

the wild tribes, would afford a like cause. At best the work of civilizing Indians is a slow and difficult task, covering not a few months or years, but generations; and the progress that is noted, even with the Lemhi savages, is an encouragement to pursue further the work along those lines that have proved successful.

But if the Lemhi Indians have not made such advancement as other similar wild tribes, are we to look to the savages as affording the sole cause, or to their surroundings. "Some avail themselves of the opportunity of earning their living by civilized pursuits; others lead a lazy, vagabond life. They are addicted to gambling, horseracing and dancing." Does not that description fit the white communities with which the Indians come in contact, equally well with the savages? Is it not a fact that when the Indians do mingle with white people in the towns they visit, it is not the better class whose conduct they see, but that of the hoodlum, the loafer, the vagabond? The civilization the Indian often sees, has a thousand-fold more influence on him than the civilization which is talked of, but is little practiced within his view. No wonder it is hard to draw him from old conditions.

This situation of affairs is easily pointed out without any reflection of incapability on the part of the Indian agents. For civilization, the Indians must not have the continued example chiefly of the excrescences of civilization; he must be prod and coaxed to the better order of life, so that his posterity will look upon it as the proper condition, for the wild Indian never will—he accepts it only as the best within reach under his changing circumstances. Further than this: An industrial civilization will not civilize the American Indian. Debased though he is, there is a spiritual or religious element in him that must have cultivation, or the best training that can be given him otherwise will fail. It is the superstition in the Indian that is the strongest anchor to hold him in the paths of his forefathers. Train that aright, and the other instruction is potent for good. It was the perversion of the religious nature of the Indian that plunged him into barbarism, through long centuries. A practically exalted and correct training of his supernatural instincts, in connection with the industrial training that the government is giving, is necessary to attain the best results. But even the so-called discouraging report of the Lemhi agent is sufficiently encouraging for the government to continue its commendable efforts.

FACING THE FUTURE.

Much complaint has been made of the inefficiency shown in conducting the campaigns of the recent war; and doubtless there has been cause for finding fault with some of the under officers in camp and field, and with the red tape in some of the hospital and medical service. There also have been many criticisms of alleged delay and procrastination on the part of Spain in negotiations for closing the war; but these have come rather from the standpoint of an enemy than from any spirit of fair criticism. The results show clearly that in respect to the conduct of the American campaign, President McKinley and the leading men in both army and navy circles have shown great skill and ability in the light of circumstances as they were known and the outcome of the American-Spanish commissions' efforts at Havana. San Juan and Paris show that whatever diplomacy was used in attempts to gain desired ends, there has been no un-

reasonable delay. Hence the calmer judgment of the American people is reaching the point when "mismanagement" and "procrastination," as terms to be applied to the recent war and the peace negotiations following, are misnomers.

Now that the war is ended, however, the United States has some interesting questions before it. Those connected with Porto Rico may be the least, but they are not devoid of difficulties. A modified military administration will do for a time, but when the civil government comes to be put into operation, the place-hunting politician will be an element from which native Porto Ricans may want relief as badly as they did from Spanish misrule; though it is to be hoped any desired amelioration of their condition will not be so long delayed as in their former experience. Then the Philippine Islands will present new complications for a long time to come.

As for Cuba, the real work of reconstruction by the United States will begin there with the new year. As in the other matters, there has been much criticism of the Cubans—a great portion being based on a misunderstanding or misrepresentation of what the Cuban patriots were doing or intended to do. Now it is being more fully realized that they will do just what the American government says, confident in the sincerity of the expressed intention to give to the island a free and stable government. How long it will take to reconstruct affairs in Cuba, it may be impossible to say, but it will not be a very great while. One thing is certain, viz., that American military occupation will not be extended longer than is necessary to maintain safety and good order. When the inhabitants of Cuba really are ready to take the reins of government they will get them; and if the Cuban people want complete independence or would prefer a change to annexation, they will be permitted to follow their own choice.

The duty that stands before Americans today is to ascertain how best to bear the added responsibilities the year 1898 has brought in connection with territorial acquisition, temporary or permanent, and to meet them in the spirit of the Constitution, in its guaranty of the best government to the people governed. The American Republic has made its errors of territorial governmental administration in the past, and it is to be hoped that the experience thus gained will be a light to guard the future against any blot on the nation's fair fame in dealing with the new peoples brought under the sovereignty of the Stars and Stripes. No doubt the American people are able to cope with the situation, but they will have to rise to an exalted patriotism to demonstrate that ability to their island subjects and to the world. And the same patriotism would curb the spirit of carping criticism which, for some time past, has been rolling extreme and unjust fault finding as a delightful morse!

BAD TASTE.

Now and then we hear of political campaigners who are on the "war path" seeking to make capital for their party by references to the late war. This, it seems to us, shows bad taste, bad judgment. Who can with any degree of safety say what the politics of the man was who first enrolled his name when the call was made for 125,000 volunteers? He might have been previously a Democrat, a Republican, a Populist, an Independent, or inclined to any of the distinguishing features of our political or social system; but when he signed the roll and pledged his life and honor to his country, he was sim-

ply an American, and that is all that need be said. That distinctive feature puts all others in obscurity.

It ought to be understood and generally is, that it was an American war, a contest in which our nationality, not our partisanship, was evoked, and in taking up arms in defense of the nation's honor and to free a people from bondage, those considerations overshadowed all others. It is our honest pride which the people take in the issues of the war and its triumphant outcome, a pride which the great majority will not care to have sullied by permitting the glamor to be dissipated by those who persist in placing party ahead of everything.

EQUALIZING CONDITIONS.

The editor of the Iconoclast, of Waco, Texas, the late W. C. Brann, was rapidly acquiring a world-wide reputation as a radical, brainy, entertaining writer when death overtook him. It was a violent death, too; one, it seems, for which he had lived, because men who are unmeasured in their opposition to men and unrestrained in their condemnation of acts of which they do not approve can scarcely be expected to get along through life without collision now and then. It is just as likely that sooner or later one of these collisions will be the means of ushering him out at the back door of this existence. So it was with Brann. He and an enemy met on a public street, shooting began at once and each emptied his revolver into the other's body. It was a most tragic conclusion even to the life of a man of that kind, for he was one of the brainiest, most incisive and most original writers of the age, and with his mind trained in proper channels might have accomplished a great deal of good.

In one of Brann's articles, which among others has been published in pamphlet form, he asks the question—How can we secure a more equitable division between labor and capital of the annual increment of wealth, and assure to every able-bodied individual in this land an opportunity to earn an honest living? A timely and thoughtful query and one that he discusses in a manner bold, forcible and in his own peculiar style.

He proclaims it the most important problem submitted to the arbitrament of human wisdom since the beginning of the world, and assuredly it is one of them. Solve it, he declares, and pauperism will practically disappear. "The giant spectre of crime will shrink as did the fisherman's genii of the flask, for necessity will not goad the one nor pride tempt the other to defy the laws of man nor mock the will of God."

The pointed question is asked—"Are we, the wisest of God's creatures, too dull to utilize to the utmost His precious gifts? Must the fertile fields lie fallow, the fecund mines untouched beneath our feet, the tall timber stand, the cattle remain unsold, the sheep unshorn and the fish uncaught, while millions of men with hearts of oak and muscles of iron remain idle and see want and wretchedness stalk alike grisly phantoms through the world, laughing perhaps at ponderous lectures on the evils of over-production?" The answer to this has the merit of uniqueness not entirely disconnected with truth. Labor cannot produce without the aid of large capital and to secure the co-operation must yield whatever proportion of the product the capital sees fit to ask, and the way to escape—and gradually escape at that—is by seeking the counsel of men whose lives