

the truth; but no such success can be permanent. In the nature and constitution of things that which is contrary to truth must decay.

THE OMAHA EXPOSITION.

It is quite likely that but for the all-absorbing interest in the war with Spain, the Transmississippi Exposition at Omaha would receive much attention by the general public. It is an important enterprise. The time is within the memory of many when all the vast region west of the great river was considered a desert unfit for civilized man to dwell in. Arguments against the incorporation of the West in the Union were advanced by some who considered themselves the wisest of statesmen and the best of patriots. Yet today, this region has become the granary of the country and its storehouse for food and precious metals. It has a population of over twenty million souls, and has added to the national wealth a sum of almost inconceivable proportions. Now, at the exposition grounds, on the banks of the Missouri, samples of the various products of this immense country are placed before the world in an attractive and comprehensive form. It is proposed to show the possibilities of the soil, the eternal hills, the lakes and rivers and forests, with a view of encouraging further efforts in the way of development. It is an object lesson impressive and instructive.

It is to be hoped the exposition will prove a financial success, as it certainly promises to be a success in every other respect. The railroads will be able to do much towards this, by arranging for excursions and placing the fare for round trips within the reach of those who would profit mostly by a visit to the exposition. To the railroads much credit is due for the development of this western empire, and it would naturally be to their interest to aid so far as possible the general public in obtaining a view of the marvelous work done in the lifetime of one single generation.

THE NEXT GREAT QUESTION.

The tariff question was long a leading theme of thought and argument in the halls of Congress and in the columns of the American press, but a few years ago its importance was overshadowed by the magnitude which the silver question attained. But before either of these great issues is finally disposed of there promises to arise another that will rival either of them in the vital consequences connected with it, and in the radical difference of view that will be engendered among the American people in relation to it.

Shall the war with Spain be permitted to result in the setting aside by the United States of its traditional policy of non-acquisition of extra-continental territory, or shall this government annex Hawaii, retain the Philippines, and keep any other Spanish possession that may fall into its hands? This promises to be the next issue on which the voters of this nation will align themselves. If the old policy is to be adhered to, we can neither annex Hawaii, keep the Philippines, nor retain possession of any Spanish territory; but the friends of the old policy insist that it is a safeguard against war with foreign nations, and that it will prevent our becoming entangled in the difficulties that beset all of the more important ones.

On the other hand, the friends of extra-continental acquisition ask what is to become of the Spanish possessions that have fallen, or are about to fall into our hands? They urge that to give them back to Spain would be the

height of absurdity in the light of national policy, and of cruelty to their inhabitants in the light of humanity. Some of them at least are incapable of self-government, and no other nation has any claim upon them. Logically the conclusion is that we must keep that which the fortunes of war give to us.

In the case of Cuba, the national honor is pledged not to annex her against the wishes of the Cubans; but should a plebiscite be taken showing their wish to become American subjects, no pledge yet made by this government would be violated by the annexation of the island. The cases of Cuba, the Philippines, Hawaii, Porto Rico and probably the Caroline Islands are pressing upon the American government for decision, and the latter ought to be reached before the war ends so that the administration will be able to state on what terms it will make peace.

There are Americans who hold strenuously to the old continental policy; but there are others who think this country has a great mission among mankind, to aid in the extension of human liberty, and that an overruling Providence is forcing it forward in the execution of its destiny. The truth of the matter will no doubt be unfolded by the developments of the next few years of the world's history.

RICH BUT POOR.

The present bankrupt condition of Spain is an illustration of the effects of bad government of a country rich in natural resources. Spain has plenty of gold, silver, copper, iron and coal. Her climate and soil are favorable for the production of enormous quantities of the necessities and luxuries of life. Yet, everything is undeveloped, neglected. With the discovery of the New World, Spain adopted the suicidal policy of drawing her revenues from the colonies and paying but little attention to the home industries. In addition to this the people is burdened with unjust taxation. It is believed that with the due encouragement of mining, agriculture, horticulture, leather and silk industries and with a just and equitable system of taxation, Spain would speedily become one of the most wealthy countries of Europe.

In view of these facts the terrible experience the country is passing through may prove its salvation. It may end in the loss of the colonies and the necessity of the people to turn all its attention to its own resources at home. It may cause a revolution in the affairs of the country, by which the accumulated fortunes of certain institutions will be released for the benefit of the nation. The weakness of our antagonist is chiefly due to the antiquated methods of the government, not to the absence of the material on which the strength of nations largely depends.

GALLANT ON BOTH SIDES.

The incident in Santiago harbor of which Assistant Naval Constructor Hobson was the hero, grows in the splendor of the achievements made daily and hourly. It was undoubtedly one of the most intrepid feats yet accomplished in this war, or, it might be said, in any war, and his fame has already spread through both hemispheres, the press being especially generous in their treatment of the performance. But it seems the least bit invidious, not to say unfair, to give all the glorification to Hobson, albeit too much in his praise could scarcely be said. Those who accompanied him on his perilous mission are not a whit less deserving of conspicuous mention and

a share of the laurels. All realized the dangers and doubtless felt that if any escaped alive it would be a remarkable thing, while if all got through it would be simply miraculous. But it needed doing and it took men to do it. Not only the seven who were finally dispatched on the errand were willing to take all the chances, desperate as they were, at the call of duty, but many more who could not be accepted offered themselves, and these, too, are deserving of no slight mention. They all showed in splendid fashion the nerve, pluck and patriotism of the American character when confronted by trying occasions and by this one incident have given the Spaniard another object lesson in the line of an understanding of what kind of foe is in front of him.

At the same time, while the merits of the case are the theme, it is proper that the really regal behavior of Admiral Cervera receive consideration. Undoubtedly he is instinctively an admirer of courage and daring, and as such he could not repress an expression of admiration at the American marines' achievement. His immediate offer sent by a flag of truce to exchange the men for a like number of Spanish prisoners held by the Americans, coupled with an assurance that the seamen of our ships would be well treated, has a distinct element of knightliness in it, and coming unexpectedly was all the more welcome. Truly war has its courtesies no less than peace, and one touch of the right phase of nature draws us nearer together if it does not make us akin.

No matter whether the war progresses rapidly or slowly, whether the events to follow shall be stupendous or inconsequential, the gallant work of Hobson and his men will not be forgotten nor rendered obscure.

ANGELS OF MERCY IN WAR.

The progress of civilization in this century is perhaps best illustrated on a modern field of battle, where amidst carnage and death angels of mercy are busily engaged carrying all the aid possible to the wounded and dying. Formerly, organized assistance on the battlefield was not thought of. Medical aid after the engagement was generally insufficient. The victims of bullets, swords or bayonets were often left where they fell, to die in agony. All this is changed. Even cruel war has been made to recognize in the soldier a human being entitled to the tender care of fellow-beings and today a battlefield literally swarms with members of the Red Cross society, who take their own lives in their hands in order to save others.

The field hospital service of the American army has now reached a high degree of perfection. When a regiment is engaged in battle a number of soldiers, about twenty-five to a regiment, are detailed as stretcher-bearers. About twenty more of the hospital corps are engaged for the same purpose. The latter closely watch the lines and as soon as a soldier is seen to fall, their duty is to hasten to him with a stretcher. Should the wounded be too numerous for the twenty men of the hospital corps, the twenty-five assistants belonging to the regiment are called into service. If necessary a surgeon examines the injured man before he is taken away and dresses his wound temporarily; he is then removed to the dressing station which is located out of range of the enemy's fire, and here his injuries are attended to.

The hospitals contain about two hundred cots. Attached to them are competent surgeons and nurses. They are equipped with medicines, linen, suitable food and the necessary apparatus for performing surgical operations. If