

portion of the obscured wealth of old mother earth is going to be uncovered and brought forth for the benefit of her children. Those gentlemen are always active, not only at home but elsewhere. Mr. McCune owns heavily in mining properties in the northwestern country, all of which are paying investments, showing that wherever he pitches his tent good results must follow. So with the Montana man; his investment here shows what has long been known but not sufficiently demonstrated—that all of our productiveness in a mineral sense is not sufficiently understood because inadequately handled. Much as has been gained more—a great deal more—remains behind.

We wish Mr. Clark every success in his venture, a wish which it may readily be understood is the forerunner of a conviction that he will be successful. Our fields of enterprise are ample, and none of them gives more of promise than that of mining.

#### THE "OPEN DOOR" POLICY.

The "open-door" policy suggested as likely to be the one adopted in the control of the Philippine and other islands by the United States has its opponents, as indeed has almost every other phase of the expansion question, annexation being conspicuously included. However, those who are seeking to place stumbling blocks before the open gateways have more reason and therefore present better arguments for their position than the anti-annexationists do. A prominent opponent of the open-door policy is Mr. Edwin Burritt Smith, of the Chicago bar, who has recently issued a pamphlet on the subject and who quotes decisions of the United States Supreme court in support of his attitude, which is in effect that once this country has acquired complete sovereignty over the islands the doors must be closed and opened only on terms.

A quotation from Mr. Smith's pamphlet will be found interesting:

"The moment new territory is incorporated into the national domain its inhabitants become citizens of the United States, and as such 'entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states.' The Supreme court has held that 'the provisions of the Constitution relating to trials by jury for crimes and to criminal prosecutions apply to the territories of the United States;' that Congress in legislating for the territories and District of Columbia is subject to those fundamental limitations in favor of personal rights which are formulated in the Constitution and its amendments; and that all citizens of the United States have 'the right to come to the seat of government,' to have 'free access to its seaports,' and to pass freely from one part of the country to every other part. The Supreme court has also, as late as March last, held that under the fourteenth amendment, which provides that 'all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside.' American-born Chinamen of alien parentage are citizens and free from the provisions of the exclusion treaties and acts; also that Congress has no authority 'to restrict the effect of birth, declared by the Constitution to constitute a sufficient and complete right to citizenship.'"

Mr. Smith further holds that the inhabitants of annexed territory become citizens of the United States and of the several states without naturalization. This rule of international law has always been accepted by us without question until this year. The attempt by Congress to prevent its application

to Hawaii, he says, will fail. To sustain it, the Supreme court must hold that Congress may acquire territory conditioned that it shall not be subject to the Constitution; that it may determine whether acquired territory shall be its private possession or the property of the United States; in a word, that it may in its discretion assume and exercise arbitrary power. That is, briefly stated, that our fixed institutions are fixed in some cases but not in all; that they mean one thing under certain circumstances and something else under other circumstances.

It is undeniably the case that Congress can make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property of the United States, for the Constitution so provides, but this is held to be subject to important limitations. However the subject may be concluded upon, the chief object will assuredly be kept in view: Acquisition must mean acceptance of responsibility and the wielding of authority in the interest of the natives as well as the welfare of the United States.

#### LAUNCHING THE WISCONSIN.

Amid most demonstrative ceremonies and with many manifestations of rejoicing, the hull of the great battleship Wisconsin was at 9:22 a. m. today consigned to the waters which will doubtless be its permanent home. The vessel was constructed at the Union Iron works San Francisco. She is one of triplets just born to the naval service, her sisters being the Alabama and the Illinois, all to be when completed the heaviest and most powerful fighting machines of their class afloat. The length of each is 368 feet, extreme width or length of beam, 72 5-24 feet, displacement from 11,000 to 12,325 tons and with a power equal to the combined strength of 10,000 horses. The speed of these craft is of course to be technically determined by actual trial, but it will not be far either way from twenty miles an hour—a great pace for such leviathan structures, being superior to that of some of the cruisers.

It is worthy of note that the same company that built the Wisconsin constructed the Oregon, up to this time concededly the most substantial, complete and effective battleship afloat. From four and one-half feet below the normal load line to three and one-half feet above it and of a uniform thickness of sixteen and one-half inches between the turrets and above the load line the vessels will carry a protective armor of the toughest obtainable steel, the other portions being also armored, but less heavily, in proportion to the probable exigencies of a combat. There will be two batteries, principal and secondary, the former consisting of four thirteen-inch breech-loading rifles and fourteen six-inch rapid-fire guns; the other will have sixteen six-pounder rapid-fire guns, two Colt guns and two field guns and additionally there will be four torpedo tubes. All the latest improvements have been adopted, the whole structure constituting a floating terror, to be let alone or approached in the most perfect friendliness.

One thing as a result of the late war is more manifest than any other except what has already developed: Uncle Sam is not going to be caught napping, nor even so nearly so as was the case when Spain made it necessary for him to unleash his war-dogs and put them without muzzles upon the enemy's trail. He is now profiting by what has long been recognized as a wise precedent—in time of peace prepare for war. How slow, in the light of what we all now know, he seems to have been about it! And yet it was not altogether his fault. The siren song of peaceful settlements in accordance with more advanced civili-

zation was chanted and chimed every time he spoke of building ships of war and strengthening coast defenses. At last the growing barbarities of Spanish rule almost within our sight and sound culminated in the atrocious butchery of several American citizens and the destruction of their craft without provocation or any form or warrant of law. Then the good-natured but astute old fellow began to realize that barbarism had not yet passed out of the Western hemisphere, and that in our nearest neighbor in the sea we had an insidious foe whose practices we would sooner or later be compelled to put a quietus upon; also, that in dealing determinedly with such an enemy "the patient dint and powder's shock" was of more avail than all the songs that could be sung or all the speeches ever made. Then commenced the building of ships of war. The work has gone steadily along and providentially it had reached the stage at which we could overthrow and practically wipe out the navy of the menacing power when the storm fell. The work still goes on, as shown in the launching of the great craft spoken of and the large number now in various stages of advancement. When all are completed we shall, in the absence of unforeseen vicissitudes, have a naval force not more than two removes from the dead, ranking easily next to that of France and possibly, in actual effectiveness, next to that of the leader, Great Britain.

The times have changed and we have changed with them. Greater changes are yet to come and only those who indifferently read or insufficiently reflect do not understand this.

#### THE RULE OF THE ROD.

The Chicago Times-Herald takes notice of the case of a schoolboy who was beaten by a sectarian schoolmaster and who died some days afterwards. In court evidence was, of course, produced to prove that the death did not result from the beating but from a fall, and the schoolmaster was exonerated, but not, our Chicago cotemporary thinks, before the bar of enlightened public opinion. The paper comments as follows:

"The practice of whipping children has been abolished in the public schools, and with the spread of intelligence is disappearing in the home. It is a practice that always denotes inhumanity and cowardice and often reaches degrees of cruelty and brutality.

"The man or woman who strikes a child thereby confesses inability to govern him or herself, and is consequently incapable of governing the child. Unquestionably many parents administer corporal punishment as a corrective, but even under such circumstances the desire to benefit the child is rarely unaccompanied by an angry impulse, while most of the blows children receive from their elders are entirely due to unrestrained passion.

"The rule of the rod is the rule of might, and might is the only rule known to ignorance. Corporal punishment of children is a survival of savagery and barbarism and has no place in the lives of enlightened people.

"And going back to the particular case referred to, no person who cannot rule a child by reason, kindness and intelligent restraint is competent to have charge of the education of children. It has been so decided in the matter of public education. It is equally true of private or sectarian instructors."

It will not be denied that the habit of beating children is a survival of an age in which the rule of the rod prevailed—a time when not only children but servants and wives could be subjected to corporal punishment. Then it could be