

Their Opinion of War.

Youth's Companion Counts The Cost.

People who talk lightly about going to war can hardly realize how ill-prepared we are for such an enterprise. If war should be declared, it must be fought somewhere. If the war is with Spain over Cuba, shall we fight at sea, or in Cuba, or in Spain, or at our own seaboard and upon our own soil?

It is not left to one antagonist to make the choice. We must be prepared to take either the offensive or the defensive or both, as circumstances may require.

We have the beginning of a modern navy, of which we are justly proud. The ships are among the best of their respective type, and are well-armed and manned; but after all, they are only the beginning of a navy, and too few to guard our extended coast-line and engage also in aggressive operations. The recent disaster to the battle-ship Maine at Havana was deplorable, not only for the loss of life, which was greater than takes place in many sea-fights, but for the loss of the vessel, which represented one-sixth of our battle-line.

Moreover, if one of our ships in action should suffer serious damage, we have no dry dock on the Atlantic seaboard where she could be repaired.

We have begun constructing modern coast defences, but the work is only one-third done, although we have been engaged upon it for ten years. If all the guns planned for were in position to-day, we have not nearly enough artillery-men to man them.

As for aggressive movements, we have no army which we could dispatch to Cuba or to Spain. Our entire army numbers less than thirty thousand, men and is scattered over thousands of miles territory. And if we had a force to send to Cuba, we should send them to death by disease, for the climate is deadly to men of our race.

It is true that the endurance, patriotism and resources of the American people would sustain them in any just war; but the fact should not be overlooked that we are so situated that even a greatly inferior adversary could inflict upon us, because of our unprepared condition, injuries that would be appalling alike to the humanitarian and to the political economist. A proper understanding of this will keep us from being unduly boastful, and from talking flippantly of the chances of war.—Editorial in Youths Companion, Boston.

Evaporating Potatoes.

Mr. J. R. Scott, of Napanee Ont. is opening up a new line of business, the evaporation of potatoes. His factory is at Camden East. He will use one hundred bushels per day. The method of evaporating potatoes is: The tubers are cleaned and boiled, skinned and sliced up, by machinery, and afterwards evaporated. A bushel of sixty pounds is reduced to five pounds. They are canned or boxed up, and are capable of being transported any distance, or exposed to any temperature without injury. When used they have only to be soaked in warm water for awhile and then cooked.

STORIES OF HENRY GEORGE.

The activity and power of intellect of the late Henry George did not prevent absentmindedness. A writer in The Review of Reviews says that this quality was "the jest of his circle."

Names escaped him. I heard him say of Mr. Deyton, the candidate on his ticket for comptroller and one of the best-known men in New York:

"You wont mind it, I hope, if I forget your name. I am so conscious of the danger of getting names wrong that when the need of remembering comes it rattles me, and away the name goes."

He came late to a dinner at the Lotus club, where he was to discuss with some friends the question of his being a candidate in apprehended constingencies. It was raining, and he took from his pocket the slippers with which Mrs George had insisted on providing him in case he should get his feet wet, and as he put them on he apologized with honest gravity:

"I lost time looking for a man I kept asking after as Kinsella, and it turned out his right name was Moriarity. At least I think that was what he told me it was when I found him."

But there was no absentmindedness when discussion of the business in hand ensued; he was keen and wide awake.

One Step Too Many,

The Australians are said to be a rather solemn people but circumstances sometimes amuse them in spite of themselves. The recent elections in Victoria supplied several laughable incidents.

A candidate for a Melbourne constituency, in a burst of eloquence, asked the question:

"What is it that made England what she is—mighty, revered, feared and respected?"

"Oireland!" was the prompt and unexpected reply, in a fine brogue, from the rear of the hall.

Another Melbourne candidate, after laying down a somewhat advanced programme, exclaimed:

"Yes, gentlemen, and I will go one step farther." saying which he stepped over the edge of the rostrum in shortsighted enthusiasm, and fell among the reporters beneath.

Informal Receipt.

Uneducated people sometimes have a happy knack in coming to the point. Here, for example is a story from the Boston Herald.

Dan and Mose, neither of them noted for erudition, partners in an enterprise which it is needless to specify. One morning a customer called to settle a small bill, and after handing over the money asked for a receipt.

Mose retired to the privacy of an inner room, and after a long delay returned with a slip of paper, on which were written these words:

'We,ve got our pay. Me and Dan.'

Men who use lime tell us that four casks Purdy and Green Lime will cover as much as five casks of other makes. We know that it is good lime, and would advise you to haul it home on snow. Shaw & Dibblee.

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