

A Wise Decision.

Few will be found to question the wisdom and good taste of the refusal to permit a Canadian militia regiment to join in the celebration of Admiral Dewey's return to his native land. That the Toronto Highlanders would have been much admired is certain; that they would have been the recipients of generous hospitality is beyond a doubt; but the destruction wrought by the American ships in Manila Bay is too recent to warrant Canadian participation in the rejoicing of our neighbours at the return of one who inflicted these losses on a friendly nation. When time has healed the sores and assuaged the sorrows of Spain, the presence of Canadians at future Dewey Days will attract no more attention than their presence at military parades in celebration of American Independence.

To Procrastinators.

The following versification is taken from the "Australian Budget," and should be dedicated to any one who defers the performance of anything so important as life insurance to a future time.

My friend, have you heard of the town of Yawn,
On the banks of the River Slow,
Where blooms the Waitawhile flower fair,
Where the Sometime or other scents the air,
And the soft Goeasys grow?

It lies in the valley of Whatstheuse.
In the province of Letterslide;
That tired feeling is native there,
It's the home of the listless Idontcare,
Where the Putitoffs abide.

The Putitoffs smile when asked to insure,
And say they will do it to-morrow,
And so they delay from day unto day,
Till death cycles up and takes them a way,
And their families beg, steal, or borrow.

Whatever objection may be lodged against the statement that the families of the uninsured are always reduced to such distressful necessity as that pictured by our Australian poet, his verses are likely to arouse many an indolent and selfish father to a sense of his duty to the little ones. An American humorist is credited with saying: "Never do to-day what can be put off until to-morrow." But no funny observation can make of procrastination other than the thief of time.

A Thankless Task.

In our issue of the 25th ultimo, we referred to the services rendered to his adopted country by the distinguished Canadian, Dr. Schurman, United States Commissioner to the Philippines. Being interviewed on his return from the islands, Dr. Schurman declined to give an opinion on the length of time it would take to suppress the rebellion. When asked if he considered the retention of the Philippines good policy on the part of the States, he said that the resources of the islands were great, but that he must decline to commit himself on the subject of making them a part of his country.

We are proud of this Canadian. Even the immortal Sam Slick could not have displayed greater caution and shrewdness.

But all his cleverness and caution has failed to save him from being excoriated by the opponents of imperialism and expansion. A Southern newspaper has been cruel enough to hint that Dr. Schurman's appointment changed his views and caused him to turn a political somersault. It seems that about a year ago President Schurman, of Cornell University, in a letter to the New York "World" expressed himself as follows on the Philippine question:

"This Republic, whose soul is self-government, does not want Asiatic dependencies or the military despotism they would entail. The proximity of Cuba made its misgovernment our affair. But we are not called upon to rectify the tyrannies of Africa or Asia. Nor are we under any obligation to Aguinaldo and the insurgents. Let us keep to our own hemisphere, seeking only naval stations in the Old World."

Commenting upon this letter, the editor of the "Daily States" shows what a thankless task was that entrusted to the learned president of Cornell University by saying:—

"President McKinley appointed Mr. Schurman to the presidency of the Philippine commission, and on his return to this country he had this to say of the Filipinos: 'I consider it a great pity that they do not recognize that the best thing for them would be to acknowledge American sovereignty.' The views expressed by Mr. Schurman a year ago were in accord with true Americanism, but to-day he talks as chipperly of 'sovereignty' as the most ardent imperialist. The New York "World" says:

"Nothing that has happened since has made this judgment less wise than it was when uttered. Spain was forced to cede or to sell to us territory that she did not possess and a 'sovereignty' that was not recognized by the people whom she assumed to 'convey' to us. We got merely a 'defective title'—an 'option on another war'—or 'a legacy of war' as President Schurman puts it.

"The very fact that the Filipinos deny and resist our claim gives new force to Mr. Schurman's concise and comprehensive declaration that 'this Republic, whose soul is self-government, does not want Asiatic dependencies or the military despotism they would entail.' President Schurman gives the reasons which have led him to change his mind, but the truth which he instinctively spoke at the start is unchangeable."

"We are inclined to believe that Mr. Schurman's change of mind is due to the fact that he was flattered by the distinction shown him by President McKinley in making him the head of an important commission, and as the President is in favor of imperialism it was necessary for Mr. Schurman to so shape his views as to make them agree with those entertained by the man who had honored him. In other and plainer words the able President of Cornell University was seduced away from Americanism to imperialism by having a little distinction conferred upon him. Thousands of men have been captured in this way by shrewd politicians who could not be bought with any amount of money."

Dr. Schurman's "change of mind" was probably due to what he has seen during his stay in the Philippines, and his Canadian admirers will decline to believe that any distinction conferred upon him by his adopted country will tempt him to say what is expedient rather than what is right.