany and Great Britain regarding the islands