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Managing Director and Editor, John Cameron

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## The Trouble in Samoa.

As the present troubles in Samoa may lead to international complications, a brief sketch of the country will be timely.

Samoa is a group of fourteen volcanic islands of Polynesia in the South Pacific. They contain about 36,000 native inhabitants, and only about 1,000 foreigners, chiefly British, German and Americans, who have extensive commercial interests there. Formerly the islands, with one exception, were governed by the royal houses of Malietoa and Tubua. In order to secure stability of Government, Great Britain, Germany and the United States made an agreement in 1881 by which Malietoa became king of all Samoa, and Tamsese vice-king. In 1887, Germany proclaimed Tamsese king, and Malietoa was deposed to the Cameroons. Mataafa, the chief of the loyalist party and a relative of the exiled monarch, made war against Tamsese. The Germans attempted to disarm Mataafa and proclaimed martial law. In 1889 a conference was held, and an agreement, known as the treaty of Berlin, was signed by the representatives of Great Britain, the United States, and Germany. They declared Samoa independent and neutral; the Samoans were conceded the right to elect their own king and govern themselves according to their own laws and customs, and a supreme court was created to secure the rights of foreigners. Malietoa was thereupon re-elected king, but there have since been intermittent disturbances, the most serious being an outbreak in 1893, headed by Mataafa who was deposed to an island of the Union group. King Malietoa died in August last and the throne is claimed by the banished Mataafa and by another relative of the late king, Malietoa Tanus. It is suspected that Germany has designs on Samoa and has intrigued with the native factions to further her own ends. The Germans were angered by the recent decision of the United States to establish a first-class naval supply station at Pago-Pago, in Samoa, claiming that the project means a dislocation of power in the south seas and a virtual violation of the treaty of Berlin. The Americans, however, are perfectly within their rights as the chief of Pago-Pago ceded to them in 1872 the exclusive privilege of establishing a naval station in that harbor. The validity of this transfer was recognized and affirmed in the Berlin compact.

The attempt of the Germans to usurp the functions of the supreme court of Samoa is a flagrant defiance of the tripartite agreement which provides that the court shall consist of one judge (styled the chief justice), who shall be approved by the three powers. This arbitrary action cannot but increase the resentment of the Americans, who have been subjected to a policy of pin-pricks by Germany. It is satisfactory to note that the British and American consuls acted in concert, which points to some friendly understanding between the two Governments as to the general course to be pursued in Samoa.

## Flogging Wife-Beaters.

Again we have a public discussion regarding the most effective punishment that can be meted out to men who abuse, beat and neglect their wives and children. The subject is revived by the publication of a letter which the Minister of Justice has addressed to the secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Women and Children, Montreal, in reply to the request of that organization. What the society desires is an amendment to the criminal code, so that this class of culprit may be punished with the lash, as well as by imprisonment. To this request, Hon. Mr. Mills sent the following reply, which appears in La Patrie, of a recent date:

"I am in receipt of your letter of the 9th inst., in which you recommend that the law should be amended so that magistrates may have it in their discretion to add a certain number of lashes on the bare back to the ordinary sentence of imprisonment for wife-beating and brutal treatment of children. I beg to say that the subject will be given due consideration. I am inclined to think that if what you suggest were made law, it would in almost every instance lead to separation. There are some cases where men who are usually kind to their wives and children become as ruffianly as you describe when drunk. Do you not think their wives would be deterred from complaining at all if they thought that the result of their complaint would be the public flogging of their husbands?"

It will be interesting to know what reply the Montreal philanthropists will make to the query of the Minister of Justice. Everyone knows that he is a man of kind heart, and that no one is more willing than he to listen to any well-conceived plan to aid in the reformation of wrongdoers. But we should think that he might well hesitate before he ordered the application of the "cat" to this class of offenders. He may reasonably doubt if even the present opportunity to save a woman from the bad treatment of an unfeeling husband would be presented if to the existing punishment the lash were added. Those who have from time to time witnessed police court proceedings know how very difficult it often is to get the wife of a drunken, bad-tempered husband to give evidence against him, when her resentment has cooled.

We can well understand how this anxiety to screen the offender would be increased if the wife knew that the result of her evidence would be the disgrace of public flogging, added to imprisonment. There is this further consideration. None of us desire to stand in the way of punishing the wife-beater or the man who systematically inflicts cruelty on his tender offspring. But we all desire to see such punishment inflicted as will prove deterrent, and result, if possible, in the reconstruction, on a proper basis, of the afflicted and disinherited family. Would the humiliation of flogging inflicted on a wife-beater tend to make him more repentant and loving towards his partner in life? Would it make the man whose back is covered with raw skin pine for the hour of his release in order that he might rejoin the woman who gave the evidence that caused this punishment? We think not. Surely not till the law-makers have made up their minds that the wife-beater must be divorced from his wife should flogging be resorted to. It is morally certain that no man of spirit would resume the marital relationship with a woman who had caused him to be lashed. Divorce might be better for the woman, but again it might result in breaking up a home that could have been cemented under kinder and humaner treatment of its erring head.

## A Boom in British Shipyards.

The year 1898 was the most extraordinary in British shipbuilding annals. The total value of the mercantile shipbuilding was \$100,000,000 and the value of warships was \$100,000,000 more. The aggregate tonnage last year exceeded all records—yet the present year promises to surpass it. Already British shipyards have nearly 2,000,000 tons on hand, an increase of half a million tons, compared with the same period last year, and four times as much as all the other shipyards of the world turned out in the whole of 1897. This has caused great activity in the engineering, electrical, iron, steel, and all other related industries. In fact, the great mechanical industries are so roused with home work that foreign orders have had to be refused with serious loss to the British export trade.

The overwhelming maritime supremacy of the British empire is shown in the following statement of the tonnage of the merchant navies of the leading countries in 1880 and 1897:

	1880.	1897.
British Empire .....	8,447,000	10,418,000
Russia .....	467,000	577,000
Sweden .....	542,000	496,000
Norway .....	1,513,000	1,566,000
Denmark .....	249,000	345,000
Germany .....	270,000	450,000
Holland .....	235,000	294,000
Italy .....	913,000	894,000
United States .....	999,000	765,000
Totals .....	15,001,000	16,608,000

It will be seen by this that the preponderance of the shipping of the British Empire has increased, while five countries show a decrease, notably the United States. One reason for the present stimulus to shipbuilding is the cheapening of steel ship plates, which has caused a rush to substitute steel for iron ships.

Russia is piling up her armaments as if she really feared the Czar's peace conference would amount to something.

Germany does not look with favor on the Anglo-American alliance, yet her agents abroad have done a great deal to promote it.

Some Russian missionaries in Persia have been murdered, and satisfaction has been demanded. Is this preliminary to a land grab?

The Anglo-Egyptian convention for the government of the Sudan, is quite Oriental in its diplomacy. Egypt gets the shell and Great Britain the kernel. It is the voice of the Khedive and the hand of Lord Cromer.

Holland will spend \$50,000,000 to reclaim a half-million acres of land at present under water. The land will be sold at \$300 an acre. Farm property is a great deal dearer there than here, but most Canadian farmers do not have to live on three acres and a cow.

The German consul at Apia, Samoa, seems to be a second Diederichs. Diederichs is the German general at Manila who made himself so obnoxious to the Americans by his pro-Spanish attitude. It is significant that both at Manila and Apia the British and the Americans stood together.

Parry Sound, Midland, Meaford, Owen Sound, Collingwood and Goderich—each thinks it is the key to the transportation problem, and calls on the Government to spend money on its harbor in the sole interest of the Northwest farmers. The Government, if it does not wish to sink its surplus in Lake Huron, will have to disappoint some of these towns.

The Winnipeg Free Press says the past year was one of unalloyed prosperity in the province. It gives these figures:

	1898.	1897.
Imports .....	\$5,391,537	\$3,453,454
Duty .....	1,324,000	771,669
Exports .....	3,369,996	2,012,996

Our contemporary riddles the specious argument that taxes are higher because more duty is collected, pointing out that increased imports show an increased capacity for buying. The rate of duty on Manitoba imports was 24 per cent in 1895, 23 per cent in 1896, 22½ per cent in 1897, and 19 per cent in 1898.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY.

## Aguinaldo's Opening.

[Philadelphia Ledger.]

The next thing Aguinaldo knows he be figuring in an American dime museum, if he doesn't watch out.

## The Whirligig of Time.

[Goderich Signal.]

If the Old Man with the scythe attends to business as he has been doing of late, the Tories will be shouting for the abolition of the Senate in a very few years.

## Witchcraft in Toronto.

[New York Sun.]

Certain persons in Toronto have been arrested on the charge of witchcraft and sorcery. We knew when we saw the recent wild caperings of the Toronto World that it must be a case of demoniac possession. After proper exorcism that perturbed contemporary may recover.

## Tutor for the President.

[Portland (Me.) Argus.]

The president is said to be carefully studying the history and methods of British colonial administration. The president might get "Joe" Chamberlain to come over and give him a course of lessons in colonial government. Or there is a man in South Africa who might possibly be induced to superintend a trial start of the American imperial machine. His name and address is Cecil Rhodes, empire builder, Cape Colony.

## Hiram Walker's Millions.

[Hamilton Times.]

Much wonder is expressed in some quarters at the fact that Hiram Walker left nine million dollars. That is not surprising. Suppose Mr. Walker had run his business for 50 years making a clear profit of \$100 a day, week after week, how much would he have accumulated? Less than \$2,000,000 excluding interest. How did he make the money, then? He didn't make it; government, by its law regarding liquor, made the greater part of the fortune. The same is true of Gooderham, Seagram, and the tobacco princes of Canada.

## English Aldermen.

[Montreal Gazette.]

An English alderman, explaining the British municipal system to New Yorkers, found it easiest to say that it was not. "In England we have no city bosses, no primaries, no conventions, and few bands and fireworks. In no ward restrictions as here. It matters not what a man may be socially or politically, so that he be honest, faithful and competent. There is no hustling of voters at the ballot box by policemen. It is understood that police are there for protection. All this service of the councilors is gratuitous, and the same men serve year after year."

## Why They Cannot Disarm.

[Chicago Chronicle.]

Nobody wants to disarm first. Indeed most of the parties to the prospective contract maintain that it is impossible for them to lay aside their firearms until certain existing contracts are terminated. England has several jobs on hand. The Sudan business is not by any means finished; the Indian engagement is a perpetual contract. There is a good outlook for a set-to with the Boers, Germany expects to do considerable business in Russia, where Nicholas himself, despite his peaceful proclivities, keeps his shooting-irons handy at all times. France yearns for the revanche. Italy is all tangled up with Abyssinia. Old Spain, it is true, has no prospect of a row with anyone. Like a toothless lion, she growls and snarls impotently at the United States. But Austria-Hungary is not unlikely to have a domestic row. As for the United States—well, the process of benevolent assimilation is not to be accomplished without suitable accessories in the way of large and small caliber projectiles of the latest pattern. It is quite out of the question for us to join the peace league for the present.

## The Grip.

[New York Sun.]

Zip:  
And the Grip  
Has got its nip  
On your neck,  
And you're a wreck.  
You cough  
Your head and your heels off,  
And your arms and your legs off,  
And your hands and your feet off,  
And still you cough;  
And you remain  
Are full of aches and pains.  
You take no pleasure in your friends,  
And all the ends  
Thou aim'st at are the Grip's.  
From Maine to California,  
From the mountains to the sea,  
The old sweet song  
Has all gone wrong,  
And the chorus is misery.  
Oh, for a ray of sunshine.  
Oh, for a spot of blue  
In the leaden sky  
To tickle the eye  
And pull our livers through!  
Say, Grip,  
Won't you get onto our tip  
And skip?  
Or must we say  
In a vigorous way,  
"D—n!" and "D—n!" again  
And the whole land  
Join in a grand "Amen"?

## LIGHT AND SHADE.

[Economy to Smoke.]

"You could buy a horse every year with the money you spend on cigars," said the total abstainer severely to the smoker.

"But I don't want a horse every year," responded the smoker. "What would I do with such an accumulation of horses? It would ruin me to feed them. Cigars don't eat. It's a positive economy to smoke."—Chicago Post.

## About the Size of It.

Bachelor—I wonder what induces men to marry?  
Benedict—Why, the women, of course.

## After the Days of Business.

When I sit down with thee at last alone,  
Shut out the wrangle of the clashing day,  
The scrape of petty jars that fret and fray,  
The snarl and yelp of brute beasts for a bone—  
When thou and I sit down at last alone,  
And through the dusk of rooms divinely gray

Spirit to spirit finds its voiceless way  
As tone melts meeting in accordant tone,  
Oh, then our souls far in the vast of sky,  
Look from a tower too high for sound of strife  
Or any violation of the town,  
Where the great vacant winds of God go by,  
And over the huge misshapen city of life  
Love pours his silence and his moonlight down.

## A Shilling a Word.

The Boston Herald tells a good Kipling story:  
They are telling of a certain wag, who, hearing that Rudyard Kipling received at the rate of a shilling a word for his stories, sent him a shilling, and asked him for a word.  
Mr. Kipling replied, "Thanks."

## Too Tired to Think.

... It must oft fall out  
That one whose labor perfects any work  
Shall rise from it with eye so worn that  
Of all men least can measure the extent  
Of what he has accomplished.  
—Robert Browning.

## EXAMINE HER EYEBROW

It Will Aid in Predicting the Future—So Says a Sage.

"It's all very well for a girl to plume herself upon her pretty eyebrows," said an expert physiognomist the other day, "but I, who have been studying character for years, have perhaps a different point of view. Eyebrows show character, and the wise man will take note of them when choosing his friends. Eyebrows, for instance, that are wide apart, denote a frank, generous, unsuspicious and impulsive nature. When they meet one may be sure that their owner's temperaments are ardent, but jealous and suspicious. Eyebrows that are elevated at starting and continue in long sweeping lines over the eyes with a downward tendency indicate artistic feeling."

"Straight eyebrows, forming a firmly defined line across the eyes, denote great determination and will power. Those which begin rather strongly and terminate abruptly without passing beyond the eyes show an impatient and irascible nature."

"Sensitiveness and tenderness are indicated by slightly arched eyebrows, and firmness of purpose and kindness of heart by those which are straight at the beginning and rather arched at the temples. The eyebrows of people utterly devoid of mathematical power are raised at the termination, leaving a wide space between them and the corners of the eyes. On the other hand, if they are close to the eyes at the end mathematical power may generally be safely assumed."

"Eyebrows of the same color as the hair show consistency, firmness and resolution; if lighter than the hair they denote indecision and weakness; while if darker we may probably be right in our surmise that the owner is of an ardent, passionate and inconstant disposition."

"An energetic and easily irritated nature is known by the hair growing in different directions; while short, closely lying hair, growing in one direction, indicates a firm mind and good perceptions. An ardent but tender nature is shown by the hair being soft and wavy. When the hair of the eyebrows had a downward droop so that it almost meets the lashes when the eyes are widely opened, tenderness and melancholy are betrayed. The nearer the eyebrows are to the eyes, the firmer and the more earnest the character, while the more remote, the more volatile and flighty is the nature of their owner."

## WHEN HE COURTED YOU

He didn't complain if you were a little despondent or irritable at times. Now he does. He's the same man. He didn't understand then. He doesn't now. Then he thought it was caprice and liked it. Now he thinks it is caprice and doesn't like it. But now he's busy getting money.

If he realized the full truth he would be more than anxious to have the wife he loves take the right remedy to restore her to true womanly health. Most men don't know that when a woman is weak, nervous, irritable and despondent, there is invariably something radically wrong with the delicate feminine organs with which her entire physique is in sensitive touch. There is one, and just one remedy, tried and proven, that will put things right when the feminine organism is weak or diseased. It is Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It restores perfect health to the weakened organs, and makes them strong, clean and virile. It makes wifehood happy, and motherhood easy. It banishes morning sickness and all other discomforts that precede maternity. It makes labor light, short and almost painless. It helps to make real "new women." An honest druggist won't urge upon you a substitute.

Mrs. Emerson Allen, of Dorset, Ontario Co., Ont., writes: "I can truly say that I think Dr. Pierce's medicines the best I have ever used. I was in very poor health for a long time, dating from the birth of my little girl. I tried different doctors and different medicines. I derived very little benefit from any of them. I took four bottles of 'Favorite Prescription' and three bottles of 'Golden Medical Discovery,' and I always keep the 'Fellies' in the house."

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