

the life of little Fragrant Blossom ebbed away.

Fragrant Blossom's name in Chinese is Ming Chan. But he was born in America, and his father, Ming Chan, decided to give him a partly American name. So the little fellow was called Harvey Ming Chan.

Everybody in the neighborhood idolized the baby, who was only eight months old when the chilly blasts of the recent cold spell ended his brief career. He was a bonny baby, and there never was a time when there was not a smile on his lips.

Four years ago his mother left her home in China and traveled alone to this strange country to meet the man whom she had promised to wed. She is only a child now. But she came and met her sweetheart and they were married in San Francisco. He was already a rich man, but they came to Chicago and established one of the finest and most fashionable Chinese restaurants in the country. They were very prosperous. Then the baby came and their happiness seemed complete.

"He was the pride of the street," said Ming Chan last evening. "Everybody loved him, and—"

Ming Chan, who is refined, educated and intelligent, broke down completely and was led away. The little wife is so prostrated that she cannot leave her bed.

Lon Chan, a brother of the father, finished the story.

"We all feel too badly to have elaborate services," he said. "The funeral will be held to-morrow at the Rosehill cemetery. There will be no discharge of fireworks, no throwing of confetti or similar actions which usually mark the funeral of a Chinaman. Little Harvey was an American, and we will try and bury him as the American children are buried. His little body will always rest under American soil. This is one of the wishes of both his father and his mother. It is customary for a Chinaman to eventually be taken back to China for final interment, but his parents consider that he was an American-born child and that his body should rest here forever.

"A stone is already being engraved, upon which there will be the name of the baby, the date of his birth and his death, and implicit instructions that his body shall be allowed to remain where it is interred in Rosehill cemetery for all time. The 'Fragrant Blossom' has left us, but we, who consider ourselves as Americans, want his remains here with us."

At the funeral to-day all of the customs of the Chinese will be done away with. There will be no distribution of confetti to keep the evil spirits away, no slaughtered pigs and sheep and geese placed on the grave and no music from the tom-tom. Little Fragrant Blossom will be laid away in his death, as in life, an American.

#### THE CHURCH NOT RIGHT ON THE MORAL QUESTIONS OF OUR TIME.

At the second annual banquet of the Disciples' Social union, held at the Austin Christian church, Chicago, Tuesday evening, September 27, 1904, the 15 three-minute toasts were entirely devoted to the topic, of "The Evangelism of the City of Chicago," it being the desire of the committee of management that the speeches should exhort to earnestness in a campaign for such evangelism as a supreme effort of the Churches of Christ. "The Weight of Moral Influence in Bringing People to Christ" was responded to by Wiley Wright Mills with the following sober but searching analysis of the situation.

We are here considering how we may convert this great city; planning for the great revival that some think is sure to come this winter. "Surely in vain is the net spread in the sight of any bird." In sober earnest I declare unto you that there will be no great revival. There can be none. The church is not right on the great moral questions of the day. It has ranged itself on the side of the oppressor. While monopoly is despoiling God's children of their inheritance, the church stands by holding its coat, because, forsooth, out of the spoil it gets a pittance.

The church is not peculiarly recreant in this respect; it has merely failed to rise above the business world. It has partially failed in its great mission to lift up a standard for the people. Instead of lifting high a standard, it has accepted the low standard of the worldly, and shown itself partial to the man in goodly apparel. It is ready to excuse all the excesses of luxury, all the abuses and gross injustices of power. The Negro writhing in flames lit by church members, the children slowly dying in mines and factories owned by church officers, the masses who do not live, but drag out a wretched existence through embroiling poverty,—these all cry in vain to the church. We ignore their cry altogether, or make only a feeble and perfunctory protest; and no rich pew is made uneasy by earnest, insistent demands for righteousness, justice. They have our good wishes, our God-speeds, perhaps our earnest prayers. We build them missions, yet do not welcome them into our midst—these common people who heard, and still hear, the Master gladly; but we do welcome, we fawn

ad nauseam upon the successful manipulators of "frenzied finance." In the fine phrase of the great Tolstoy, we are willing to do anything for the poor but to get off their backs.

Revivals are not matters of chance, they are the results of causes. It is sometimes said that the great revival movement of 1857-60 was a special providence to prepare the men who were to expiate our guilt in the four years' shedding of blood. It was, rather, the natural result of the great moral awakening which the anti-slavery agitation had brought about. Likewise, Moody's great revivals were, in part at least, due to moral enthusiasm engendered by the renewal of the great temperance reform agitation which then took the form of the Red Ribbon movement.

In this period of moral atrophy, of ethical paralysis, due to the homage paid to greed and power through the fear of want begotten by the monopoly of God's gifts to His children, all real, vital reform and religious movements seem to languish. But there is a rift in the clouds. "Though now and then we have backward motions, the movement is always forward." Though there are moral ebbs, and we seem now to be in the depths of one, the trend is ever upward. As certainly as we are now in the trough of the waves of the moral sea, so surely shall we come again to the crest of its billows which shall roll higher than ever. When Christ is lifted up, when He is really exalted and His righteousness done in the church, then will He draw all men unto Him.

Brethren of the Disciples of Christ, it is your privilege to lead in this upward, forward movement that shall bring about just conditions and make the church a mightier power. You are not held back by a fast and formal creed; and what is of still greater importance, you are not weighted down by an episcopal polity, which always tends to centralized and irresponsible power and therefore to corruption and moral decay. There is nothing to hinder you from exemplifying fully the weight of moral influence, the power of moral courage.

#### A STATE WHERE THE MAJORITY DOES NOT RULE.

An article in the Chicago Tribune (Republican) of Sept. 23, from its special correspondent, "Raymond," writing from Providence, R. I.

Looking at the slender, gray mustached man who sits in an easy chair of an imposing chamber in the beautiful white capitol which crowns a conspicuous hill of the city of Providence, it is hard to realize that Dr. Lucius Fayette Clark Garvin is not a real governor, but

only the make-believe chief executive of the smallest and the funniest commonwealth in the United States.

Garvin was elected governor and they call him governor, but he has about as much authority as a town constable, and it is only natural he should spend his time in vain repinings at the eccentricity of Rhode Island politics, which has put a man in a place of great power, and then shorn him of every possible chance of exerting his own individuality.

#### RHODE ISLAND A QUEER STATE.

Rhode Island is unique among the States in its system of government, and the more one studies the political situation there, the more extraordinary it seems. Dr. Garvin is a Democrat, and was elected as such in a State which had gone solidly Republican year after year. He represents a whole bunch of crankeries and curiosities, with a lot of other things which are extremely sensible, and yet he is tied hand and foot by this antique system of State government, whose like the world cannot see elsewhere nowadays.

Reduced to a question of chemical analysis, the government of Rhode Island would be found to possess the usual elements of municipal corporations, a house of representatives, a senate, a governor, and a system of judiciary, but when the compound is allowed to settle, it is found that the sediment is nothing but a senate, and in Rhode Island it is literally true that practically all the legislative, executive and judicial functions are concentrated in the upper house of the State legislature.

#### NEVER INTENDED FOR A STATE.

When I talked with Gov. Garvin at the capitol he expressed some surprise at first that the outside world generally could not recognize the extraordinary political problems he was seeking to solve here in this funny little commonwealth, which was never intended for a State, but which should have been a county of Massachusetts or Connecticut.

Dr. Garvin has the credit among his Republican opponents of being a socialist, an anarchist, a demagogue, a single taxer, and some other things. Some of these attributes he undoubtedly possesses, but with that there has been a genius for combining in the most effective fashion the most contradictory political elements in the community. He was elected a year ago after a political struggle of the most violent proportions, and was elected only because he succeeded in combining in his own behalf, first of all, the British-Americans and the Irish, and, second, the saloon element and the churches. He defeated

a machine which seemed to be almost impregnable, did it two years in succession, and is now a candidate for reelection, the result being so close and the battle so fierce that no man can safely predict the outcome.

#### GOVERNOR'S HARD BATTLE.

In looking into the question involved in the campaign for the reelection of Dr. Garvin as governor, one suddenly runs up against the most complicated and most curious system of government which could well be devised, a system which has a tendency to perpetuate power in the hands of a few men, in spite of the wishes of the people at large expressed at the polls.

It is on account of this peculiar device that after having been twice elected governor, winning his spurs in two bitter political contests, the Governor has been obliged to confess, as he did to me, that he had had no opportunity to govern the little State in the slightest respect, and had been deprived by the workings of an inappropriate political system of every opportunity to introduce the reforms the people put him in the big marble palace on the hill to accomplish.

"Nothing short of a radical regeneration of the Constitution of Rhode Island," he said, "will give the people of this State an opportunity to make themselves felt. We have carried two elections in the last two years, and yet we seem to be but little nearer the fulfillment of our hopes.

#### IN GRASP OF A MACHINE.

"The State is in the grasp of a cruel political ring, and we are working under an antiquated constitution, which permits the most extraordinary abuses, so that until we secure a fundamental constitutional change we cannot break up this rule of a few men, which insults and defies the great mass of the people. The more you study into the curiosities of the governorship in Rhode Island, the more amazed you will be, because so far as I know it is much worse than in any of the other New England States, whose system of government is based as ours is, on the old colonial governments.

"I believe I will carry this election, as I did the previous ones, but the governor in this State has nothing whatever to do, no appointments to make, and no real power. The legislative ring is entrenched and the Constitution protects it by concentrating political power in the hands of a few country towns, and practically disfranchising thousands of people in the more thickly settled communities. We can to-day carry the election by four-fifths of the voters of Rhode

Island, and still be in a hopeless minority in the legislature."

#### GOVERNOR ONLY A FIGUREHEAD.

Whatever may be thought of Gov. Garvin's political theories, whether he be ahead of his time, as his friends say, or a blatant demagogue, as his enemies allege, it is none the less true that he is a governor who does not govern, a mere figurehead, the choice of a majority of the voters of his State, but with no official strength behind him to counteract the extraordinary power which has finally been lodged in the senate of the State of Rhode Island.

In the first place, one stumbles up against the fact that the governor of Rhode Island has no veto power. The legislature passes all laws it chooses, and the governor must execute them, whether he likes them or not. He may be directed by the legislature to do a certain thing, which he believes to be unconstitutional and wicked, and yet he could be impeached if he refused to obey.

Stranger than all, here is a chief executive of a State that is small in area, but which is vastly important to the country in its industrial and financial capacity, who has no patronage to bestow. Here is a governor who is held responsible for the execution of the laws, but who can neither appoint nor remove the subordinates upon whom he must depend for action.

#### HAS NO APPOINTING POWER.

On the surface the governor of Rhode Island has as much right to appoint the minor State officers as any other chief executive, but when you begin to dig into the curious processes of Rhode Island legislation, some surprising results are discovered.

The legislature, being independent of the veto of the governor, passed a law which swept out of existence in point of fact the entire appointing power of the governor. It provided that all of his recess appointments must be submitted to the senate within seven days after the beginning of a session of the legislature. Furthermore, this ingenious law prescribed that in case the senate should not approve of any appointment within three days after it was made by the governor, the senate itself should then have the power of appointment and the governor could go twirl his thumbs. Another law provides that the governor can remove officers of the State only upon the advice and consent of the senate.

Thus is the governor of Rhode Island only an imitation executive. He makes appointments when he begins; the senate rejects them, and then the senate appoints other men, who cannot be re-

moved by the governor without the consent of the senate. So it happens that Gov. Garvin, being a Democrat, while the senate is overwhelmingly Republican, from causes which must be understood to be appreciated, has on his own civil list one private secretary, who sits by his side, and half a dozen tin-soldier colonels, who perform before the world as his staff, the glory of their uniforms being in inverse ratio to the size of the State.

#### SENATE IS ALL POWERFUL.

Under ordinary circumstances, this funny system of vesting all power in the senate might not be so bad, if it were not for the fact that the senate at all times and in all places under the constitution of Rhode Island represents but a handful of the people. They have the town representation system in this little State, as they have in many other of the New England communities, but it is carried to a degree which, literally must be seen to be appreciated. As a compact political machine, with the power of perpetuating itself, it hasn't its equal on earth.

There are 38 towns in the State of Rhode Island, and each one of them has a member in the senate. The city of Providence, with a population in 1900 of 175,597, is represented by one senator, and only one. The town of New Shoreham, with a population of 1,396, also has one senator, so that in effect the distinguished gentleman from New Shoreham has concealed about his own person about 175 times as much political power as the distinguished gentleman from Providence. At the last election in the town of New Shoreham, Mr. Colt, the Republican candidate for governor, had 164 votes, while Garvin had 145. The town of New Shoreham elected a Republican senator by 164 votes, and he had as much weight in the senate as the representative of the city of Providence, with all of its fine stores and residences, and with its population now of about a fifth of a million of people.

#### DEMOCRATS HAVE NO VOICE.

I have seen the figures, and I believe they are correct, going to show that in the last election there were 11 Democratic senators who were chosen by communities representing a population of 299,863, while 27 Republican senators represented a population of only 128,693. From this it will be seen that although the Democratic towns represented more than twice the population of the Republican towns, the Republicans, nevertheless, controlled the senate by more than two-thirds majority, made all the appointments to State offices, regulated

the affairs of the State, even to the extent of appointing police boards for the Democratic cities, and in this and in other ways known to the Constitution made a holy show of the Democratic governor, and his undoubted popular majority.

#### TWO KINDS OF VOTERS.

Not only is Rhode Island blessed or cursed, as the case may be, with this archaic system, by means of which the dweller in the fields possesses 175 times as much political power as he who tears up the streets in a busy town, but there is still another eccentricity which adds to the complexity of Rhode Island politics.

There are two kinds of voters, and two different sets of ballots which must be taken into consideration. The Australian ballot in Rhode Island looks like a sheet of postage stamps, because it is divided up into different sections, which go to different returning boards, and because some of the voters vote for all of it, and some for only part of it.

They have a property suffrage, as well as a manhood suffrage, in Rhode Island. If a man wants to vote for an alderman, he must possess in his own right and be publicly assessed on at least \$134 of personal property, or \$200 worth of real estate. In the country towns they have a general financial town meeting, which fixes the taxes for the year, and in this none may participate save those who have the required amount of property.

The theory of the law, of course, is that only those who have property should be trusted with the power of levying taxes, which might, under certain circumstances, be used to confiscate that property.

As the thing works out, however, a large percentage of the actual citizens of the State are disfranchised, so far as the boards of aldermen and financial town meetings are concerned. In the five incorporated cities of the State there were last year 21,105 property voters, who, of course, chose the aldermen, while there were 33,096 voters who did not participate in the selection of what Gov. Garvin calls "those officials who are nearest to them and possess the most power over their daily lives."

#### ANOTHER LITTLE JOKER.

As a matter of course, the registry voters who hold no property, but who vote for governor and members of the legislature, could with ease have the Constitution remodeled by the mere force of their numbers, other things being equal. Just here, however, there steps in the little joker of the town representation, and it is manifestly impos-

sible to pass any law providing for a Constitutional Convention until the reformers can not only capture the governorship, as they have for two years running, but until they can also create a revolution in more than half of the incorporated towns of the State, and thereby capture the senate.

This means that Gov. Garvin, who is crying out from the wilderness of his white marble capitol daily and nightly for a Constitutional Convention, has but little hope of achieving his dream; while the Republican leaders, entrenched in their property suffrage, their township representation, and their senatorial power of appointment, assert with absolute confidence their ability to control the destinies of the State and to send back to Washington beyond all doubt Nelson W. Aldrich, who is known the country over as the real leader of the United States senate, who has achieved that position, not because of the greatness of the State he comes from, but because of the extraordinary capacity of his own trained and dominant mind.

It is a good thing for the country, probably, that Aldrich will be returned to the senate, where he has long been a power for good, but there are some things in the political situation in Rhode Island which are well worth the attention of the country at large, and which, when they are properly understood, the people of Rhode Island themselves may see fit to change for very shame of the situation.

#### THE JEFFERSON HYMN.

For The Public.

O God of nations, Thou who art supreme!  
We pray Thee hear our consecrative theme.  
Our toil reward with that which most we crave:  
The power from bondage all the world to save;  
For 'tis the tenor of our hope's full stream  
The free to guard, the captive to redeem.  
We pledge our earnest souls to serve Thy cause,  
Advance Thy contests and uphold Thy laws.  
Our strength to outraged weakness we will lend,  
And threatened liberty we will defend;  
Nor shall uprising lust our labor pause,  
Nor luxury, nor fear, nor sweet applause.  
The wrongs of conquest build we to redress;  
To save the weak from those who would oppress.  
The rights of men, though regents countermand,  
To Thee we swear, through all of time shall stand;  
Then, Father-God, our mighty labors bless;  
We trust in Thee for safety and success.  
BUELL F. BUTTERFIELD.

Thucydides gives us in his Sixth Book an account of the lures which, to grat-