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THE NEW ERA IN THE PACIFIC.

United States influence in the Pacific has just taken a shape which nobody in the United States was looking for, which is rather disagreeable to England, which will probably be displeasing to Japan, and which will surprise the world. This is Australia's demand for a separate navy, and the demand has been granted by the British government. Ever since the commonwealth of Australia, consisting of the six British dependencies adjoining each other was established in 1901 there has been a desire on its part to have a navy of its own, but this aspiration did not take concrete form until the United States fleet started for the Pacific, with a program which included a visit to several Australian ports. The invitation to call at the Australian ports was especially effusive, and as the world knows, the welcome which the fleet received was particularly enthusiastic. Australian papers have freely said that their chief reliance in their demand for white domination in the white islands and continents of the Pacific would be the United States. Many things were said by Australian newspapers and public men just before, during and after the fleet's visit which must have been embarrassing to the British government for they were directed against its ally, Japan. No attempt, however, was made by them to spare the feelings of that government, but the visitors, who are booked to call at Japan a week or two hence, were necessarily forbidden by the Washington authorities to touch on the Japanese issue in any shape. The influence of the American cruise to the

Pacific, however, is making itself felt in a rather dramatic way.

The cable dispatch which intimates that the British government was reluctant to grant this independent naval privilege to Australia tells us just what we had a right to expect. England knows that a like request will be soon made by Canada, just as England long ago foresaw that the formation of the Dominion government would ultimately necessitate a like union among the British dependencies on the farther side of the Pacific. Australia's growth in population and in business development has been slow, and this postponed the demand for autonomy for many years after some of the more astute British statesmen expected it to appear. This came in 1901, when the commonwealth was founded. Now that country makes a step toward the development of a national policy which may be relied on to shape itself with a rapidity which will be far from pleasing to England. A navy for Canada will probably be a development of the next three or four years. As the western provinces of Canada are as hostile to Japanese immigration as Australia is, and much more so than the United States, the yellow problem is likely to come up in a rather practical shape in the near future.

To paraphrase the words of the old Farmers' Almanac regarding snow in January, "About this time look out for editorials in some of the London newspapers on the subject of the decline and fall of the British empire." London will see in this concession to Australia a weakening of the imperial tie. And very likely London will be correct. A national consciousness is beginning to take form among the big British colonies of the Pacific, and these developments usually increase impetus with time. Australia has an area almost as large as the United States but has a population smaller than Illinois or Ohio. Its remoteness from the rest of the world has given it a sort of social independence which has made it an experiment station for trying out Utopias of several sorts. In this way it has accumulated an experience, and also a public debt, which are larger than those of many countries which have been on the map several times as long. Moreover as she is some thousands of miles nearer to Japan and most of the rest of Asia than is the United States, and as she is far weaker than us, the yellow peril takes a more portentous shape for her than it does in California or in any other of our communities on the Pacific coast. Her lack of opportunities for laborers, either from the inside or the outside, gives her far less attractions for the Chinese and Japanese than the United States offered, but on the other hand her facilities for resistance are far less potent than ours. England has a larger interest in the doings in the big western ocean than she looked for a few months ago, and so has the United States. London, Washington and Tokio, and likewise Pekin, are watching with a good deal of interest, the drama which is shaping itself over the sea of Balboa and Magellan. By the time that Admiral Sperry's squadron, ten or twelve days hence, anchors off Yokohama the Pacific problem will have begun to take shape which none of those capitals dreamed of when President Roosevelt was bidding it au revoir as it was swinging out from Hampton Roads.

THE NEGRO QUESTION.
The Taft meeting had a souring effect on that dyed in the wool democrat Tom Study. "Think of Dudley Fouke and eight niggers on that platform!" This feeling of contempt is typical not only of this distinguished democrat but of the whole democratic party. What could one expect of the party which during the days of the war stood on the side of the slave owners. What could one expect of the party which in Indiana was the "copper head" and "Knights of the Golden Circle" contingent, whose main object was to thwart the efforts of Governor Morton and to turn the state over to the confederacy. Was it not in accord with the southern democracy whose efforts have taken away the suffrage of the negro which the republican party gave them? The attempt of Mr. Study to cast a slur on the republican party failed.

The republican party stood in the past for the liberation of the negro—for the enfranchisement of the negro and stands there today. The democratic party's record in the past is known and far from changing from it the platform of the party today contains not one word in favor of the negro. The democratic party is responsible for the very things it finds fault with the negro for. The republican party on the other hand, is responsible for whatever the negro has of civic rights, it has encouraged his efforts for uplift.

Nor was the spectacle of colored men on the platform an incongruous one in Richmond the stronghold of abolition a station in the under ground

LIGHTNING CHANGE ARTIST



has its alliance a matter for the discussion and subject to the votes of a populace, for diplomatic reasons would not permit of full publicity and discussion. The officials of this country are elected by and for the people of this country and cannot, therefore, enter into an alliance.

Friends, America wants and has. But these friends must be independent of alliances. Nor can we afford to be dragged into any squabble because we have an alliance with another country. Our interests are our own and those of no other country, therefore we cannot have more than a friendly feeling for any other nation.

TAFT, THE MAN.

The inauguration of President Garfield's son as president of Williams College and the entry of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., as a wage worker in a woolen mill, bring up the question of the future of the sons of the chief executives of the country.

James Arthur Garfield showed in his address at Williams College, that he had grasped the important principles of modern education as firmly as any of his contemporaries, be they Eliot of Harvard, or Wilson of Princeton. It was significant that the son of the man who gave the credit of his success to Mark Hopkins, the former President of Williams, should rear a son to be the successor of that man.

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., has started in at the very bottom and from all accounts is making a success even under the handicap of being the son of his illustrious father.

These men of science who have made a study of heredity regard great men as the final evolution of a long line and argue that after that point the line decays with great rapidity.

But stock men do not disregard the laws of heredity in breeding. Why then should we always expect deterioration in the descendants of great men?

Certainly Theodore Roosevelt is not the one to bring forth or to rear incompetents. Is it not fair to suppose that young Theodore has caught the gleam of the strenuous life. What reason is there to believe that he will not make his mark in the world?

The president of Williams College has reached a conspicuous place already. Young Roosevelt has just started. John Quincy Adams was quite as eminent a man as his father and the grandson of William Henry Harrison was no mean man. Why disparage the sons of presidents?

ALLIANCES.

The Japanese press is wild in its claim for America and Americans since the arrival of the fleet in their waters. Not only that, but the interchange of a letter from Roosevelt to the Mikado and has made not only Japanese but American papers talk of a Japanese-American alliance.

Unfortunately, however, for those who wish it this country cannot enter into alliances. Not only is it not the precedent, but there is a reason far greater than that, even than Washington's parting words to the American people to "beware of entangling alliances." That reason cannot be better illustrated than now during a political election. Roosevelt has four more months as president—the secretary of state is a man of his creation. Any alliance that this country might enter into could be but for a brief term, only to be upset when the election comes.

More slumping in Wall street because of the European war cloud. Those Wall street fellows are more or less inclined to be slumps.

St. Petersburg is not as well governed

as the European war cloud. Those Wall street fellows are more or less inclined to be slumps.

It is rather mean to make Bryan do all his own campaigning. Where are the Democratic wheelhorses—loafing around in the pasture?

Theodore must be satisfied, as there is nothing proceeding from the white house but silence.

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