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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1898.

THE returning troops will be able to give the critics considerable information concerning the conduct of the war.

SECRETARY ALGER seems to have done good work at Montauk for the sick soldiers. Now let him take a trip to the southern camps.

SENATOR BUTLER has promised the middle-of-the-road Populists that he will oppose fusion in 1900. This sounds the death knell of the Bryan presidential boom.

THE quarrel between Russia and England has become so threatening that each nation is preparing to seize a Chinese city. China's part in the quarrel is not mentioned.

WHAT a bubble in reputation when sought at the cannon's mouth. In the far famed "Century Dictionary of Names" those of Dewey, Hobson, Sampson and Schley do not appear.

NEARLY all the captured Spanish prisoners have now gone or been sent back to Spain. Cervera and Toral, the commanders who surrendered, are still with us, one in Annapolis and the other in Santiago, and neither seems anxious to go back home and explain how it all happened.

WITH the ending of our war with Spain, the accession of new and desirable territory, together with our large and increasing balance of trade with foreign countries, the immense output of gold in Alaska and our western states, the present activity in manufacturing, our immense crops, the gradual and healthy increase in values, the plentifulness of capital at low rates of interest, and a general feeling of returning prosperity plainly indicates that in the near future the United States and its colonies will enjoy better times than ever before experienced.

WE commend to the fair minded readers the following paragraph from the remarks of Senator Charles W. Fairbanks on taking the chair as permanent chairman of the Indiana Republican convention, August 3d, 1898:

"When we last assembled, two years ago, distress and commercial paralysis were on every hand. Our people were enervated and our progress seemed dead, but with the restoration of the Republican party to power in 1897 an era of prosperity was ushered in. It was the natural and logical result of the restoration of the Republican party to power and the re-establishment of Republican principles in public administration."

THE Lincoln, Neb., *Evening Post*, which was owned by Bryan's private secretary, and has been operated two years as a free silver organ, has closed its office and ceased publishing. In its farewell notice to the public the paper says that it succumbs because of a persistent tendency on the part of the gross receipts to fall below the gross expenses. It further explains that this is a common malady to which many other "reform" newspapers have fallen victims, and intimates that the popocrats are not loyally supporting their official organ. The *Post* began publication when the free silver agitation was the liveliest in 1896, and was reputed to be owned by Mr. Bryan himself.

ENGLAND AND THE NICARAGUA CANAL

North American Review: One of the questions that will have to be discussed very frankly between the United States and England in the near future is that of the political control of the Nicaragua Canal. The people of the United States have been accustomed to look upon the Clayton-Bulwer treaty as totally obsolete and outgrown. This view has also been in general, if we mistake not, accepted by our English friends. But there has been some disposition to assert that Mr. Clayton in the 50's had succeeded in tying the hands of the American nation through all time to come as respects an American ownership and control of the canal which will be virtually a part of our coast-line, and which we must certainly construct in the near future for naval if not commercial purposes. Joint control is not a feasible proposition. Insistence upon it by England would seriously endanger those good relations between the two great English speaking countries that are so valuable to both and so essential to the best progress of the world's civilization.

zation. There is not the slightest thought on the part of the United States of any use or control of the Nicaragua Canal that would not be thoroughly hospitable not only to England's merchant marine, but also to the British navy. The canal would certainly be open to British commerce at precisely the same rates of toll that would be charged to ships having an American register. It would be long-sighted rather than short-sighted statesmanship on the part of England to encourage in every way the American construction and control of the Nicaragua Canal. English trade would benefit materially, and the political understanding between the two nations—which is already recognized by the continental powers as the most important fact in all recent international tendencies—would be greatly strengthened. England wishes our support in a general way for her positions and policies in the far east. But the value of our support in the last resort lies in our ability to use our naval strength in the Pacific. With the Nicaragua Canal constructed and under our control, our naval strength as respects affairs in the Pacific would at once be more than doubled.

LESSONS IN FIGURES.
The statistics on the imports and exports of manufacture during the past ten years have not received the general attention they deserve, showing as they do, a most astonishing decrease of importations and a still greater increase of exports. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1888 we imported manufactured articles to the value of \$328,222,905; during the fiscal year closed June 30th, last, just ten years later, the imports of these articles had decreased almost one third, as their value amounted to but \$220,981,231. Now, everybody knows that the consumption of manufacturers must have been greater during the last fiscal year than in that ten years before, because our population has very much increased during that decade. Even if the imports during that period had not decreased it would still show that our manufacturing interests had kept step with the increase in population. But the fact that during the last fiscal year we imported less manufactures, to the value of \$100,000,000, than ten years before show an industrial development that exceeds the most sanguine hopes and expectations of the friends of protection and the framers of the Dingley tariff in particular, as it must be borne in mind that the greatest reduction took place since the enactment of that law, it amounting to the astonishing sum of \$74,666,377.

The exports of manufactures, on the other hand, teach a still more significant lesson, as they show most conclusively and incontrovertibly that our protective tariff has not only enabled us to reduce the amount and value of foreign goods consumed in this country, but has actually enabled us to increase our exports of manufactures and conquer more foreign markets.

During the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1888, we exported manufactures to the value of \$130,319,286, and during the last fiscal year, the first under the Dingley tariff, we exported goods of the same character to the value of \$288,871,449 an increase of \$158,552,163. It seems that these figures should convince everybody of the necessity for an intelligent, properly adjusted protective tariff.

And finally, in the fiscal year, 1887-88 the excess of imports over exports amounted to the sum of \$198,003,619, a very large amount to send to foreign countries in order to balance our commerce in manufactures with them, while the last fiscal year, again calling attention to the fact that it is the first year under the Dingley tariff, shows an excess of exports over imports of manufactures of the value of \$88,890,313; the first excess in our favor during the whole existence of this nation.

These figures furnish not only great satisfaction but food for serious thought and consideration.

SMARTSBURG.

Corn cutting is the order of the day. Walter Fagan is all smiles—it's a boy.

Sunday school was well attended Sunday.

Several from here attended the Wallace circus Wednesday.

Ben Shelton and wife were down from the prairie Saturday.

Mrs. Mollie West, of Seattle, Wash., is visiting relatives here this week.

Mrs. Wm. Russell, of Terre Haute, is the guest of Mrs. Katherine Green this week.

There is a better prospect for corn in this vicinity than there has been for years.

Miss Maggie Butler has returned to her home in Indianapolis after a visit with relatives here.

Rev. Johnson, of Lebanon, will preach here Sunday morning and at night at the Christian church. Every one invited.

The party at the home of Miss Fannie Long near West school house was attended by several from here, who all report a good time.

School will soon open. Boys and girls hunt up your books and slates and be ready to start when the bell rings out its welcome to one and all.

A BLESSING alike to young and old: Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry. Nature's specific for dysentery, diarrhoea and summer complaint.

TWO VOICES.

A SOUTHERN VOLUNTEER.
Yes, sir, I fought with Stonewall
And faced the fight with Lee,
But if this here Union goes to war
Make one more gun for me,
I didn't shrink from Sherman
As he galloped to the sea,
But if this here Union goes to war
Make one more gun for me.

I was with 'em at Manassas—
The bully boys in arms—
I heard the thunderers roarin'
Round Stonewall Jackson's way,
And many a time this sword of mine
Has blazed the route for Lee,
But if this old nation goes to war
Make one more sword for me.

I am not so full of fightin'
Nor half so full of fun
As I was back in the sixties
When I shouldered my old gun.
It may be that my hair is white—
Such things, you know, must be—
But if this old Union's in for war
Make one more gun for me.

I have forgot my raisins—
Nor how in sixty-two
I fought with the battle ghosts,
I ledges the boys in blue,
And I say I fought with Stonewall
And blazed the way for Lee,
But if this old Union's in for war
Make one more gun for me.

—Atlanta Constitution.

HIS NORTHERN BROTHER.

Just make it two, old fellow.
I want to stand once more
Beneath the old flag with you
As in the days of yore
Our fathers stood together
And fought on land and sea
The battles fierce that made us
A nation of the free.

I whipped you down at Vicksburg.
You kicked me at Bull Run,
On many fields we struggled
When neither victory won,
You wore the gray of southland,
I wore the northern blue,
Like men we did our duty
When screaming bullets flew.

Four years we fought like devils,
But when the war was done,
Your hand met mine in friendly clasp,
Our two hearts beat as one,
No north, no south, we knew,
Once more we stand together
To fight the common foe.

My head, like yours, is frosty.
Old age is creeping on.
Life's sun is lower sinking,
My day will soon be gone,
But of our country's honor
Needs once again her son
I'm ready, too, old fellow.
Be got another gun.

—Minneapolis Journal.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

Contractors Should Be Compelled to Closely Follow Specifications.

Specifications and contract for a road may be all right, but the work of construction needs to be constantly watched in order to insure the literal carrying out of their provisions. Contractors, as a rule, do not appreciate the necessity for being precise in following out all details. They are neither engineers nor scientific road builders and a little variation in the size of the stone, the effect of light rollers and insufficient rolling or the use of clay for binding purposes, does not seem to them to be of much moment. They know that they can finish up a job with a horse roller and plenty of clay for binding and make the surface appear as fine as can be desired. There their concern ends. The mud that works out with every rain and the rapidity with which large stones show through the surface do not trouble them.

Micadam is not perhaps an ideal road, but there is a vast difference between different sorts of road built under that name. If rightly constructed and judiciously maintained, thoroughly satisfactory results are assured, but if more or less crudely built and then indifferent maintained or neglected, as is apt to be the case, it is an expensive luxury likely to cause disappointment. It is folly to suppose that any one can build a road. It requires special knowledge and experience to construct one properly and a rigid adherence to the terms of properly drawn specifications. —Good Roads.

Road Matters in Vermont.

It is felt in Vermont that the good roads cause has received a setback, but efforts are being made to revive it and secure favorable action from the next legislature. The state highway commission which existed for several years possessed little authority, but served a good purpose as a bureau of information. In 1894 their powers were enlarged, public meetings were held in each county, road officials and citizens were interested in the work, improved methods of maintenance were adopted, and the roads were kept in better condition without increase of expense. The legislature of 1896, however, abolished the commission, thus leaving the movement without a head and causing demoralization. This full a sample road under government supervision is to be constructed at Vergennes, and it is hoped that it will be followed by a re-vival of activity in highway improvement.

Road Building a Science.

Roadmaking is now and has been for three-quarters of a century a science in Europe, and no one insists more strongly on the primary necessity of proper location than does the European road builder. It is a rigid rule with him that the topography of the country is to be taken into constant consideration. It is his fixed formula that he must not ascend a foot unless it is impossible to avoid it and that when he has ascended that foot he must not descend it.

The formula is so simple, meaning merely level and well drained roads, that it seems absurd that any one should quarrel with its proposition or insist upon building roads otherwise.

All Depend on the Roads.

The city depends on the country; the farmer's welfare is the public welfare; money in his pocket makes the farmer prosperous; good roads aid him to accumulate coin.

SCROFULA, salt rheum, erysipelas, and other distressing eruptive diseases yield quickly and permanently to the cleansing, purifying power of Burdock Blood Bitters.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON X, THIRD QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, SEPT. 4.

Text of the Lesson, II Kings xiii, 14-25.
Memory Verses, 20, 21—Golden Text, Pa., 24, 15—Commentary by the Rev. D. M. Stearns.

14. "Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash, the king of Israel, came down unto him and wept over his face and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof!" This chapter records the death of five people and the resurrection of one. Why should not Elisha be translated and escape death as well as Elijah? God doeth according to His will, and none can stay His hand or say unto Him, "What doest thou?" (Dan. iv, 35). The king of Israel uses the same words to him that he had used of Elijah. Prophets and kings may die but God, and not they, is the chariot of Israel. When Uzziah died, the prophet Isaiah looked up and saw a King who never died (Isa. vi, 1), and this is the only way of peace.

15. "And Elisha said unto him, Take bow and arrows. And he took unto him bow and arrows. The king was wise to him that he had used of Elijah. Prophets and kings may die but God, and not they, is the chariot of Israel. When Uzziah died, the prophet Isaiah looked up and saw a King who never died (Isa. vi, 1), and this is the only way of peace.

16. "And Elisha said unto him, Take bow and arrows." The king was wise to him that he had used of Elijah. Prophets and kings may die but God, and not they, is the chariot of Israel. When Uzziah died, the prophet Isaiah looked up and saw a King who never died (Isa. vi, 1), and this is the only way of peace.

17. "And Elisha said, Open the window eastward, and he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the Lord's deliverance! God was directing the prophet to encourage the king to have confidence in Him; for none can deliver like Him and none can deliver but Him. In verse 5 we read that "The Lord gave Israel a Saviour." In Isa. xlv, 21, 22, it is written, "There is no God else beside Me, a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside Me; look unto Me and be ye saved; all the ends of the earth, for I am God and there is none else."

18. "And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice and stayed." Five times he was told just what to do without any possibility of his doing otherwise if perfectly obedient, but this sixth time there is a possibility of much or little, as will, for he is not told how oft to smite.

19. "And the man of God was wroth with him and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times, then hadst thou smitten Sennacherib, till he had consumed it." The exceeding abundancy of the Lord is always within our reach, but we limit Him by our lack of faith and lack of zeal for Him. He is saying unto us, "If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it," and "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not" (John xiv, 14; Jer. xxxiii, 3).

20. "And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year." Elisha died—that is, his work being done, he found himself absent from the body and present with the Lord." Some of the angels who watched over him while in the body received him as he left the body and bore him or escorted him home to his God and Saviour, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to Moses and Joshua and David and to Elijah, who had called him to his public service.

21. "And they cast the man into the sepulcher of Elisha, and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha he revived and stood up on his feet." It looks as if some Israelites were burying a man, and, seeing a band of these invading Moabites, they, being near Elisha's sepulcher, put the dead body therein with the result described, suggesting the resurrection of all who truly touch Him of whom Elisha was a type, God my Saviour. If it was the Moabites who were burying the man, then there is a suggestion of life to the Gentiles through the God of Israel. I think there are but three resurrection stories in the Old Testament—the widow's son, the Shunamite's son and this one—and all associated with Elijah and Elisha.

22. "But Hazael, king of Syria, oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz." In verse 3 we read that it was because of sin of Hazael delivered Israel into the hands of the Syrians. The book of Judges is a record of repeated oppressions of Israel by their enemies when they shamed against God and of God's deliverances when they called upon Him.

23. "And the Lord was gracious unto them and had compassion on them, because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast He them from His presence as yet." Not for their sakes but for His own name's sake and because He had seen fit to enter into covenant with them, an unconditional covenant with the parties just mentioned. This covenant still stands, and because of it and because of His faithfulness Israel shall be placed in the promised land with all His heart and soul, after much tribulation—a deep conviction of sin shall be given them, they shall look upon Christ as He shall come in glory for their deliverance and shall receive Him and become a righteous nation forever (Mic. vii, 18-20; Jer. xxxii, 41; Zech. xii, 10; xiii, 9; Isa. xix, 9; ix, 12).

24, 25. "Three times did Joash beat him and recovered the cities of Israel." Just as Elisha had said in verse 19. Many things—perhaps all in the way of victory and service—are unto us according to our faith. Little faith has a poor time and is often overcome, whereas great faith has great peace and joy and victory and brings great glory to God. Consider Him who endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself lest we be weary. Think how zeal for God consumed Him, and covet, like Elisha, to be filled with His Spirit for His service and glory (Heb. xii, 8; John ii, 17; Eph. v, 18).

WHITE CHURCH.

Mrs. Ari Sutton is quite poorly.

Miss Mary Thompson is staying with her grandmas.

Sylvia Harshbarger stayed at Bill Powers' at Colfax last week.

Quite a number from this vicinity went to Marion Tuesday.