

## THE CLOUDS ARE RIFTED.

It is not so very cloudy in the West after all.

It may not be bright and balmy as a few years ago; but it should be remembered that "spring" would be but gloomy weather if we had nothing else but spring."

In the great and wealthy city of New York an army of people greater than any that Xerxes, Alexander, Hannibal, Scipio Africanus, Frederick the Great or Napoleon ever looked upon is engaged in a daily struggle, some few to increase their already enormous possessions, a great number to pass beyond the condition of being merely comfortable and enter the domain of wealth, and perhaps as many as are contained in the whole of Utah Territory are in actual want. Of these a few by comparison but a great number considered alone are hungry and destitute, dependent upon chance and charity for the means of subsistence from day to day. There is no such thing in existence here, except in isolated and unknown cases.

Chicago is nearly as large a city as New York. Just now, in point of population, it is probably quite as large. It also is a wealthy municipality; but in spite of the teeming millions of property and money contained within its borders there is not only poverty but want and even equal or so widespread as to be appalling. Unlike their brethren further east the unfed multitude do not wait for succor to reach them through the cold and tardy hands of charity, they take up arms and fight. The prospect is that they will continue fighting until a change of circumstances by one means or another shall take place. There was a riot yesterday, one the day before, probably one today, and the authority and power of the city are at a constant tension to maintain even the semblance of law and order. Happily we are free from this too, or anything akin to it, so far.

The times are somewhat out of joint, but less so with us than many others. The line dividing capital from those who primarily bring it into practical being is not made less distinct by reason of appeals to reason and resort to arms, but more so. The chasm separating the classes from the masses is not narrower but wider, and it seems as though the few remaining bridges were being one after another taken away and destroyed. This relates more to other sections than to the West, where the social plane has not yet been so acutely tilted that only those on the upper edge can maintain their positions.

We are in most respects a highly favored people. Our chief misfortune is that we do not realize the extent to which we are blessed, and by reason thereof are not as thankful as we ought to be in many cases. Money is not active, whether plentiful or otherwise; industries are closing up or running on reduced schedules; employment of a general character is hard to obtain; and there is a greater percentage than usual in our midst of those who do not want work and prefer to live by their wits or on the labor of others—falling in these, by crime. These or some of

them now and then commit a robbery or perpetrate some other dastardly outrage; but the number of such occurrences has not yet assumed such proportions as to make the condition epidemic or anything resembling such a stage.

This year enough grain was raised in Utah to feed its population for two years to come at least. The staple fruits and vegetables are as usual so abundant that a large proportion will go to waste. There is plenty of stock of all kinds and hay to feed it with. Most of the people are comfortably housed, and close by are the eavens and gorges of the hills abounding in all the fuel needed for a century. Where then is our danger, and wherefore the trepidation and foreboding which some few seem to be possessed of? It is true that there cannot be much activity no matter what our possessions without a medium of exchange in sufficient volume; it is also true that, as we cannot subsist upon gold, silver or paper, if we had to choose between such extreme conditions we would place ourselves exactly where we are. Having, then, what we must have in order to live and measurably enjoy living, we can much better afford to wait for the transfusion of financial blood which is to make the pulsations of the body politic more regular and more vigorous than if we or a great number of us were hungry and cold. The money needed will come along in due season; meantime we are not badly off at all.

## ANNEXATION AGAIN.

THE New York *Sun* has not been noted for unwavering devotion to the present national administration, or for speaking in terms of unstinted admiration for the distinguished gentleman at the head of it. Still the paper now and then throws out a suggestion or so of an apparently well-meant character, if not actually friendly in its tone. In a recent issue the *Sun* takes up the subject of Hawaiian annexation and declares that the arrangement to that end should now be brought to a consummation with as little delay as possible. It says:

Secretary Gresham has doubtless, by this time, put the minister's report into the hands of President Cleveland, and communicated to the President such other information as he may have obtained from the minister in conference. The documents and facts in the case cannot long be withheld from the Senate, or from the knowledge of the country.

The *Sun* insists upon it that these documents must be of exceeding importance to the government and of profound interest to the American people, relating to a question that bears upon certain fundamental rights of our country, upon the authority of our government, upon the security of the states lying along our westernmost coast, upon our naval influence in the waters that wash our occidental shores, upon the development of our commerce with the countries of the Pacific, and upon other public interests, the magnitude of which must increase from year to year and from generation to generation. Great and vital and lasting are the American interests that are bound up in the

Hawaiian question. Whatever be the decision of our government upon it, that decision will surely be of serious consequence to the United States, and this being the case the President and the rest of mankind are assured that the day for the decision is at hand, that annexation is the thing to be done.

Whether or not the President shall lend an attentive ear to this and other appeals of like character is not known and doubtless will not be until he is ready to act. One thing is patent and not to be overturned by controversy—the administration's policy of making haste slowly regarding the Hawaiian and Chinese deportation questions has not injured the country and may have been more beneficial to it than any of us yet realize.

## A JEWISH-RUSSIAN WAR.

The Jews have no common government, occupy no country of their own as a people and have consequently no army, or navy with which to emphasize their demands for justice at the hands of the nations of the earth. And yet, at present they have ventured upon a war with Russia, the giant of the old world. It is a war of retaliation for the persecutions they are suffering in that country and although a bloodless one will, if successful, be as disastrous as if they had engaged a vast army to invade the territory of their enemy. The attack is directed against Russia's finances with the object of ultimate ruin, and it is led by the Russo-Jewish committee with headquarters in London. A periodical is issued by that committee entitled *Darkest Russia*. A recent number contains the second part of an article headed, "Lend Russia no Money." It is submitted to the consideration of capitalists and gives a number of alleged facts concerning the true condition of the czar's dominions, all of which, if facts, prove conclusively that no more foolish investment of capital can be made than by lending it to the Russian government.

The country is represented as entirely insolvent and its credit as kept up by the most astonishing tricks. Agriculture is the main resource, but under the present government the farmers cannot make it pay. The following picture is vividly drawn:

The solvency of the peasantry, upon which the finances of the empire are based, cannot be more vividly characterized than by the assertion of Count Bobrinsky that they are constrained to obtain the meagre funds necessary to their bare existence at a rate of interest which to most people will appear incredible: 6,000 per cent a year, or 500 per cent a month. What can be hoped of the finances of an agricultural nation whose peasantry are in this hopeless condition? They live a life of ineffable misery, working assiduously like helots, enduring privations which would cause an Indian a-cute to shudder, and in the end accomplish no more than the Danaides of old, everlastingly pouring water through their sieves. Going forth to eke out their miserable livelihood by agricultural labor, these peasant farmers "are ready to accept any conditions." "On the Steppe estates both women and men consent to sleep out in the open air, on the bare ground, not only in spring and summer, but