

paper that published the extracts from it was Moses Harman's Lucifer, a paper so much disliked by the authorities that they are always glad of a pretext to suppress it; and edited by a man of ideas so unpopular that the general public has looked on with seeming indifference when the law was strained against him. . . . In view of the defeat of the bill asked for by the Massachusetts W. S. A. to forbid the publication of indecent medical advertisements; in view of the free circulation through the mails of yellow journals containing all manner of offensive scandals, decorated with flaring headlines; in view of the great mass of unquestionably corrupt material that is sent broadcast without interference, the suppression of the quotations from Dr. Stockham is laughable. Let our government put at the head of the postal department an official who has not only more sense of fairness than the present incumbent, but also some little sense of humor.

#### THE RACE QUESTION.

(Columbus, O.) Press-Post (Dem.), Aug. 17.—It is said that there was a general craning of necks at a fashionable Saratoga hotel when John Wanamaker walked into the dining-room arm in arm with Booker T. Washington. It is only natural that people should stare at such a performance at this stage in the real emancipation of the Negro. The nation as a nation has been too slow to recognize that the brain makes the man, not the color of the skin, not ancestry, not environment, nor previous condition of servitude—but brain.

#### CHICAGO TRACTION QUESTION.

Chicago Examiner (Dem.), Aug. 15.—The people of Chicago voted for municipal ownership. . . . Now, a verdict of a majority is a safe rule of action, but those who fought for private ownership hold to the idea that the majority was crazy and that any trick or subterfuge to ignore their wishes is good business, and better politics. . . . Dunne, single-handed, cannot carry out the wishes of the people. No one man can. But if those who voted for Dunne keep behind him and back up his effort by their own effort the project can be put through.

#### RAILROAD PASSES.

Milwaukee Daily News (Dem.), July 14.—When Representative Baker, of New York, returned the railway passes sent to him following his election to Congress, with a letter setting forth that he could not reconcile their retention with his obligations to the public, he was sneered at as a "crank" by his associates and became a target for the pert paragraphs of the Republican press. . . . In declining the passes, Secretary Bonaparte urged the same reasons that were offered by Representative Baker. . . . Secretary Bonaparte has come perilously near to offering an affront to his chief. He has placed an affront upon every Senator and Representative and has shown slight respect for the judiciary. Quite unanimously they stick to their passes.

#### THE QUESTION OF JAPANESE INDEMNITY.

Chicago Record-Herald (Ind. Rep.), Aug. 23.—To Japan indemnity does not mean wealth, but national life. It means ability to maintain herself in a position to ward off a future Russian war of revenge. Russia looks upon indemnity in the same way. . . . What will be Japan's position if she accepts peace without indemnity? She will be heavily burdened with debt—perhaps mounting up to six years' value of her national revenue. She will need to devote her best efforts to paying it off. She will have little available income to devote to

building up her military establishment to meet the Russian attack which will be almost certain to come in a decade or two. If Russia sees then a good opening for revenge. The receipt of an adequate indemnity means, therefore, to Japan a comparatively fair footing in the future against her great enemy. What does the payment mean to Russia? It means that she will remove her enemy's greatest handicap and at the same time increase her own handicap. It means that if she cherishes the hope of revenge she may have to postpone it for generations instead of being prepared to seek it in a decade more or less. It is true that Japan may conclude to forego indemnity. If she does forego it, that will mean that she has sacrificed commercial gain to feelings of humanity. It will mean that she prefers the risks of peace in such terms to the risks of continued war in the immediate future, with the greater financial burdens that will be heaped up by it. It is not a case of dollars versus lives. It is a case in which the figuring may be in dollars, but the end sought is on each alternative the preservation not only of individual lives, but of the national life.

## MISCELLANY

### MISERICORDIA.

For The Public.

The newspapers of Chicago have reported with approval that Chief of Police Collins has ordered all men with prison records to be arrested.

We have paid the price, and paid it hard,  
In the cursed clothes ye have mocked us in;

And the sun crept slow past the windows barred

Where we ate the bitter bread of sin.

And whose was the sin? Why, who can tell!

Was it ours? Or our father's? Or yours,  
Who make

Your life so easy and ours a hell,  
So our little hands must learn to take?

But we paid the price through eternity,  
And ye gave us the wages of our disgrace.  
Then the doors clanged open, and we were free,

And we skulked us each to a hiding place.

Now the orders are: "Go, round them up,"  
As we were cattle and are not men.  
No need for warrants, for those who supposed  
With the guest Despair in the prison pen.

Is this land free, or is it not?

Has a jallbird ever another right?  
For by Sweet Christ we have paid our scot,  
And what can we do but hide from sight?

C. E. S. WOOD.

#### WHAT LOW FARES HAVE DONE FOR THE LAND OWNERS OF ONE TOWN.

From The Press, of Columbus, Ohio.  
Columbus may, and probably does, have many minor points of superiority; but so have other cities. There is, however, one point of preeminent superiority with which Columbus is highly favored. It is in the rate of fare on street car lines. About four years ago we were getting only six tickets for a quarter, and were paying a nickel for trans-

fers. With great effort, and in the face of a mighty protest from those who are now reaping the benefit, a franchise was forced upon the railway company providing for seven tickets for a quarter and transfers on tickets. A little later a franchise was granted to the Central Market line, providing for eight tickets for a quarter, with transfers on tickets. This gave Columbus the lowest fare of any large city in the United States.

What did that mean? It meant that it was cheaper to live and move and do business in Columbus. This naturally attracted people here and increased the demand for business and residence property. This increased demand for land forced up the price, and that's about all there is to it. Leaving out the question of rents, it is about three dollars per annum cheaper for every man, woman and child to live in Columbus than in other cities. The aggregate of this is approximately a half million dollars per annum. Inasmuch as this is taken up by the landlord (including home-owners) in rent, it represents, on a five per cent. basis, an increased capitalization of land value in Columbus of \$10,000,000. This estimate is conservative.

Do you see the point? Do you see what a big difference a small saving on the cost of public utilities makes? And do you see who gets it? The man that owns the land gets it. We have been led to expect that the Columbus Railway company will soon have to give eight tickets for a quarter. The effect of that will be to add at least seven or eight millions of dollars to the land values of Columbus. Say, Mr. Landlord, do you see the point? Isn't that rather interesting? Don't you believe it would be to your advantage to pay more attention to the cost of public utilities? Some question of this sort is up every few days. You can make money by keeping your eyes open. You can make yourself richer and make Columbus greater by making it a cheaper place to live in. Think it over.

#### A JAPANESE FRIEND ON TALK.

For The Public.

Just across the hall from me at college roomed a clever young fellow from Japan. I had not seen him for years, when a few weeks ago he appeared in my office. After graduation he returned to Japan, and has had a successful career. He has been in the States this second time only a few weeks, but I was surprised to see what familiarity he has with our politics and general conditions.

Among his acute observations he noticed what he thinks is one of our prevailing characteristics at present. It seems worthy of consideration. I shall paraphrase from memory the substance of what he said. He seemed to be particularly struck with this feature in our public life.

You are suffering—thus in substance he said to me—from cheap oratory and its adjunct the big newspaper. Your public men get their place and importance, not from genuineness and action, but from talk. They talk proverbial commonplace, which your half-educated masses applaud when they read it in the newspapers. Your orators say in their grand way that public office is a public trust, that all officials are servants of the people, and utter other evident principles of general morality. These sayings are reported in your papers and read by your people, who straightway conclude that the utterers mean what they say and are great leaders.

So, in dealing with your public offenses—your trusts, your outrageous tariff rates, your bribery, your graft, your lawyers hired to evade law, your public men in highest places accepting sham salaries—in dealing with all such manifestations of unhealthiness, I fancy that I see your same weakness. Your statesmen and senators talk, talk. In eloquent harangues, in Congress, at commencements, and in campaigns, they thunder against evils; but they get nothing done. I see no prominent offender punished; I see no law enforced against the great powers. Did you not lately see a prosecution called off, when it was found that a high official might suffer?

Where, in fact, can you find a better example of what I say than President Roosevelt? How fine his talk is! He has, for example, said things about the tariff that a genuine free-trader would hardly have uttered; yet, with all the chance he has had, can you point to a single thing he has done to lower one single tariff rate? I challenge you to point to any act of his in which he has persisted in following to the end the line of his talk against any form of public evil. Whenever the issue has come, he has hitherto done nothing to the hurt of the high powers that support his party. Talk? Yes, plenty of talk; but come to the result—what has he done? That he should pose as the exponent of doing things, is a brilliant absurdity. I do not say that the pose is intentional. He is simply an exponent. That is why he is popular. He is

your most strenuous representative of talk—be it the conventional utterance of proverbs which everybody will agree with, or fulminations which receive the applause of the innocent and the winks of the fulminated.

Any man, continued my friend, can be sincere in saying that truth is a virtue, or that all should have an equal chance in the world. Your orators will utter either of these statements with the same equanimity. It matters little whether they have any but the most conventional notion of either statement. Your successful politician must be a phillistine. Your president is a phillistine. He has, to a marked degree, the conventional ideas of justice. He poses as—and believes himself to be—one who desires justice for all and special privilege to none. But point to me, if you can, any instance wherein he has stood true, throughout, for any measure that was repulsive to the plutocratic and aristocratic following to which he belongs.

We have our faults in Japan, he said, but mere talk does not count with us as much as it does with you.

J. H. DILLARD.

#### THE SCHOOL CITY.

Philadelphia is a beautiful city in spots, but it has some awful slums. In one of those slums there lives a little boy whom we will call Tommy Jones. That is not his real name, but it is a real boy and a real circumstance that I am going to tell about. This little boy lives in an alley, not very far from the corner of Twenty-second street and Callow hill. It is a very dirty alley, and there is a great deal of misery there. You would think that Tommy would rather go to school than be about there and the other places to which he goes. But Tommy did hate to go to school. It was misery. Just the nicest teachers that you can imagine are there, but he did hate to go to school. He was very frequently a truant; and when he did deign to go to school—the truant officer can force such a little fellow to go sometimes—he was very apt to be tardy.

Tommy was very careless as to his costume, and as to the condition of his face and hands. Tommy was a very troublesome boy, altogether. He had entered this school when about six years old, and now he was nine.

We changed that little monarchy—for school government in general is a monarchy. Have you ever thought what monarchy is? A little child is born, and that child does not know how to manage his own affairs. Somebody

stronger in every respect has to govern it. The mother governs the little one, and that is parental government; and that is monarchy. The little child has no part in the government, except to do whatever the mother requires. Then, when he gets along a little further, the child goes to school, and there is more monarchy. We get still farther along, into college, and the thing has not been corrected yet. It is monarchy again. From the time the child is born, to the time he leaves the high school and university, the only government he comes in contact with is a monarchy, the government to which he must be subject. He has no power whatever in making the rules and regulations, and no part except to obey.

Tommy was a subject of this little monarchy in school, and one day I had the pleasure of changing that monarchy into a republic. The republic, in the form of a city government, was established, and each room of the school is a ward of the School City. These wards are made up of both girls and boys, and in each one of the wards the children nominate one boy and one girl to be members of the city council. After each ward has nominated its two members, then all the children of the assembled school have an opportunity to vote, and determine whether they will accept those who have been nominated by the children in each room.

As it happened, this dirty, mischievous, troublesome little boy was elected in one of the rooms to be a member of the city council. This was pretty nearly the first experience of the teachers of that school with anything of the sort. They felt: Well, we have gotten over some things; but if the children are going to choose such a little rascal as that to be a member of the city council we fear for the little republic so far as our school is concerned.

The next day came, and the little fellow came to school. Instead of his clothes just hanging on by moral suasion, the buttons were tightened and he was slicked up. I do not know that they had ever seen the boy with his hair brushed and combed, but this morning his hair was all right, his hands were clean, his face was tolerably clean, and the boy was there on time. This was simply a revolution for that boy. The next day he was there on time, and he was just as neat as he was the day before; and this thing kept up. He did not play truant again. He picked up in his class, and instead of being at the very tail end, very quickly the little fellow came right up to the head of the class.

Six weeks afterward the teacher, go-