A NOTABLE GATHERING OF THE WAR VETERANS.

1865. ◁▷ 1898.

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PROBABLY 100,000 veterans will return to the annual encampment of 1898, Cincinnati has been favored before by the veterans, but there is no distinction to remain with the Queen City on account of the popularity of the coming week. This is the first national gathering of the G. A. R. in a time of warlike issues. Veterans yonder wars as memories of battles fought nearly 40 years ago will be up on the street by the side of young fellows who stopped Mauser at Santiago. From the ranks of Custer's old scouts, gray and grizzled, "Every mother's son" will find empty sleeves brought home by Quantrill and 10 Cases by Hamilton Hough Riders and exclaim, "Boys, we'll do!"

In shadow of a chance vacant for jealousy or diatribe at the meeting of these heroes old and new. The lads are worthy of their fathers. Again and again the line of veterans who stood under Farragut or followed Sherman to the sea or rode beside Sheridan at Cedar Creek and Five Forks will give voice to the proud boast, "My son is on the Texas, the Iowa, the Texas, the Oregon," and "Our is with Wheeler, with Dewey, with Merritt, with Lee."

Nothing would please the fathers of these heroes better than to be able to pass over, along with the rifles and carbines and cutlasses that have found younger hands to wield them, the time honored badges of the G. A. R. It is a natural and a noble sentiment, but time hurt show that the heroes of 1898 have seen, display great vitality, they have never been very popular with American veterans. Grand Army men point with pride to the fact that in their encampments the private soldier and the general meet on equal terms as comrades. In view of the fact that the interest in having comrades together is almost whole a sentimental one the membership in this order has been phenomenal. It large and the spirit a very comfortable one. When the order was first organized, some of being political, the membership was so low that it often seemed on the point of dissolution, and in those states where politics has the most hold there was a previous disinclination of posts.

Hope have been taken to form a society among the officers proper with the army of Santiago. It will be exclusive. There are about 50 officers eligible to this society.

One of the societies of civil war veterans commemorate the incidents of the tragic events of that year, the death of Lincoln. On the 15th of April, 1865, a party of officers in Philadelphia arranged for a meeting of army and navy officers to take action relative to the fall of their commander in chief. The response was so hearty that it was decided to effect a permanent organization, and the result was the founding of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Membership in this body is divided into three classes, the first being officers and ex-officers of the United States forces engaged in the civil war. The order has developed national proportions and has maintained for a number of years about 25 state commanderies. Through its hereditary and honorary classes the Loyal Legion is to be perpetuated, but it can scarcely be not as exclusive as the Grand Army, for in this body only those who can show an honorable war record between April, 1861, and April 1866, are eligible.

Three years after the close of the war the survivors of the Army of the Cumberland formed a society with General George H. Thomas at its head. The Cumberland was Thomas' army, and he was a great favorite with the men. Every man who was served with him after an service in the ranks was eligible to membership. General Phil Sheridan at one time had commanded a division in this army and served as president of the society from 1872 until his death.

The last of the great army societies to be formed was that of the Army of the Potomac. Soldiers of all ranks are eligible, and the association has been the strongest of all in membership partly for the reason that the old army was the largest aggregation of troops in one command.

Probably the most striking event in the history of wars was the joint reunion of the Veterans of the Army of the Potomac and the survivors of the Army of Northern Virginia on the battlefield of Gettysburg in 1888, the twenty-fifth anniversary of that battle. This reunion was originated and carried to a successful end by the Pickett society and was hailed in all sections as the first formal hand shake of the north and south since the Confederate Veteran union will have an exact parallel in our country's future. Not to mention the regimental and battery associations of the Grand Army of the Republic, small bodies of members of various commands have been organized, and many have book in enterprise for the purpose of the decorations of cavalrymen, of the members of the signal corps, numerous societies composed of members of army corps and several former brigade and veterans.

The survivors of the navy have been very active and tenacious in holding societies. At present there is a Farragut association in Philadelphia, one in New York and one in the west, with headquarters at Chicago. Connecticut has a strong society of navy survivors, California maintains one under the title of Naval Veteran Legion. New Orleans is the headquarters of the Naval Veteran Association of the Gulf and Section of the Encounter Association of Naval Veterans. About ten years ago a national Association of Naval Veterans was formed.

Societies of veterans of former wars have been in existence for two or three years, and in some instances have been outlined to considerable reunions. The society of the War of 1812 was formed in 1826. At the anniversary meeting in 1895 only one of the original members was present. Societies of Mexican veterans have sprung up in several states, the more important being those of Illinois and Ohio. Annual reunions are held annually in those states, also in Missouri and in several large cities. In the military associations this year, membership has been no attempt to discriminate in the matter of service. An honorable discharge from the army or navy showing service during the war period has been held as a proof of meritorious service. Some years ago an association called the Union Veteran Legion was organized with the avowed purpose of establishing a service merit. The membership is restricted to veterans who served continuously for two years or were discharged on account of wounds received in battle. This order has established a national organization, but the membership is comparatively small owing to the fact that the Grand Army has the first hold upon the affections of the veterans.

In the ranks of the Grand Army there are found members of every military society, especially of the Loyal Legion and the army association. Eligibility to any one of the orders entitles the holder to admission to the G. A. R. under its general rules. The ritual of this order is most elaborate and impressive, especially in all that relates to memorial and funeral ceremonies. Many of the aged veterans who are unable to attend encampment and reunion meetings say that they wish to keep their hands upon the soil of a land that summoned to join the ranks the grand army above. Whether inspired by pride or by sentiment or by a desire to keep the Grand Army especially in mind with the belief meaning the passion of loyalty to the order and to comrades is indescribable, like the patriotism which was the issue of it all.

Therefore in holding that the Grand Army of the Republic is an institution which, while it may be and has been misused, yet cannot be perished, the veterans do not necessarily place it upon a pedestal as something forever incomparable. Other times, other conditions. The soldiers of 1898 have seen visions of the war the northern and western states were homogenized with brotherhoods, leagues and unions, established by the disbanded volunteers. All of them gave way before the order of secret faith, which came unheralded except by word of mouth among new converts. At the end of five years the organization was national, but struggled on for ten years with a membership reduced to tens of thousands. Then the wave began forth and in the decade between 1886 and 1896 the roster swelled from 60,000 to nearly a quarter of a million. Losses by death in sparsely settled districts, and the fact that the decrease in the last decade, but the number is still phenomenal when it is remembered that it costs something to belong to the Grand Army, especially to maintain active membership with all that that relation involves.

GEORGE L. KILMER.

THE OLD VETERANS AND THE NEW.

founded martial conditions and glories which call for symbols all their own. The boys of 1861 shouldered arms in a warfare of purely local principles; those of 1898 carried the colors of liberty to shield the oppressed of other lands. Whether the fruits of the victory be great or small a new era has dawned upon America. The world has learned that human rights are broader than the boundaries of any one nation.

The Grand Army of the Republic was the parent of a peculiar type of military society. The nearest approach to it is among the Confederate veterans, where local associations have within a few years developed a national society. In both cases the inspiration sprang from fraternal and benevolent motives. The immediately born in the long struggle of arms proved a tie too strong to be cancered by time. "Thus are the people I love best of war on earth," is the veteran's way of referring to former comrades.

An army society, perhaps more than one, will naturally result from the number of so many veterans of the Spanish-American war. It is not generally known that the first permanent military society of the civil war was formed in the Third army corps, at Chattanooga, at the front in 1863. The society, called the Third Army Corps union, meets annually on May 2, the anniversary of its battle at Williamsburg. The second society, created during the war, was that of the Army of the Tennessee, which is still in existence. The preliminary meeting of the Tennessee veterans was held in the state capital at Raleigh during the Federal occupancy of that city in April, 1865. The objects of the organization were declared to be to keep alive and preserve kindly and cordial feeling among officers of the Army of the Tennessee, to hold their fame and glory as a sacred trust and to relieve the families of officers who fell in the war or might thereafter be stricken by death. A member may designate by will any relative to whom his membership shall descend, and in default of such action the oldest son inherits the father's title. This society is confined exclusively to officers.

While army societies confined exclusively to officers may, for obvious reasons, display great vitality, they have never been very popular with American veterans. Grand Army men point with pride to the fact that in their encampments the private soldier and the general meet on equal terms as comrades. In view of the fact that the interest in having comrades together is almost whole a sentimental one the membership in this order has been phenomenal. It large and the spirit a very comfortable one. When the order was first organized, some of being political, the membership was so low that it often seemed on the point of dissolution, and in those states where politics has the most hold there was a previous disinclination of posts.

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Bavaria's Mad King.

It was reported recently in the dispatches that the mad King Otto of Bavaria was nearing his end at Fürstenried, a convenient of the south German monastery. The taint of insanity has been a blight on the fair name of Wittelsbach for many years and has been a blight on the fair name of Bavaria.

King Otto has been hopelessly insane since the summer of 1891, and his aged uncle, Prince Luitpold, is the regent of the kingdom. Yet the royal title is vested in the useless place of a king, who is approached by his numerous lackeys and servants with all outward signs of homage, for he is king.

It will be surprising to most American readers to learn that the present king was a demented person when he succeeded his brother, King Ludwig II, who also had been declared insane two years before his death. This Ludwig was formerly depicted these days before his end, which he sought himself, dragging with him to the depths of the Starnberg lake his physician and true friend, Dr. Gudden.

In passing it may be stated that a cousin of these two kings, Empress Elizabeth of Austria, has been for years the left of Europe on account of her eccentric [illegible]. Charity has it that she became crazed on account of the tragic death of her son, Archduke Rudolf, in 1889, and charity may prevail in this case.

The royal house of Wittelsbach is one of the oldest of the noble families of Europe, the first of the name on record being Margrave Luitpold, who died in August, 907, more than 1,000 years ago. The Hapsburgs of Austria antedate this respectable Margrave by only eight years.

Public history always has some excuse for the erratic conduct of the great of the earth. Thus, in the case of King Otto's predecessor on the Bavarian throne, it is said that he was a man of romantic nature, an artist, with very fantastic ideas of his personal dignity as a king and rather capricious opinions concerning political questions. Courtiers say that his insanity was caused by the rupture of his engagement to Princess Sophie of Bavaria, who afterward became the Duchess of Alencon and perished in the holocaust in a charity bazaar in Paris last year.

Plain truth is that the father of both brothers, Maximilian II, was insane and that the taint, probably long extant in a latent form in the house of Wittelsbach on account of intermarriages, descended to Otto and Louwie from him. The Maximilian, a son of Ludwig I, was treated by his father in a manner so cruel that the young prince at one time escaped from Munich, bought a residence in the vicinity of Hamburg and there led a life of absolute freedom. When Maximilian assumed the reins in 1848, upon the abdication of his stern parent, he still continued what in this country would vulgarly be called a "rip-roarin' periodical." He hastily developed the idea that both his sons, Ludwig III, born in 1845, and the present Otto, born in 1848, amid the thunder of the great revolution had inherited from him that taint which would ultimately call down upon them the curse of mental death.

The case of Ludwig III, as well as certain medical celebrities called in by the court cliques sought in vain to dissuade Maximilian from this horrible idea. The moors of events has shown that Maximilian II, in the inner consciousness of his guilt and shame, was correct.

It was probably this awful visitation of orthodox Mosaic law that caused Maximilian Hardee to his Zekiah article to say about the time when King Otto's father ascended the throne: "The socialists in the land conjured into their heard, rubbed their hands in glee and whispered to each other gleamingly: 'Now we have what we want. Now out, as in times of yore, a monarch wear the crown.'"

PEOPLE AND EVENTS.

Permelie, the daughter of Ferdinand de Lesseps, well known in this country because of her visit here with her father, having secured a divorce about a year ago from Count de Gontaut Biron, spendthrift and profligate, is now about to marry the Count de Mirabeau.

Josephine Kipling, the oldest child of Rudyard Kipling, was recently punished for telling an untruth and went to bed sobbing relentlessly. "I think it's real hard," she cried. "My pa writes great big whoppers, and everybody thinks they're lovely, while I told just a little little story and got whipped and sent to bed."

Captain D. C. Woodson of the navy has the log floated by the Virginian on her all dated Bilbo during trip to Santiago in 1898. It was taken from the vessel by the captain before on June 18, 1898, just before the ship sank while being brought back to the United States.

It turns out now that the reason Gen. and Tom Hood were only 143 across in General Shafter at Santiago, instead of about 1,000, as was expected, is that the column was unduly held by the Spanish officers in the various retreats in the city, which result them in small stones and at large prices to the American soldiers, who had previously been living on hard tack and bacon.

In intervening himself to his flock at a new pastorate Rev. E. H. Lyle of Marysville, Mo., said: "I am a Methodist in religion and an American in politics. Ninety cents me. I have one wife, and she has two children. I guess that is about all."

The consolidation of the feet of Chinese women has begun, as is indicated by a story from Peking to the effect that some of the ladies of that city recently gave a ball and a delicate dance. The Chinese girl's feet are so maltreated in infancy, as a usual thing, that when she grows up she can hardly waddle.

Eugene Field used to express his contempt for the small circulation of a certain St. Louis paper by saying that when one of the reporters thought of some family secret he desired to have preserved he wrote it out and had it printed in that paper.

In a circular letter to the directors of schools the Indian minister of public instruction complains that instruction in domestic duties is too much neglected in the schools for girls. He says that the station pressed seem to have been arranged with special regard to the few who want to become teachers.

Governor Taylor of Tennessee said in introducing James Whitcomb Riley to an audience in Nashville, "I would rather go with Riley to old Aunt Mary's than go to the Lyceum Theatre."

Plans for bridge across the Little Belt connecting the island of Fünen with the continental city of Indemark is proposed in a bill before the Danish legislature. The plan is to support it on groups of iron columns 1,500 feet apart, so that the roadway shall be 120 feet above high water level. The cost is estimated at $3,250,000.

THE PECULIAR CHINESE ARMY.

Major A. E. J. Cavendish, late military attache with the Chinese army, says that in many respects the Celestial army presents a curious analogy of the ostrich. In its broad outlines the scheme is simple and varied to the center, but with the characteristic love of detail of the Mongol it is minutely and exceedingly complex. Every province has its separate "army."

The writer gives an interesting account of these forces and, proceeding to general remarks, says:

Much of the utter inefficiency of Chinese arms is explained by the native saying, "Do not use good iron to make a nail, nor take a good man to make a soldier," which is most thoroughly acted up to.

On almost every occasion in 1894-5 the Chinese troops refused to stand up to the despised Japanese. Small wonder when of the hundreds of thousands who in 1895 have been "drilled" with foreign weapons, not one in ten has been taught their proper use. Musketry and artillery practice is limited generally to handling the weapons, and instruction in the use of the bayonet is not thought necessary. Nay, it is opposed.

In January, 1895, several thousand Chinese troops were embarked in junks, under General Wu-ta-cheng, to re-enforce the army in Manchuria. Rifles and field guns had been served out, and the force was to move early in February, yet on Jan. 29 the men had their rifles for the first time, and many I per cent of hits on a target 200 yards distant. Not a man, for the guns, not a soul knew how to load them or use them, and when at length one was fired with the aid of the Europeans present the ammunition was so defective that, although the gun was held for 200 yards, the shell only traveled 30. Yet these men were sent north to fight at Tien-shang-ha without further instruction, or even by a foreigner having been thoughtfully refused.

To be a soldier is to lose caste in China; to imitate foreign actions is worse still and incurs the hatred and suspicion of the civilians, who in reality give the army and navy, so much so that to be a graduate of the foreign schools is an almost certain bar to promotion. In the military and other schools established by Sir Robert Hart and the viceroys at Peking and elsewhere the students have to be bribed to attend, so as to compensate them for the social disadvantages of foreign education. If we add to this the natural contempt for foreigners ingrained in the Chinese nature, we have potent causes for the willful laziness and ignorance of officers, which are truly appalling. Also, that they should add cowardice as well.

A general near Ping, being ordered to keep a sharp lookout for the Japanese, whose landing was hourly expected, did so by asking the railway station master to send two coolies to the coast to look for the enemy! He was the plan of arming his men with bags of pepper to be thrown in the faces of the Japanese, who, while charged in stooping, would all be slain by the Chinese spearmen!

It seems a libel on the human race to say that out of a manhood of 100,000,000 of Chinese a body of good soldiers cannot be made, and, with the example of the army which has been evolved from the Egyptian fellaheen, it may be premature to call it impossible. But China herself cannot do it. The very best human material and the most elaborate instruction would be wasted under the existing native official, who steadily resists all reform in his maladministration. Nevertheless the docile soldiers and sailors of China have never yet had a chance of showing under proper management what are their real capabilities. Should they under Europeans ever prove themselves in any numbers to be of real military value the "yellow terror" may not be a mere figment of the superheated brain.

Fortunes of Spain.

At one time no doubt Spain was the richest country in Europe. Within a few years after the conquest of America more than $1,000,000,000 was carried to Spain, and as long as colonies have been maintained in this hemisphere there has been a stream of gold flowing that way into both private and public coffers.

Under the original colonial laws the king got one-fifth and the church one-fifth of everything that came from America. The three-fifths that remained, however, were sufficient to make some of the largest fortunes in the world. Evidences of this great wealth are still found in all parts of Spain in the enormous and costly palaces and castles scattered over the country. But the money has largely been wasted luxury, gambling and bad investments and in trying to compete with modern progress in agriculture and other industries by the use of antiquated methods and machinery.

Spain resembles Ireland in many respects and Russia in more. The country is divided into vast estates, which are cultivated to a certain measure by the owners and the remainder leased to tenants, while the large manufactories and factories of various kinds which formerly belonged to private individuals, members of the nobility and aristocracy, are now owned and worked by syndicates of capitalists and is no longer profitable without the use of expensive machinery and modern machinery. The herds of cattle have been reduced both in numbers and in breed, although in some parts of Spain are still found the best cattle and horses in Europe and the best mules in the world. The aristocrats have generally passed from the hands of individuals who inherited them into the control of corporations, the buildings on the estates are in ruins and the people, the peasants in rags and the tenements are worse than those of Russia or Ireland.

The wealth of the people has been sapped by taxation and their own extravagance, and the money of the country has been absorbed by a few capitalists who are enormously wealthy and hold mortgages upon the estates of their less prudent neighbors. Bribery and corruption in public life is the rule rather than the exception, and when a favorite of the prime minister is sent to fill an office, which is one of the colonies it is expected that he will come back rich.