

copies. I trust also that a way may be found to secure insert sheet and plate matter reprint for widest circulation.

GEORGE FOSTER PEABODY.



Chardon, Ohio, April 29.

After reading your editorial on the "Lesson of the Titanic Disaster," the feeling strongest in my mind is a wish that every member of the so-called privileged class could be induced to read it and reflect on the sentiment it embodies.

The triumph of democracy! What is it but the recognition of the essential unity of the human race? And that it is coming nearer and nearer to fulfillment I confidently believe.

The rule of might which man (the social unit) has inherited from his brute ancestors, bolstered up by the evolutionary doctrine of the survival of the fittest, is giving place to the rule of man over himself,—the only individual over whom he has undoubted control.

We are coming to realize that men are the unchangeable primary elements whose combination builds up every form of society, just as the life units—the living cells—are the unchangeable primary elements whose different groupings build up every form of organic life. We are coming to realize there is a force and desire inherent in the individual social units amply sufficient to bring about perfect equilibrium, perfect justice, in the social body if given free play; that any interference with the individual in finding his proper place in the social organism in obedience to his inherent desires results in social disorder injuriously affecting every member of society.

The idle rich, even more than the working poor, are beginning to realize that legislative restrictions upon the liberty of individuals is the cause of the discontent and unrest from which they suffer. They have tasted the fruits of wealth and power and found them bitterly disappointing. They feel that the servility and adulation of the poor for the rich is nothing but the homage of the slave, and they must inevitably turn from enslaving their fellows, for it is only by having the approbation and good will of free men they can enjoy the felicity that comes from being in harmony with God's law of human association.

W. T. BETHUNE.



FOR REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

East Jaffrey, N. H.

Within the past few months Senator Lodge of Massachusetts and President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University* have delivered scholarly addresses respectively on "The Constitution and Its Makers" and "Why Should We Change Our Form of Government?" They have had wide circulation; and since they represent the principal opposition, they merit the attention of advocates of the Initiative and Referendum.



Both these learned gentlemen show the growth of

*See current volume, page 340.

the representative system. They argue impressively that it is the only system of government which can be applied to so large a community as a State or our nation. They demonstrate also that a pure democracy could not attend to all the minor details of legislation. From this they infer that the Initiative and Referendum—intended, as they assume, to replace representative government by pure democracy—would destroy the Republic; and they point to the fate of various democracies of the past to prove the truth of their assertions.

Only the acid test of time could determine whether Twentieth century enlightenment could prevent a repetition of the misfortunes which befell the so-called democracies of Greece and Rome, were the crude systems followed by them to be tried today. Fortunately, however, we need not be disturbed by such a doleful outlook. For all that advocates of the Initiative and Referendum ask is that representative government be *truly representative* of the people, and not of privilege. The Initiative and Referendum are aids of representative government and not substitutes for it.

While it would be possible for a man to do without carpenters when building a house, to pull his own tooth when it aches, to plead his own case in court, the average person prefers to leave the management of such matters to experts. But he reserves the right to decide how many stories his house shall have, to indicate which tooth is to be extracted, and to say whether his lawsuit shall be prosecuted or dropped. Likewise, it would be possible for the people by the Initiative to abolish legislatures; but is it not probable that they would prefer to leave most of the law-making to such a body, even if they did reserve the right to advise or direct on occasion.



The Initiative and Referendum will not destroy representative government. They will perfect it. They will bring about in very fact that condition which was expressed in theory in the Bill of Rights of the New Hampshire Constitution one hundred and twenty years ago—"All power . . . being derived from the people, all . . . the officers of government are their servants and agents, and at all times accountable to them."

GEORGE H. DUNCAN.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, April 30, 1912.

Climax of the Taft-Roosevelt Alienation.

The personal alienation of President Taft and ex-President Roosevelt came to a climax of mutual resentment last week in the Massachusetts campaign for the primary election which took place on the 30th. Since his speech at the Ohio Constitutional convention, reported in *The Public* of