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REDUCING THE COLORED VOTE.

Some inquiries have been made concerning the nature of the Louisiana franchise, as announced in the press dispatches, disfranchising negroes in that State. Of course, this term is to be understood as accomplishing that effect by indirection. A law to prevent persons from voting on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude, would be in violation of the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The law in question provides for an educational and also a property qualification for the exercise of the elective franchise in that State. This it is thought will reduce the voting population nearly or quite one-half, and it will undoubtedly have greater effect upon the colored vote than on the white.

Each State in the Union has the right to prescribe the qualifications of voters within its own boundaries. In some States only full citizens of the United States are permitted to vote. In others aliens who have taken out what are called their "first papers," declaring their intention to become citizens, are also permitted to vote. In a few States there has been a property qualification, requiring native-born citizens to be owners of a given amount of property in order to exercise the franchise, and naturalized citizens a different amount as a qualification. In most of the States only male citizens are allowed the suffrage. In a very few, women citizens are endowed with the same privileges in these respects as men. It has been decided many times that voting in this country is a privilege extended by law and not a right inherent in the citizen. The Louisiana enactment is a retrograde step in American politics. The trend has been for many years in the direction of universal suffrage. Property qualifications which once existed have been almost entirely removed, and the citizen of proper age and residence who owns no real estate, or even personal property, as a rule stands on an equal footing at the polls with the rich landlord or possessor of millions of money.

There has been, however, a movement to require of every voter the acquirement of sufficient education to enable him to read and understand the Constitution of the United States, and of the State in which he resides and desires to take part in its government. This has commended itself to a vast number of people of thought. But the endeavor to establish a property qualification has not been so generally approved. It is understood that the attempt in the Southern States to establish either the educational or the property qualification, or both, has been for the purpose of shutting out the colored people from the privilege of participating in the affairs of government. It has, therefore, been opposed as contrary to the spirit, although not to the letter, of the fifteenth amendment. The purpose in view is undoubtedly to lessen the influence of the colored race and preserve the power of government in the hands of the white folk. The Louisiana law will no doubt be contested in the courts until its constitutionality shall be fully determined.

PROMPTED BY SPITE.

Congressman R. W. Taylor has been re-nominated by his constituents in Ohio. He will probably be elected with but little if any opposition. This would have no particular significance, if it had not been announced that the "Mormons" intended to use or were using great influence and much money to prevent the gentleman's re-election. This rumor was started from anti-"Mormon" sources, and a morning paper in this city makes the announcement today of Mr. Taylor's re-nomination, with this headline: "Efforts of Roberts to Defeat Obnoxious Unlawful." There is nothing in the dispatch to which this heading is attached that affords the slightest excuse or the remotest reason for such an announcement. No reference is made in it to opposition from any source. It is only spite, pure and simple, that prompted the invention. Mr. Taylor was the chief mover in the proceedings that resulted in the exclusion of the Congressman from Utah from the House of Representatives. But in the course he pursued he simply voiced the wishes of a very large number of the people of this country, and he received no greater criticism from Utah than did other members of Congress who united with him in accomplishing that purpose. Certainly there has been no attempt on the part of any "Mormon" to prevent his re-nomination, and we do not believe that any interest is taken here in the question of his re-election.

The endeavor to make it appear that means have been or will be employed, in hostility to Mr. Taylor, is simply contemptible. The sectarian preachers and their allies of the press who started the canard simply exhibit the petty spirit by which they are themselves inspired and actuated. The "Mormons" have enough to do to mind their own business and attend to Utah affairs, without intruding into the politics of Ohio or of any other State or district in the Union.

THE SULTAN DELINQUENT.

Complaints are being made that the promises of the Sultan of Turkey, as to the payment of indemnity for the damage done to American property during the Armenian massacres, are not being kept. The diplomatic relations between this country and the Sultan are said to be strained on that account, and the Turkish minister at Washington may possibly be given his passports.

That the Sultan delays the payment as long as possible, should cause no surprise. It would be rather surprising if the money were paid at all, unless it is collected at the point of a gun. In the first place the income of the Turkish government is not such as to warrant the outlay of \$100,000 to the United States and as much, or more, to half a dozen other states, on account of the riots indulged in against "Christians," and in the second place, Mohammedan morality, as understood at Constantinople, does not obligate diplomats to keep faith with "Christian"

powers any further than they are forced to do so.

In the third place, there may be some doubt in the imperial mind as to the justice of some of the claims made. It was remarked at the time, that some of the humble missionaries in that benighted country had wonderfully expensive wardrobes, and libraries, as well as a liberal stock of jewelry, all of which was lost during the riots. A lingering doubt may exist at Constantinople, that the said missionaries are trying to recover more than they ever lost.

At any rate the money would be speedily forthcoming, were the United States to send a cruiser or two on a pleasure trip to the eastern Mediterranean. And until this is done, the diplomatic relations with Turkey may possibly remain critical. Turkey is a long way from here, but that is no reason why that country should not become better acquainted with the United States than it is at present. The American flag, American passports, and American citizenship ought to be respected in that part of the world, and it will be, if the government insists on protecting its citizens when they need protection.

FUNCTION AS A JUDGE.

General Funston is receiving a liberal share of roasting in the press, on account of his summary execution of some Filipinos and the course he is probably pursuing. Still, in a country where deeds can be committed, such as those described in certain reports from Manila, there is some justification for summary execution of justice.

According to the reports referred to, American soldiers who had fallen into the hands of the natives of the Panay island were cruelly tortured on the public square, on the occasion of a feast of the savages. They were tied to stakes and slowly burned by a fire kindled at their feet, and at last they were dragged through the streets by a frenzied mob, and finally they were killed. If it is true that native Filipinos are indulging in "feasts" of this kind, it is conceivable that a military officer at times will feel like killing them, as he would a snake or a scorpion, without trial and sentence.

Still, there are reasons why Americans should go slow in acts of retribution. In the first place, the Philippines is not the only country in which mobs arrange feasts in which the chief feature is the burning at the stake, or the infliction of indescribable tortures; and it is certainly not right to condemn others for that which is done right at home. In the second place, the Filipinos need the impartial, regular administration of law, not outbreaks of passion. They have been under lawlessness and spasmodic acts of retaliation too long, with the result that they all have become desperadoes. What they now need is stern, but cool, deliberate justice tempered with mercy. That will in time bring them to realize the benefits of civilization.

Funston has won distinction in the war with the Filipino insurgents. He has shown on many occasions the valor and discretion for which American officers are noted. If he is guilty of the act charged to him, he has had great provocation. But his superiors can hardly escape the duty of having the matter investigated and dealt with on its merits. Impartiality and equality before the law are among the first lessons to be learned under the American flag.

ROBERTS ON THE WAR.

Lord Roberts in his dispatches to the war department analyzes the battles directed by Gen. Buller, and finds much to criticize in the conduct of that officer and his subordinates. After every lost battle it is easy for an expert on war to find where the officer or that military man have acted otherwise than he did, and to say what the result would have been, had such or such a contingency not arisen. But one side has to lose in a battle, and there has to be some cause for this. With regard to the encounter at Spion Kop, the accounts given at the time were to the effect that the British force there was simply dislodged by the force of the Boer attack. They held the hill as long as it was possible to do so. The British public will not forget this, or other heroic acts of the soldiers.

One cause of the British reverses Lord Roberts does not refer to in his official commentary on the campaign. And yet it must have had a great influence over the outcome. That is, the inferiority of the smaller arms of the Boers, as compared to those of the British. On British authority it is stated that the Lee-Enfield rifle of the British army is inferior to the Mauser rifle of the Boers. If this is correct, the home government is not entirely without blame for the reverses suffered. One would naturally suppose that Great Britain would have followed the progress of the development of military armament, at least as closely as most of their alleged antiquated antagonists in Africa. No one would suspect the Boers of being better armed than the soldiers of the greatest nation on earth, but that seems to be the case to some extent. Lord Roberts might profitably have described the effects of the fire from a Mauser as compared to that of a Lee-Enfield. There has been a tendency to overestimate the number of Boers in nearly every engagement. Probably this is due to the superior volume of their fire and the greater accuracy of the aim. All blame may not properly belong to the officers of the army.

ORATORY.

Senator Hoar's reference to Aguinaldo and his associates as belonging to a race that "handed down to us the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the poetry of David, the eloquence of Isaiah, the wisdom of Solomon and the profound philosophy of Plato" would be exquisitely funny, had it not been made in the legislature of a great nation, during the discussion of a most serious question. Under the circumstances it must be characterized as a grotesque attempt at hiding a grim falsehood under a brilliant cover of oratorical flowers. Someone might with as much reason compare the Rus-

slan Laplanders to the race that gave us the Bible.

Aguinaldo is, by all accounts, a Tagalog with Spanish blood in his veins. The race that gave us the Scriptures were neither Tagalog nor Malay, nor Shemites. These were the leaders of civilization through many centuries, and it was during their golden age that they produced the poetry of David, the eloquence of Isaiah and the wisdom of Solomon.

A legitimate use of oratory is to impress a truth, to illustrate an important fact, to arouse sentiment in favor of that which is good and noble, but to use it for the purpose of concealing the shallowness of the water and induce people to believe that there is depth where there is nothing but mud, though very frequently done, is nevertheless reprehensible. It has no effect on thinking people but to render them suspicious of being imposed upon. A public speaker should first be sure that he has the truth to present, and then do it without recourse to the tricks of the orator.

Bubonic plague has reached Egypt, and seems to be making its way steadily toward Europe.

Military men who condemn their comrades in arms ought to get reasonably near the clearing in the woods before saying a great deal.

If Austria should seize Albania, as is suggested in a Rome dispatch today, no one should be deceived into thinking that Russia will not be alive to the grab game.

The wool men are confident of a stiffening of prices, and persistently refuse to offer two and three cents under the highest figure the market has reached this season.

Constantinople is being bombarded by the European powers. But it is only with notes of protest against Turkish taxes, and with no danger of injury to any except the taxpayers.

It is said Uncle Sam hesitates to precipitate war with Turkey over the indemnity due America for Turkish outposts. "Uncle" will have to put aside any diffidence he has in that line if he wants to maintain his rights in the eyes of the Balkan Powers. The loss of the European situation, the quicker would be the Sultan's movement to pay his admitted debts.

The ravages of bubonic plague in India are terrible, yet no full description of conditions can be obtained. A brief dispatch today says there is a decrease in the number of deaths from the disease, but these are yet over 4,000 per week. At the reduced rate, the mortality is upwards of 200,000 a year, but a higher rate has been going on for months. This, with the ravages of famine, will make an amazing reduction in the population of British India.

The British war office may have an important purpose in giving out Lord Roberts' scathing criticism of Gen. Buller and his commanders, but when calm judgment prevails, the bad taste of a government washing its dirty linen in public will be recognized as readily by Englishmen as by others. The London war office seems determined to keep up so far as possible, the record of commanders which have been so costly to Britain's brave soldiery ever since the first shot was fired in the South African struggle.

The Springfield Republican, commenting on the exclusion from the Presbyterian church of Prof. McIliff, takes occasion to say: "With all the hostilities directed there should be nothing to disturb the serenity of the members left within the fold, and their admiration for one so brave and so noble a leader as Lord Roberts. The Presbyterian church will sometime find itself in a death-like intellectual stultification. Spain did not expel the Moors, nor France the Huguenots, without dealing a heavy blow at their own national strength and greatness. And when the Presbyterian church in Springfield, without dealing a heavy blow at its own national strength and greatness, expels a man of the stature of Lord Roberts, it is a grave peril so long as the Brigades and McIliffs are driven from its membership."

RETURN OF GEN. OTIS.

New York World. Gen. Otis insisted at the beginning of the trouble that with 20,000 troops he could soon end the "insurrection." When the force proved really inadequate he was given more than 60,000—a larger army than the United States ever employed against a foreign foe. He has now returned, his hands everywhere. There is not a town or a district where Americans would be safe from the ravages of the Boers. The optimistic Otis admits in a letter that "a large body of troops must be kept in the islands indefinitely."

Springfield Republican. Gen. Otis has been relieved at his own request, and will sail for home by May. He has proved himself a leader of men, but there have been reduced to quite a satisfactory condition, a "large" repressive military force must be maintained some time. And yet we are told that the vast majority of the people there are warmly and aggressively friendly to us. How utterly empty and false that claim is appears on the very face of the situation.

New York Post. The dispatch from Manila which was published this morning is a queer commentary upon the recent announcement that Gen. Otis is coming home. He has virtually suppressed the rebellion among the Filipinos. Reports of encounters between the American troops and the natives come from many points, one of them being at an insignificant point only five miles from Manila. A detachment of infantry which was scouting in Laguna province was pursued by the insurgents and obliged to take refuge in a church until reinforcements arrived.

Chicago Times-Herald. But the situation generally is best judged by what we know of the progress of the American arms and by the assured tone of the dispatch from General Otis in which he asked to be relieved. Filipino resistance amounted to very little at its strongest. The natives, though in superior numbers, never won a victory, but kept falling back until they were completely routed. Since then there have been no hostilities except by small marauding bands. General Otis thinks that he can have everything in shape to leave by May 1.

Boston Transcript. Whether General Otis comes home on leave of absence and is to return to Manila in the autumn, whether he is finally retiring from command in the Philippines, it may be written of him

that he has deserved well of his country. He has been nearly two years in the Philippines, the greater portion of that time in chief command, not only general but chief civil administration. His services in both capacities have been eminently useful and creditable.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

"The Life of Nelson," by Robert Southey, is the contents of Cassell's National Library, new series, of April 25th. It is a little volume containing 129 pages, neatly printed. There is an introduction by the editor of the series, Mr. Morley—Cassell & Co., 13th Street, New York.

Cram's Magazine for April deals with the living questions of the day, such as "American Expansion," "Anglo-Bosnian War," "The Philippine Insurrection," "The Taxation of Puerto Rico under Spain," and similar topics. Besides, it has a number of poems and papers on a great variety of subjects. It is a good number. The cover has an excellent portrait of General Joubert—130 Fulton St., New York.

Harper's Weekly for April 14th, has a double page colored supplement, giving a view of the buildings of the Paris Exposition. Among its other features are a play, on "The Republic of America," by Arthur Sewall, and Mr. A. C. Wheeler's article entitled "The Achievement of Henry Irving"—critical study of the great actor's methods. W. N. Brewster writes of "Japan's Failure in Formosa." Mr. J. D. Whipple contributes a paper on "American Charity in Cuba."—New York.

Werner's Magazine for April contains numerous features of special value to the readers. An analysis of the patriotic literature of all lands—particularly lyrics—is presented in an interesting manner. "The Coaching of School Plays" is the title of an article giving directions as to how to choose a play, how to drill the students, how to rehearse, what pitfalls to avoid, and a number of illustrations showing what is being done by various dramatic clubs in New York and Brooklyn. Mrs. Emily M. Bishop's paper on "Psychological Training of the Boy" will be of interest and value to all who care for the development of the exceptional child. A program for a Memorial Day entertainment, by Mary Edward, is given. Appropriate music, speeches and other exercises suitable for school presentation are supplemented by a "Snapping Drift" an ingenious arrangement of musical and dramatic material. Edgar R. Werner Publishing Co., New York.

The Easter number of Collier's Weekly is from every point of view the most artistic of that enterprising magazine. Besides the regular comment and chronicle of the news of the day there are special articles and stories by Francis Wilson, E. S. Martin, Muller Elliot, Seawell, and Louise Loe, A. I. Keller, Thomas Fogarty, and Albert Sterner.—New York.

Salt Lake Theatre

GEORGE D. PYPHER, Manager.

Saturday, April 21

The World's Greatest Pianist,

PADEREWSKI

ONE NIGHT ONLY.

PROGRAM.

Studies Symphonies, opus 13.—Schumann

Sonata, F. Minor, op. 10 (approximate)

III. Allegro assai. (Moderato)

IV. Allegro assai. (Moderato)

V. Allegro assai. (Moderato)

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