

this country, although the Republican party, thanks to the popularity of President Roosevelt, has succeeded in doing so.

Colusa (Cal.) Sun (Dem.), Nov. 12.—We do not like the word "plutocracy" so freely used by Mr. Bryan. We do not like to have to come under his leadership; but where are we to turn? We do not like anything akin to socialism; but are we to give up all the wealth coming out of the development of the country to a few men? Thinking men should read the statement of Mr. Bryan and they will see that the issues of the future are big with danger. Whether we like it or not, we have got to see that William Jennings Bryan is going to be the leader of the common people for the next four years. The South, always desiring to be conservative, will have to join in with him. Many exceedingly conservative men throughout the North will feel compelled to join in with him. The present is a time for deep thought. Read Bryan as a foundation for it.

THE "STRAIGHT" TICKET.

Detroit Free Press (Dem.), Nov. 15.—It is an inevitable inference therefore that the present method of making a straight party ticket by placing the cross mark in the circle at the head of the column prevents an exactly fair expression of public feeling as to all candidates and a fair expression of this feeling is the aim of all election laws in these days. The obvious remedy is to abolish the circle at the head of the ticket and thus compel the voter to place the requisite mark in front of the name of every candidate for whom he desires to vote. That this is practical was proved at the primary election. It is the method followed in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. It is the only method that not only permits but compels the voter to use his intelligence and exercise his discrimination in selecting men for preference.

SIGNIFICANCE OF INCREASE OF THIRD PARTY VOTES.

Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat (Dem.), Nov. 16.—The meaning of this ought to be obvious. Democrats did not vote the Socialist or the Prohibition ticket where there was a democratic Democrat in the field. It was only where plutocratic control was manifest and where a Democratic vote was in effect a vote for plutocracy that we discover great jumps in the Socialist and the Prohibition votes; and these increases must be credited, not to a growth of Socialist or Prohibition sentiment among Democrats, but to a desire among democratic Democrats to rebuke the arrogant plutocracy which had cunningly seized the reins of Democratic power and was subverting the great Democratic organization to the service of an oligarchy of privilege.

JOHNSON OF MINNESOTA.

Green Bay (Wis.) Advocate (Dem.), Nov. 17.—Governor-elect Johnson, of Minnesota, in an interview Saturday, among other things said: "The Democratic party cannot identify itself with those who enjoy the benefits of special privileges to the disadvantage of the people and hope to win. The Democracy cannot be the party of trusts and at the same time be the party of the people. It must be the party of the people to achieve success. Its issues must be the trusts, the tariff and the special privileges that foster the trusts. The success our party achieved in this State in electing its candidate for governor is due to the fact that we took up the people's cause while the Republican State managers flouted the people and stood with the corporations." These words from Governor Johnson are in accord with the messages which other Democratic leaders have been giving to the party since its crushing defeat last Tuesday. With one accord such men as Bryan, Folk and Johnson have declared that the defeat was due to the fact that the party

failed to stand by its principles and that defeat can be turned to victory by the party returning to its principles.

TARIFF REVISION.

Chicago Tribune (Rep.), Nov. 23.—The burning question. Manifestly it is revision of the tariff. The people will not be content with a "stand pat" policy. They demand justly that something be done in the direction of correcting the inequalities of the present tariff. It is iniquitous and an abomination. It has undue protection and favoritism for certain classes, at the expense of consumers, who are composed of all classes. . . . The Republican party must modify it or see its own majority and influence in the country materially modified at the next election. The people of this great free country have no intention of submitting indefinitely to the oppression of the money power, the manufacturing power, or any other power representing solely special interests and privileges.

MISCELLANY

HOW DID YOU DIE?

Did you tackle that trouble that came your way

With a resolute heart and cheerful?
Or hide your face from the light of day
With a craven soul and fearful?

O, a trouble's a ton, or a trouble's an ounce,

Or a trouble's what you make it.
And it isn't the fact that you're hurt that counts,

But only, how did you take it?

You're beaten to earth? Well, well, what's that?

Come up with a smiling face.
It's nothing against you to fall down flat,
But to lie there, that's disgrace.

The harder you're thrown, why the higher you bounce;

Be proud of your blackened eye!
It isn't the fact that you're licked that counts;

It's how did you fight?—and why?

And though you be done to death, what then?

If you battled the best you could;
If you played your part in the world of men,

Why, the Crittle will call it good.

Death comes with a crawl, or comes with a pounce,

And whether he's slow or spry,
It isn't the fact that you're dead that counts,

But only, how did you die?

EDMUND VANCE COOK.

THE GAME OF PHILANTHROPY.

This is a long game, usually taking a lifetime. As many players can enter as want to. The idea is to begin as young as possible, and beg, borrow or steal enough to get a start. Then get a lot of widows, orphans and suckers together and stack the cards. Also have the tariff raised. By and by when money enough has been raised, the player calls, "Philanthropy, Philanthropy," and then everybody knows that he has arrived at the goal.—Life.

A DRAFT OF A LETTER TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE.

I pray your honorable body to grant my request to become a citizen of this Republic of the United States of America.

I have never done anything unworthy. I believe in a government for the People, by the People.

I gave more than life for the country when in time of peril I gave my son for one of its defenders.

As the dying slave implored his master to let him die free, so I pray you to allow me to become a citizen of this Republic, with the same power and privilege you would grant to a man born in Germany or Ireland.

REBECCA BUFFUM SPRING.

Born in Providence, R. I., in 1811. Now living and paying taxes in her own home, 504 Soto St., Los Angeles, Cal., on this Sun, 12th, 1904.

"IF THE LEGISLATURE BELIEVES."

For The Public.

In denying a Brooklyn child the right to attend school, the New York court of appeals is reported to have decided that "if the legislature believed" vaccination to be a preventive of smallpox, it could compel the child to be vaccinated before admitting him to school.

"If the legislature believed" is richly suggestive. Courts have been supposed to be for the purpose of protecting the citizen in his rights when the legislature's "belief" was erroneous, or worse.

This may have been a superfluous safeguard, for we all know the unparalleled erudition and unimpeachable integrity of the average legislature, so much so that to say a man "belongs to the legislature" stamps him at once in the mind as—well, you know the impression it conveys to your mind.

We ought, therefore, to be prepared to accept the legislature's dictum upon all matters of pathology, ethnology, physics, diet, finance and fashion. "If the legislature believed" that cutting off children's thumbs would prevent their going lame, then children with thumbs could not attend school.

It were folly to file any objections, for "if the legislature believes" in its own infallibility, why should any court dispute it? A Missouri legislature "believed" that all baking powders were deleterious except trust baking powder. When this belief was sufficiently strong in a legislator, it commanded \$1,000 in the open market. A Colorado legislature was elected to believe in an eight-

hour law. It changed its belief after election. No quotations given out. A Pennsylvania legislature "believed" that the cities of the State should be owned by the same gang which owned itself and delivered them over in midnight session, with the governor sitting up to sign the bill and the harpies waiting to file their claims of proprietorship before the ink was blotted. And so on, ad infinitum, ad nauseam, ad absurdum. Also add the price per legislator.

But the court says, or implies, that it makes no difference whether the Act be right or wrong, "if the legislature believes." The colonies rebelled against the Stamp Act, "not because of the weight of the tax, but the weight of the preamble." So, in this case, it isn't so much the importance of the individual case, as the weight of such a precedent.

Yet, even in this case, it must be remembered that no one knows what vaccination is, except that it is the injection of a disease into the blood. The germ of the disease is not known, nor is the germ of the disease it is intended to prevent! The practice is pure empiricism, and is so acknowledged; and after a century of trial, there is still the gravest doubt and the fiercest dispute of authorities as to whether it is beneficial or injurious.

To use the public school as a club to compel a parent to allow his child to have disease (even "benevolent" disease) pumped into his veins, is, to say the least, questionable. But when the citizen questions it, he is told by the court that it is all right "if the legislature believes."

Then what in the name of sense is the court for? If its administration of right or wrong, of enforcement or violation of rights, of legality or illegality, of equity or inequity, rests solely upon what the legislature believes, why not abolish the court?

EDMUND VANCE COOKE.

THE TRIUMPH OF DEMOCRACY.

At the Vine Street Congregational church, Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 20, 1904, the pastor, Herbert S. Bigelow, discussed the text:

"He that is devoid of wisdom despiseth his neighbor; but a man of understanding holdeth his peace. Where no counsel is, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety."

This is good doctrine for both church and state. The strength of a church, the safety of a state depend upon the extent to which the people enter into their management.

Who says that our experiment in democracy is not a success? If the end and aim of government is to develop men, then democracy is ordained of God.

The true American is he who is always delighted with the election returns. Every election will go precisely to suit him. Let the people discuss and determine. Their responsibility in government is their opportunity to grow. Their government is a mirror which they hold up before their own faces. In this republic they have what they want, and no American will complain of that. Their decisions may not please the prophets, but they represent the people and mark their progress.

We hear much these days about the wickedness of the politicians. They are not worse than other men. If they seem so it is because they have greater temptations.

In the city of Cleveland, the street car companies have been making a long fight for new franchises. To help them in this, one Ohio legislature abolished spring elections. If they could elect councilmen while popular interest was fixed on a presidential election, they had hope of success. What is the result? The council stands 16 to 16 and the deciding vote is with the chairman, an anti-railroad man. The people won a scratch victory, and they did it by scratching. Nearly half of the people of Cleveland scratched their ballots—a most remarkable and gratifying evidence of the increasing intelligence and independence of our American citizenship.

But tremble for those councilmen. A vote or two is all the companies need. And franchises worth millions are at stake. Is it not time we required a referendum vote on all such franchises and saved our councilmen from such fearful temptations?

If one of these councilmen succumbs, we brand him as a boodler. We seem to forget that if there is corruption at the City Hall, it is because there is something rotten in the Chamber of Commerce. Political corruption is but the barometer of commercial morals.

Instead of complaining of our self-aggrandizing politicians, we might with better grace repent of our neglect of public duty. By their politicians you may know them.

A gentleman was complaining bitterly of the condition of the public schools in Cincinnati. What he said about them was but the mild truth. But this same gentleman confessed to a friend that he had not gone to the polls in four years.

This clashing of opinions and rubbing of elbows which we call democracy—what a glorious thing it is! It teaches us respect for the opinions of our neighbors. It teaches us social

grace, that subordination to social aims which is the necessary condition of brotherhood. To become large enough and loving enough to live in a society of equals, and co-operate for good ends, and take defeat good-naturedly, and keep one's faith in the republic, and fight on—this is the making of an American citizen—the triumph of free government.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE SUBWAY ON NEW YORK RENTS.

William Barclay Parsons has been telling of the reforms that will be worked by the subway, and, though he is a practical, hustling personality, he is something of a rainbow-winged optimist. That, however, is no discredit, for optimism is one of the qualities which smooths the rough way for achievement.

The man who looks on the bright side of life and finds comfort and inspiration in the picture; who serenely views the future with hopeful spirit and sees behind its veil the fulfillment of dreams and the maturity of benefits still in their infancy—that man is happy, indeed, whether his life be devoted to abstruse, technical things or belongs to the humble middle million whose names are writ in sand.

Sometimes the optimist overshoots the mark. This is no fault, either. The higher the mark, the higher the accomplishment. However, one exception immediately occurs. The subway furnishes an example of a high mark hit while concentrating on a low target. Mr. Parsons is an expert in this sort of marksmanship, and if what he says seems highly hopeful, you must remember that he speaks not only as an optimist, but as a distinguished expert.

Mr. Parsons believes the subway will have a great moral effect, tending to wipe out the densely populated centers by "offering homes further removed from the city, but equally accessible and reasonable."

That, indeed, would be so, if Mr. Parsons alone had the shaping of the thing. But, alas, he hasn't.

The real estate man is the person who must be considered in working out this sort of sociological problem. If you can go from city hall to Harlem in 15 minutes for a nickel, you must pay the real estate man for that privilege.

The subway has already sent up prices out of proportion to its present and promised benefits. If a rent-paying New Yorker moves far away from the crowded section to an "equally accessible" one, he will undoubtedly find