

the angels sing. Look, Sam, our man is coming to.

C.: Our redemption!

ANTON S. ROSING.

MUNICIPAL ADVANCES.

Portions of the annual review of the Secretary of the National Municipal League, Clinton Rogers Woodruff, presented at the annual meeting of the League, held in New York, Apr. 25, 1905.

In Cleveland Mayor Johnson has consistently sustained the merit system in the water, police and fire departments, although in the first named there is no legal provision on the subject. He has publicly expressed himself in favor of the extension of the merit system to all city departments as rapidly as he can rally public sentiment to the support of that policy. He does not seem to be willing to risk a defeat of his various other measures of improvement through the immediate and wholesale inauguration of the merit system in the face of the present very weak public sentiment on the subject. He has displayed great courage, however, in his handling of various public questions, and especially in the matter of inaugurating the investigation of a general charge of bribery and corruption which he himself preferred against about one-half of the members of the Council. The situation so far as Council is concerned is somewhat anomalous. It is judge and jury in the case against its members, and has filed a petition in court to enjoin the city solicitor from demanding the production of the books of the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, whose relations with the councilmen are being investigated.

The election of a Democratic auditor in Cleveland at the same time the city went overwhelmingly Republican, to which reference has already been made in another connection, is simply another manifestation of the growing independent sentiment of Cleveland which two years ago manifested itself in the reelection of Mayor Johnson and of a sufficient number of councilmen to insure the approval of his appointees, notwithstanding the effort of the State Legislature to tie his hands. The significance and courage of Mayor Johnson's investigation of the alleged bribery of councilmen is all the more praiseworthy, because many of the members involved are of the same political faith as himself.

The death of Samuel M. Jones, of Toledo, removes a most remarkable personality. He was a striking force for independent thought and activity along

municipal lines. His continuous reelection as mayor of Toledo on a non-partisan independent ticket constituted at once one of the most convincing evidences of his strength with the people and of the independence of the voters of Toledo, an independence which has been manifested in a striking manner since his death, which occurred late last summer.

Chicago has become a municipal laboratory, wherein are being worked some of the most important and far-reaching municipal problems. For ten successive years the Municipal Voters' League has continued its efforts to secure councilmanic reform. Frequent references to its victories have been made in these reviews. As a result of them there is now a substantial majority of honest and efficient aldermen, and the board has just been reorganized on non-partisan lines, just as it has been every year for the last four years. Thoughtful and unbiased observers of the situation have been expecting a reaction against the Municipal Voters' League. Experience in such work tends to show that the voters of a community grow tired of receiving advice year after year from the same body of men. No matter how well founded or how disinterested that advice may be, the public grows restive if offered too frequently or too continuously. . . .

The great significance of the mayoralty election of April 6 last lies in the fact that it hinged solely on municipal issues, and Judge Dunne was elected, not because he was a Democrat, but because he represented in his personality and campaign the wishes of a large majority of the voters of Chicago. For it is an important and significant fact to be borne in mind in considering this particular election, that the percentage of actual votes cast was larger than ever before. I have already commented on the significance of the independence shown by the voters. More important and far-reaching than that is the fact that his election represented a triumph for the principles for which the National Municipal League has always stood, that municipal elections should turn upon municipal issues and should be determined from the standpoint of municipal needs and conditions.

There are numerous side issues which are involved which would well repay study and consideration were the time at our disposal. For instance, Mr. Harlan, the defeated Republican candidate, was greatly handicapped

through his whole campaign and especially on the day of election because his past independent course had alienated so many of his party leaders, whereas Judge Dunne on the other hand had been the model of party regularity. The outcome would seem to indicate that while it is imperative that the individual elector should be as free as possible from party affiliations and claims when it comes to the exercise of his municipal suffrage, yet the leaders must have at their back the disciplined army of the regular party voters if they are to be successful in their fight. In other words, the leaders must manifest their independence in other ways than by bolting party nominees. Judge Dunne had on more than one occasion shown his independence, in fact he owed his nomination to the fact that he represented a radical view of party policy in local affairs, but at the same time he had always maintained his party regularity.

CONSCRIPTION.

All the ways are loud with weeping:
Upward to the sky,
Goes the wail of wives and mothers,
For the doomed to die.
All the ways are loud with marching:
Through the land of slaves,
Goes the tramp of sons and husbands,
Downward to their graves.

Mother, mother, who is moaning,
Moaning through the night?
'Tis the children who are calling,
Trembling with affright.
Mother, mother, where is father?
Now we heard him groan;
And, in dreams, we saw him lying,
Wounded, and alone.

Children, children, cease your calling:
Let me weep and pray,
Till the long and weary darkness
Brings the cruel day.
Children, you have lost your father:
He was forced afar,
Doomed to die in bloody battle,
By the coward Czar.
—Bertrand Shadwell, in Chicago Evening Post.

No one can injure a man who refuses to be hurt. You may kill him, but you cannot touch the man in him.—The Whim.

BOOKS

MR. HUNTER'S BOOK ON POVERTY.

In the New York Independent of March 30 there was a contribution by Professor John Bascom under the title, Social Forecast. It was a brief article covering only three pages, but it is fuller of food for thought than many books. Professor Bascom is an old man, nearly eighty. For many years he has been watching the trend of things, and here he makes a forecast. The whole article

ought to be republished throughout the country. We can give only the close. Thinking of the many divisions in the ranks of those who are opposed to the reign of plutocracy, this wise, honest, noble-hearted prophet closes his review of our social conditions with these words: "Our forecast is that one of those sudden changes, which are sure to arise in times of wide pressure, will combine these forces of resistance, and with them sweep the field for another deal in human rights and one more approach toward the Kingdom of Heaven."

If any such sudden revulsion comes, as is here implied, no man can say that it was without warning. Book after book has been written within the past twenty years to show where we are and whither we are tending. One of these is the recent work on Poverty, by Robert Hunter (Macmillan Co., New York).

Mr. Hunter's book, like many of the books that have been written on social conditions, is of no great value in a constructive way. Its value lies in the facts it tells. The author has lived with his facts and knows whereof he speaks. It is hard to see how anyone can read these facts without becoming convinced, nay without having his whole soul quickened to the thought, that such conditions must be changed. Whether the change shall be gradual and peaceful, or whether it shall be sudden, who can tell? But come it must: and the dividing line must soon fall conclusively between those who are to wish and work for the coming of better things, and those who are satisfied to sit at ease with things as they are.

Mr. Hunter gives so many heart-rending facts that quoting only a few seems hardly worth while. It is the cumulation that shows the pathetic defects of our boasted civilization. This is what the average citizen, who reads his morning paper and dives into his personal business, thinks little of. He may be a lawyer paying an office-boy three dollars a week, sixty cents of which go for car-fare. He may be a merchant with half-a-dozen little cash boys. He does not take in what it means that, there are over 1,700,000 children wage-earners in these prosperous United States under fifteen years of age, and that the large majority of these work long hours under the most unfavorable conditions. "We should never forget," says the author, "one sight of a hundred of these little ones if they were marched out of the mills, mines, and factories before our eyes, or if we saw them together toiling for ten or twelve hours a day for a pittance of wage." It is because most of us do not see such cumulative evidences face to face that this book is of value in opening our eyes to the awful facts:

The author calls attention to the pitiful conditions of child labor in the cotton factories of the South, but adds that there are abundant examples of child slavery of the worst kind in almost

every section of the Union. "In the mining district of Pennsylvania," he says "children labor under conditions which are, if possible, even more injurious to them than the child labor of the cotton-mills is to the children of the South." His whole fifth chapter on the child ought to be read by every citizen in America who feels proud of our present advancement in civilization and humanity.

Some of the most startling statements naturally come from New York city, as, for example, that "in the year 1903, 60,463 families in the borough of Manhattan were evicted from their homes." Or this, that "one in every ten persons who die in New York is buried at public expense in Potter's Field"—in spite of the fact which Mr. Hunter states, that "every one familiar with the poor knows how desperately they struggle to give a decent burial to their dead."

When we read such statements the question naturally comes, Is all this poverty—which is unquestionably on the increase—is it necessary? Mr. Hunter gives as his conclusion that it is not. "It is due," he claims, "in no small degree to certain social evils which must be remedied and certain social wrongs which must be put right." In this book he is not clear as to what these social evils and wrongs are, but it is much that such a practical worker, as he has been, should boldly say this. Many such workers have not advanced beyond the stage of the soup-house and wood-yard.

One incidental sentence of his is perhaps the most pregnant in the whole book. He is speaking of Poor Laws, and not of causes and remedies, but does he not hint a great truth? "In the early days of this country," he says, "when the pauper was himself largely responsible for his own misery or degradation, because then, if ever, equal opportunities existed for all men, the same system prevailed which exists to-day, when but few men can be held entirely responsible for their own misery." He here recognizes a great change between the early days and now in respect to opportunities, a change so great that it shifts, he confesses, the main burden of responsibility for poverty from the individual to the community, and yet nowhere in his book does he develop this most important theme.

However, he has done a great service, and we need not enter into controversy because he has not covered the whole ground. Much less do we feel disposed to criticize certain evidences of hasty writing. It is enough that his style is clear and earnest, and all the stronger for being free from a spirit of exaggeration. May his words, with all their weighty import, reach far and wide.

J. H. DILLARD.

PRESIDENT ELIOT'S SIGNIFICANT STORY.

As the first volume of a series of "True American Types" the American

Unitarian Association (Boston) offers Charles W. Eliot's Century Magazine story of John Gilley, Maine Farmer and Fisherman. It is a true story of an interesting type and simply told. President Eliot has not omitted a very impressive moral in the life of his New England hero. During all the hard-working years of this usefully industrious and thrifty man's life he was unable to make himself and his family secure against want. But when his farm site came into demand for summering purposes, it increased in value fifty fold, thereby yielding to the owner without useful labor a degree of comfort and security against poverty which all his long years of industry and thrift had failed to give him. Of course, President Eliot does not label this significant economic contrast as a moral: his story is too good a work of art for that, and indeed it is a gem; but that he was blind to it is not probable and only barely possible.

L. F. P.

PAMPHLETS

The McMillan company is one whose books show most excellent proof-reading, and good taste in type and style. The house has recently issued a helpful pamphlet entitled: "Notes for the Guidance of Authors," which may be commended to writers. There is nothing of novelty in it, but it contains certain elementary rules which will doubtless be helpful to many. Some convention is necessary in writing, as in other things, and this pamphlet gives the correct thing for 25 cents.—J. H. D.

PERIODICALS

A writer in Watson's Magazine for May contributes a brief Character Study of Byron and Burns. She says: "The work of both men was revolutionizing in its effects. Burns found his countrymen in bondage to the fear of wraiths, hobgoblins and kindred spirits, and he was a mighty power in their deliverance. Taine estimates that he was as great a force in Scotland as the revolution in France." It is strange, while the writer is thinking of revolutionary effects, that she should have limited these effects in Burns to ridding people from the fear of hobgoblins. Like most writers, she ignores what, next to the poet's many loves, was his most absorbing passion, namely, hatred of social injustice and of the inequalities it produced.—J. H. D.

The Nation, apropos of the opening of Spring sports in colleges, gives forth a characteristic editorial, which begins its satire with the title: "Handing on the Torch." Speaking of the former days of darkness the editor says: "Fathers had not begun to understand that athletics were the chief thing, and studies