

A short time since we remarked on and deplored the way in which Admiral Sampson of the American Navy had been treated for an honest expression of opinion against promotion from the ranks in the American Navy. We still think this gallant old ranker has been shamefully treated, although we heartily disagree with the sentiments he expressed in endorsing Mr. Morgan's letter to him asking for a recommendation for promotion. We have always preached and practised moderation of method and language in endeavouring to get relief from our disabilities, and have used arguments and not abuse in the press of this country. In America, however, they do these things differently as regards statement and method. We do not endorse we only reproduce the following comments from some of the American papers to show how they treat men (no matter what their degree) who would build a brick wall across the path of a ranker in the American Navy.

Mr. Allen, a Senator, headed the attack on Admiral Sampson for his un-American attitude towards this question, and in his place in the Senate called the gallant old admiral who has served his country so well, "A concerted Ass," "An arrant Coward." After this small wonder at the following from the front page of a leading New York newspaper.

"W. T. Sampson, the 'tea-cup' admiral, may take it for granted that his prospects of becoming Vice-Admiral of the American Navy are extremely dim."

The following statement made to the Journal by Senator Penrose, of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee, expresses not only the opinion of Senator Penrose, but of all sound Americans in the Senate and the lower House :

"I shall call this matter to the attention of the Naval Affairs Committee. We put this amendment in the bill for the express purpose of giving these deserving enlisted men of the navy the recognition due to them, and to have them enjoy, as a reward for faithful and meritorious service, a commission in the service of their country and all that it may mean, socially or otherwise. I am surprised that an officer should utter so unpatriotic and un-American a sentiment."

Another Senator, Mr. Money, of Mississippi, expresses public opinion admirably and temperately in the following brief statement to the Journal :

"This letter is not going to help Admiral Sampson towards gaining a vice-admiralty. I shall preserve a copy of his statement as printed in the Journal for reference when it is proposed to elevate a man holding such views to high rank in our navy."

Admiral Sampson, in his official report to the Secretary of the Navy, has insulted every sailor on every United States man-of-war. He has insulted the American doctrine of equality. He declares that in the navy no common seaman should be promoted to official position, no matter what his ability, courage, or service to the country. The ineffably snobbish reason advanced by this Admiral Sampson is this :

He believes that men in the navy must not be promoted because "THEY ARE NOT GENTLEMEN," Says this Admiral Sampson :

"In time of peace the navy's function consists, to a certain extent, of representing the country abroad." * * *

"They (the common seamen) are recruited from a class of men who have not had the social advantages that are requisite for a commissioned officer."

It was proposed to disgrace the navy by promoting to the Vice-Admiralty an individual who feels that American fighting sailors are unfit to be officers because they don't know how to dance, or pour tea or play the fool with foreign fashionable idiots who may come aboard our ships in time of peace.

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We await with interest some expression of opinion from Mr. McKinley, through his Secretary of the Navy, concerning this affront to the American sailor. It is an affront which the ordinary American will not forget in a hurry.

In a statement to the Journal the "tea-cup" Admiral says of his superior :

"However, the Secretary of the Navy has proposed to make the promotions in this way, and he will have to do the best he can."

The "best" that the Secretary of the Navy could do, if there were any legal way of doing it, would be to remove Sampson and wipe out the affront to the sailors.

It is only fair to Secretary Long to say that no part of this disgraceful business attaches to him. On the contrary, while he has issued no official rebuke to Sampson as yet, his own views as published give credit to the American sailor and rebuke the folly of the 'tea-cup' Admiral."

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Or of this from another leading American newspaper.

"The 'World' correspondent at Newport interviewed Gunner Morgan, whose attempt to get a well-earned commission gave Rear-Admiral Sampson the opportunity to ruin himself and make himself ridiculous. Said Gunner Morgan :

A "I refuse to discuss the conduct of Admiral *Gentleman's* Sampson, a noble American officer, under whom *reply to a* I served."

snob. Gunner Morgan does well to refuse to discuss Sampson for reasons other than the naval regulations. He can afford to be silent and to pity the poor snob who has done nobody harm but himself.

If the "Tribune's" Washington correspondent is right in saying that many naval officers endorse Sampson's theory that "social advantages are a requisite for a commissioned officer," then the sooner Sampson is made an example of the better.

Let us have none of this aristocratic nonsense in our army and navy. Discipline, rank, obedience, there must be. But not class distinctions. They are worse than offensive to American manhood; they mean the impairment of the service. No organization can perform its work well if excellence at that work is not the sole test of promotion from end to end."

That is another typical summary of the case. There were hundreds such as this, which shows how they brush aside opposition in America. Whatever happens now the W.O.'s in the American Navy stand to win fair opportunity for good ability for no one will after this dare to oppose the recognition of ability when it is found in the lower ranks. We in England do things in another way. We will not argue which is best, but we do once again deplore the fact that that gallant old Admiral Sampson has lost a promotion he had so well earned by an honest expression of opinion.

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This is another extract :—

“ Public men are fond of making fools of themselves in many ways and of showing their true characters. Admiral Sampson, who hereafter must be looked upon as a disgrace to American citizenship and to the American Navy, has expressed his feebleness of spirit, practically and completely.

Wise legislation demanded by public opinion has at last authorized the promotion in the navy of men from the ranks.

Gunner Morgan, a man as Sampson admits of admirable character, good education, temperate habits and professional ability applied for promotion.

Admiral Sampson, the unparalleled idiot of public life, vetoes the man's application on the ground, if you please, that he is not “ a gentleman.”

Admiral Sampson, the most extraordinary example of a two-legged idiot that the world has ever seen, feels that if men should be promoted from the ranks they would “ not know how to behave at social parties on board ship.” Read this extract from the letter of Sampson, the amazing micro-cephalic Admiral :

“ While it is true that these men are selected from a large class of men of very unusual ability, which distinguishes them as perhaps the professional equals of their officers as far as their technical education stands, it is also true that they are recruited from a class of men who have not had the social advantages that are a requisite for a commissioned officer.”

Therefore, according to Admiral Sampson's view, the United States of America is to be deprived of the services and command of any American sailor who happens not to come up to Sampson's idea of dancing class manners.