

same lines. Precisely what useful purpose is served, whether of business or something else, by coupling Dove's philosophic work with a malicious and baseless slander upon George, which he has refuted, is not quite apparent.

A "strictly non-partisan" demonstration at Chicago in honor of President Roosevelt, is the strictly ingenious announcement of those Republican papers of Chicago that "Boss" Lorimer controls. And Mr. Roosevelt himself protests that he wouldn't come to Chicago at all at this time, not by any manner of means, except for a "strictly non-partisan" visitation. It is a stunning peculiarity of President Roosevelt's, this habit he has of making his "strictly non-partisan" Presidential visits to strategical political points just on the eve of strictly partisan elections. Did he not nicely arrange his Presidential pilgrimage last year so as to make his non-partisan appearance at about the right moment to throw the Presidential prestige into the scales at pending elections—through New England just before the voting in Maine, and through the West during the campaigns for November? And now he is to exhibit in Chicago less than a week before a municipal election of great partisan importance. It is well that his party newspapers volunteer the assurance, which he personally confirms, that this Presidential exhibition is to be "strictly non-partisan." Otherwise the unsophisticated might think it a transparently partisan affair.

And the unsophisticated would be strictly right. For the sole object of President Roosevelt's visit to Chicago at this time is to further the election of Mr. Stewart as mayor. Worse than that, it is to place "Billy" Lorimer securely upon the throne as Republican "boss" of Illinois; for this would be the effect of Stewart's election. Stewart is Lorimer's man, just as some very good Republicans of Pennsylvania are Quay's men.

And that suggests another of Mr. Roosevelt's peculiarities. He has a marked tendency to be attracted by malodorous "bosses." "Boss" Quay is his favorite in the East (Addicks being only an incident), and now he comes West to help give his party a "Boss" Quay for Illinois in the person of the delectable Lorimer.

Apropos of the Chicago municipal campaign, with especial reference to its bearing on the question of municipal ownership of the street car system, it should be observed that the Republican candidate, while he professes to advocate municipal ownership, proposes to make an adjustment with the franchise grabbers before getting an enabling act. This is a policy of surrender to the monopolists. It gives them the whip hand. They would have the franchises, and the people would have the enabling act—some time, if they could get it. Mayor Harrison's policy of refusing any adjustment with the franchise grabbers until a municipal ownership act has been passed, is the better one. Republicans, at least, have no reason to object to it, if they really believe in municipal ownership; for the legislature is theirs and they could pass an enabling act in a week if they wanted to.

At a recent discussion before the Ministers' Association of Cleveland, the Rev. Harris R. Cooley, a member of Mayor Johnson's cabinet as director of charities, phrased a sentiment which all those good men and women who are impatient to get rid of vice and crime might well take to heart. It would make them more practical, and it might make them better—more religiously thoughtful of their brethren whose lives are cast in less pleasant places. Said Mr. Cooley to his fellow clergymen, "You talk of vice and crime as if it were dirt and mud you are talking about. You forget that it is men and women."

She—Why, of course our church has a Bible class!

He—Yes? And is the class for or against the Bible?—Puck.

### THE CHILD LABOR QUESTION.

There is one phase of the child labor question which should interest all who have the cause of justice at heart. This is the tendency of the well-meaning but unthinking average man and woman, when finally aroused by the urgency of the abuse, to attribute it to the greed of parents.

Wrongs done to little children touch every heart. The many men who have nothing but an uncomprehending antagonism towards other evidences of labor trouble, and the women who draw their political knowledge and opinions from these men, are both good loving parents of their own children. As such they can feel what it means that little children should be defrauded of childhood's blessed right to play and develop mentally and physically under sane and wholesome conditions. But they have absolutely no comprehension of the fact that modern industrial child slavery is but one, (even if one of the worst) manifestations of wrong and injustice in economic conditions. This lack of knowledge gives them naturally no foundation upon which to base an intelligent opinion, and they therefore overlook fundamental causation and grasp at any hasty conclusion in their semi-conscious endeavor to find a reason for the abuse.

The reason is easily found in their minds in the "greed of parents who send their children into the mills and the mines that they may have the more money to squander in drink." It is an explanation that fits in eminently well with the attitude of mind of the average upper-class man and woman towards the poor, and it releases such men and women from the necessity of any further, perhaps uncomfortable, investigation into social problems.

In most cases it is only justice to say that this explanation is not adopted from any malice. It springs merely from ignorance and a false angle of vision in the minds of more favored fathers and mothers, who would without doubt come forward generously with financial aid for any philanthropic scheme towards releasing a few of these child slaves from their bondage. But an opinion

based on ignorance is unfortunately none the less powerful for evil than the malicious falsehood, and those who spread malicious falsehood always have seized and always will seize upon just such ignorance as favorable working ground.

So in this case. Our large dailies bring isolated exceptions of cases of parental greed and cite them as typical. The refutation of some of these examples, as in the cases cited before the Coal Strike Commission, is passed over in silence, or dismissed with a short paragraph. An example: W. A. Rogers, cartoonist to the New York Herald, whose pictures give many a clever straight-out blow to enthroned wrong, recently offered a picture of a group of ragged, starved-looking children dragging a platform upon which sat a stout carousing couple, presumably the parents. Pictures appeal more strongly to the mass of readers than do words, and this picture from the pencil of one who has often given his talent to the cause of justice can do incalculable harm.

The forces of reform are busy perhaps with more practical sides of the question, and have long given up the struggle to refute every foolish, ignorant opinion behind which well-fed conservatism entrenches itself. And yet contempt is not sufficiently strong a weapon to fight this particular opinion. Or rather it would be letting a most useful weapon in the cause of justice slip from the hands of those who fight for justice. The child labor question is something which every man or woman with a heart can and must feel and understand; it is most important that this question be thoroughly probed and that no phase of it, no opportunity to present it in the true light, should be left unutilized. Agitation in the child labor question is a far stronger weapon towards achieving a universal interest in economic wrongs than are strikes or boycotts or commissions. These latter are men-to-men fights, but the helplessness of the little child appeals to all; abuse of it shocks all.

It must be emphasized again and again that "greed of parents" has nothing whatever to do with this ter-

rible problem of child labor, a burning problem even in a country which like ours has so much to say publicly about its freedom. The parent instinct of love and protection towards children is as strong in the heart of the father and mother of poverty as in parents of the more favored class. Where the feeling, in isolated cases, appears to be lacking, it is due to individual depravity (which could be paired by similar examples from the other class) or to the stunting of every faculty, every good instinct, by generations of grinding toil which has brought neither the means nor the leisure for the satisfaction of any but the most necessary animal needs.

Even if it were found to be true—as it is not—that in every case of child-slavery the parents are at fault, this would still be of itself the most terrible accusation, not against these parents, but against social conditions. For it would prove how debasing indeed were conditions that could crush out in the hearts of human beings instincts which are the possession of almost every form of brute creature down to the very lowest.

No one who has ever lived among the workers, even the most unfortunate, can have failed to see the constant impotent protest against this cruelest blow of fate, this sacrificing to the Moloch of toil of the little children. Instances are unnecessary for they could be cited indefinitely. The main fact remains that however many instances the adherents of the "parental greed" theory can show, each one of these but proves the social injustice; for it proves how hard conditions must have been to have steeled the hearts of parents against the needs of their children.

Let the fighters for justice therefore take up this phase of the question, and fight not only the problem itself but this miscomprehension of it, which is a most powerful weapon in the hands of those who profit by existing conditions and are therefore concerned in their maintenance.

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

Schoolmaster—Now, let us have "Little Drops of Water" again, and do, please, put a little spirit into it.—Glasgow Evening Times.

## NEWS

Of all the municipal elections to come off next month, that at Cleveland is the most interesting. For this there are several reasons. It is partly because of the issues, which, although local in application are of national importance in character, centering as they do about the traction problem. It is partly because of the recent legislative reconstruction of the city government, which divides the responsibility of administration by making all the principal offices elective, the only important administrative officer that was elective under the previous system having been the mayor. And it is doubtless due in no minor degree to the fact that the contest is between Senator Hanna, representing the local street car interests and as Republican leader in both the city of Cleveland and the State of Ohio, and Tom L. Johnson, representing the movement for 3-cent fares with municipal ownership as soon as an enabling act can be secured, and as Democratic leader in both the city and the State.

The Republican primaries for Cleveland were held on the 12th, and the convention on the 14th. At both, Mr. Hanna's faction was successful. It nominated Harvey D. Goulder, an admiralty lawyer, for mayor, and Sol Sontheimer, president of the Allied Trades and Labor Council, for president of the city council and vice mayor, together with the eight other important municipal officers which the new municipal code of the State makes elective. The platform, as summarized on the 15th by the Cleveland Leader, the leading Republican organ of that city, makes the following declarations:

Declaration against unsound policies and extravagance which have prevailed under the present city administration.

Declaration for the abolishment of politics in the conduct of the fire and police departments, and for an honest system in these departments.

Declaration in favor of honest and economical guardianship of the city's funds and finances, and against illegal expenditures.

Declaration in favor of reduction in the burdens of taxpayers by means of an economical conduct of city affairs.

Declaration for fair, honest, and sensible treatment of the street railroad question, and an adjustment of the franchises on the basis of at least seven