

MISCELLANY

LIFE'S AWFUL BALANCE.

For The Public.

"At last!" said the proud inventor,
 "My design has won its way;
 The factory has received it—
 They are putting it in to-day.
 That plan had the great God's blessing,
 My weary waiting is done,
 And the work for a thousand tollers
 Will be saved by the brain of one."

"Thank God!" cried a sweet-faced maiden,
 "My loved one is happy at last.
 The days of defeat and sorrow
 Lie buried away in the past.
 We mind not the years of struggle,
 Nor fret at the long delay—
 This glorious message has reached us:
 'They are putting it in to-day.'"

Scarcely a mile from this triumph
 Is the home of a factory-hand,
 Where four little fatherless children
 Are huddled—a trembling band.
 "No more work for dear mother,
 Hundreds are turned away,
 One cruel machine will do it—
 'They are putting it in to-day.'"

Oh, poets! You play with the problems of
 wrong,

Amid ceaseless want and strife;
 Pray, what do you mean, in your mellow
 song,

By "the balance wheels of life"?
 Arise! and your dreamland forsaking,
 Turn rhymes into trumpet peals:
 For the world's great heart is breaking
 Under these "balance wheels."

MARY M'NABB JOHNSTON.

COAL MINING.

The coal mines are owned by widows and orphans. They are worked by slaves.

Moreover, there are the operators. When it chanced that the widows and orphans murmur, and complain that their dividends are too small, the operators exclaim:

"What! Would you take the bread from the mouths of the poor slaves in the mines?"

And if it falls out that the slaves would have more wages, the operators protest:

"What! Would you take the bread from the mouths of the widows and orphans whose slender means are invested in these mines?"

It is their cleverness in working the widows and the orphans and the slaves that has won for these persons the name of operators.—Life.

DINKELSPIEL ON THE COAL PROBLEM.

I vent among several of my friends to see hat dey any suchchestions to offer, bud I made leedle succession.

To Chay Pierpont I set: "Guten morgen! Vot is your idea aboud a substitution for der poor peoples to burn vile coal has such a scarceness?"

Chay vas silent for a brief moment, den he set: "Vy doan'd dey turn on der steam?"

To Antrew Carnegie I proposed der same qvestion und paused for a reply.

"Vell," set Antrew, "I haf nod given der idea much thought, bud I vould suchchest a library."

"Dot is because you haf libraries to burn, bud der poor peoples vas bookless," I vispered.

"If dare vas any man, woman or child in der world dot I haf nod given a library to, name dem und I assurance you der ofersight will be apologized," set Antrew.

"Do you dink books could make der poor peoples forget der scareyosity of coal?" I conjectured.

"Sure," said Antrew; "provided dey vas light literature."

Den Antrew laughed so unanimously ad his own choke dot I vas compulsioned to rush henceforth.—Geo. V. Hobart, in Chicago Examiner.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

A portion of an address made by Newton D. Baker at the Jackson day banquet of the Cleveland Buckeye club, January 8, as reported in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The worst possible plan of government in the hands of the best men is better than the best possible plan in the hands of the worst men. Government among men is to be had neither by instinct nor by machinery. At last our government must be human, and the excellence of any government will always be in direct ratio to the honesty and intelligence of those who administer it. We cannot have good government from bad men.

No more immoral or hurtful political maxim was ever uttered than Marcy's famous cry: "To the victors belong the spoils of the vanquished," for it directed the attention of those who desired to serve the public, more to the question of their political qualification than to their efficiency, deprived the public spirited citizen of any inducement for political activity, crippled the efficiency of the public service by making not merit, but partisanship the means of entrance, divided countless miserable thousands of our people into three pitiful and unproductive classes; first, those turned out of office and trying to get back; second, those in office and in terror of being turned out; and third, those out of office and spending their time trying to get in; and perhaps worst of all, made those who were selected to be executives depend for the retention of their places rather upon their power to select and reward

those partisan leaders most efficient in vote getting than upon the uprightness or efficiency of their performance of public duty.

An essentially Democratic policy administered in part by Republicans would likely have pretty Republican consequences and an essentially Republican policy administered in part by Democrats might well fail of good results through no fault in the policy itself. But the limit of reason in the application of this rule requires change only in those places either of a confidential character, or when the duties are affected by the views the incumbent holds of the wisdom of the policy involved. Beyond this the political belief of officeholders becomes relatively unimportant and the efficiency of the service becomes the chief consideration. Fidelity to the public interest and an honest performance of duty ought in this latter class of places to protect men from being punished for their political opinions by having their careers cut short just when they have learned to do well some one thing and when it is too late for them to learn a new business or calling.

This is not a Democratic city, nor is it probably a Republican city. If you were to draw tight party lines around the partisans of each of these parties you would probably find about an equal number in each group, but not enough in either to carry an election, while off to one side would be a company of about 10,000 voters waiting to throw their decisive influence in with that party which nominated the purest and best men for office and which most closely lived up to high ideals in the conduct of public affairs. We can win elections in Cleveland just as long as we deserve to win them; just as long as we are worthy of public confidence we can have it, for what the great public wants is a competent, intelligent and trustworthy administration of its affairs.

THE RELATION OF DEMOCRACY TO A PROTECTIVE TARIFF.

A portion of an address delivered at the Jackson Day banquet of the Maine Democratic club at Portland, Me., Jan. 6, 1904, by the Hon. John De Witt Warner, of New York.

What is the people's cause? Democracy opposes government restriction, for it believes in giving the people all freedom possible. But it favors extension of public service—this to give each more freedom. To illustrate: Democracy abhors a protective tariff, because it interferes