

A Great Soldier of Fortune.

Jay Gould is dead. He will be remembered in history chiefly as an extraordinary illustration of the facilities afforded by the present chaotic industrial system to the commercial soldier of fortune. The conquest of Mexico by Cortez and the conquest of Peru by Pizarro, have figured large on the page of history; yet measured in actual cash secured these famous freebooters were in the baby class compared with Mr. Gould.

Cortez and Pizarro started in to win backed by ships and steel-clad battalions. Gould started on nothing. He first entered New York as a peddler, a peddler, as is related, of a patent mousetrap. He died, one of the half dozen lords who have mastered the material resources of an empire, to which the wealth of the Montezumas and the Incas would serve but as vest pocket change.

There are those who commend these times because men are able thus, by no other capital than their shrewdness, no other desert than their devotion to self, to become princes, kings and emperors, of men, like this Mr. Gould. And yet these same persons who boast of the opportunity for clever men to master their fellows call them selves democrats and say they believe in a republic.

Surely there is here great confusion of ideas.

A system which makes possible such a career as Gould's is not a democratic system, but on the contrary, one which lends itself to irresponsible tyranny as no other ever did.

Why is it that this system, while professing to be democratic, proves such a nest of Caesars?

It is because it refuses to recognize, to regulate and to repress the power of money, which, in modern times, is the greatest of all powers and basis of them all.

The economic equality of all citizens is the necessary corner stone of any social structure that shall be truly democratic.

Mr. Gould has been much abused by people who thought they thereby showed themselves reformers. The *New Nation* has never abused Mr. Gould or any other individual. He and his like are the results of a stupid and wicked economic system.

We attack the system and we strike at its root, which is economic inequality.

Give men a chance through inequality of wealth to obtain power over their fellows, and of course they will abuse that power. Do not waste breath in cursing them for abusing the power; take it away.

We cannot have democracy, we cannot have a republic till we establish economic equality.—*New Nation*.

The Monetary Conference.

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—I am, and have been for some time, fully convinced that there is more in that international monetary conference over the money question than a great many are prepared to believe. It is in the nature of an international contract. This contract is intended to bind the United States to what is done, so that when the people get in power and are ready for reform legislation, the wheels will be blocked by an international treaty. Of course the monetary conference is controlled by the money power. Now if they can forestall legislation contemplated by the great industrial reform movement, and precipitate a war in case any legislation is undertaken that may be detrimental to them, they will have made our progress materially more difficult. I strongly suspect that this is simply what Harrison, Sherman, Rothschild & Co. have

undertaken to do, and the turn things are taking at Brussels goes, I think, far to corroborate such a view of the case. Nothing can ultimately foil the reform movement, but we do well to watch closely our enemies and point out the danger to the people. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

J. L. SWITZER.
McCune, Kas., December 10.

Sound Doctrine.

The Nicaragua canal convention, held in New Orleans last week, came at an inauspicious time. The object of that convention was very plain. It was to influence public sentiment in favor of the federal government's giving aid to the company to the extent of guaranteeing its bonds for \$100,000,000. The Panama Canal Company also tried to get the assistance of the French government. At the time the New Orleans convention as held, the facts about the astounding corruption in connection with canal legislation in France were leaking out. Here is a list of the same paid to newspapers to influence public sentiment: *Petit Journal*, 300,000 francs (\$50,000); *Telegraphe*, 240,000 francs; *Matin*, 50,000 francs; *Gaulois*, 45,000 francs; *Radical*, 100,000 francs; *L'Evenement*, 50,000 francs; *Journal Des Debats*, 40,000 francs. Tremendous sums were paid to deputies and other officials. It may not be very courteous to call attention to these facts in connection with the Nicaragua canal project, with an honored public man like Warner Miller at its head; but the danger is the same here as it was there, when the federal government is asked to lend financial aid to a great enterprise that is operated for personal gain. If the government puts either money or financial credit behind the Nicaragua canal, it ought to take entire control of the construction and management. If the enterprise is too big to be swung by private capital, let the government have entire charge, pay the bills and reap the profits. We want no repetition of the Panama canal corruption here.—*New York Voice*, December 8.

Gives Himself Away.

The *Economist* will be a better paper for Alliance men and farmers in the future than it has been in the past, because in addition to making its vigorous fight for the principles of the order, will expose the scoundrels in all the political parties.—*National Economist*.

From the above it would seem that the *Economist* has not been exposing the rascality of the politicians. Many people thought as much when the *Economist* offered to the country an editorial apologizing for Livingston when he went into the democratic caucus, after he had offered a resolution at Ocala pledging Alliance members to vote for no man for office who did not endorse the Ocala platform. The editor of the *Economist* has ever been a follower instead of a leader, and as an individual he has been a load for the reform movement to carry. Already the monopoly press have begun to lean toward McCune and his coterie of followers. Now let him join the ranks of bourgeois democracy if he prefers, then we can all locate him.—*Alliance Vindicator*, Sulphur Springs, Tex., December 8.

Death Lurks in the Folds of Sweat-Shop Made Goods.

The Rev. W. D. P. Bliss, a member of the Anti-Tenement House League, of Boston, reported at a meeting of that committee the results of a personal investigation of the sweating system in New York city. "The sweating system does exist in New York city to a most frightful ex-

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tent, and under most frightful conditions," he said, "and the streets on which these tenements are situated are worse than I have seen in London, Paris and Berlin, or even Constantinople, and I have visited the slums of all these cities.

"I took up some of the clothing and found it stained and smeared with suspicious filth. I saw women working with naught on save a flimsy skirt and chemise; babies, marked and pitted, playing amid the clothing; pale-faced women bending over the work, working only too evidently, as some of them said, from 5 o'clock in the morning until 10 or 11 o'clock at night to earn even half a man's low pay. I am absolutely convinced that there are whole blocks and square miles practically given over to the tenement-made clothing trade.

"I have lived in Constantinople during the visitation of the Asiatic cholera, and know the condition of the cholera-visited quarters there, and I do solemnly aver that the conditions in New York city are worse. I saw seemingly fine work, as well as poor made, in these wretched houses."—*The Vanguard*.

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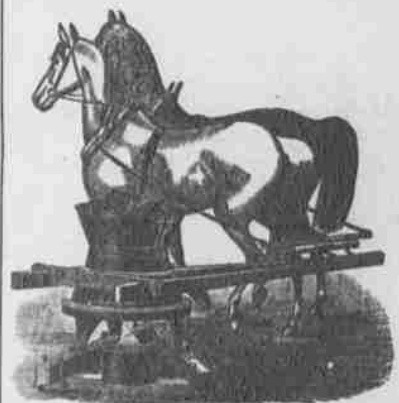
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