

E. Lange, the Danish translator of "Progress and Poverty," being the chairman. The report of this committee caused some discussion on land value taxation at this year's meeting. The delegates did not agree as to the solution of this question; but a resolution containing thanks to the committee for its work and expressing sympathy with the efforts of the Government to prepare land value taxation, was unanimously carried. The close of this resolution runs as follows:

"The meeting expresses its adhesion to the Ministry in its efforts, through the separate land valuation, which has been opposed by other Ministries, to prepare legislation for converting the real estate tax into a ground value duty."

During the recent Parliamentary session the home secretary (Dr. P. Munch) had moved that a separate land valuation be made in certain parts of the country for experimental purposes, so as to anticipate the effects of a general land value duty. But the united efforts of the Moderates and Conservatives who furiously opposed the motion, necessitated its temporary abandonment.

P. LARSEN.

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## THE ELECTION IN ST. PAUL.

Minneapolis, Minn., May 4.

The election of Herbert P. Keller as mayor of St. Paul yesterday, is to my mind, all things considered, the most remarkable victory for good municipal government for a long time. Keller is labeled a Republican, but is in fact a real democrat, capable and progressive.

To win an election in St. Paul against the local machine was seemingly a hopeless undertaking, for St. Paul is one of the worst boss ridden cities in the United States. The machine was, as is the usual rule, a complete alliance, offensive and defensive, between the public service corporations and all forms of vice under the personal direction of as resourceful and competent a manager as exists in any city anywhere. Yet the people won by more than 5,000 majority.

That the people have good judgment, when interested and alert, is shown by the fact that they have not elected all the ticket labeled Republican.

This victory in St. Paul should give us all new courage and determination. If St. Paul can be cleaned up no city is hopeless, not even Philadelphia. St. Paul will now try for the commission form of government, and will I am confident succeed.

S. A. STOCKWELL.

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## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

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### IRRESPONSIBLE JUDICIAL POWER.

Ransomville, N. Y.

In an editorial item in the Public of April 15, entitled "Packing the Supreme Court" (p. 338), occurs the following language: "When the Supreme Court was placed by the Constitution upon an equality with Congress, the seed of judicial despotism was sown. When Judge Marshall raised it above Congress, politically, by deciding that it was empowered to veto Congressional legislation in private lawsuits, the seed began to sprout."

The reference herein to Judge Marshall brings to mind some of the revelations made public through the Journal kept by President Madison. A statement is therein made to the effect that a proposition was made in the Convention of 1787 which framed the Constitution, that the judges of the Supreme Court should be clothed with the power to declare an enactment of Congress unconstitutional and void; and that upon no less than four different occasions at various times during the sitting of the Convention a vote upon the subject was taken, and that upon every trial such authority was denied by an overwhelming majority.

From a fair construction of the intent of the framers of the Constitution there would seem no room for doubt, that while the Supreme Court might decide, in controverted cases, as to the meaning of the language of that instrument, it did not receive authority to nullify the acts of a co-ordinate branch of the government.

How, then, it may be asked, has it come about that the vote of one lawyer upon the bench of the Supreme Court, has, simply by a change in his own opinion, for whatever cause, transferred more than \$100,000,000 of annual taxation from the superfluous wealth of the rich to the backs of the poor, where it has remained for 15 years?

History will affirm that for 14 years after the decisive refusal of the Convention of 1787 to grant this authority to the judges of the Supreme Court, the matter lay quiet, when, in the case of *Marbury vs. Madison*, John Marshall assumed the power to overthrow the acts of the Convention. And thus, it would seem, was a precedent established by that eminent jurist, which, for more than 100 years, has been taken as a justification for similar action.

In a government by the people, professedly, is it not a matter of surprise, when we consider that such arbitrary power does not exist in even any monarchical government on the globe? Can a body of men holding their office for life, hence beyond the reach of the people, be safely entrusted with such irresponsible power?

R. L. LAMB.

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## TO THE MEMORY OF MARK TWAIN.

Cincinnati, Ohio.

Through the death of Mark Twain, the world loses not merely a great writer and an incomparable humorist, but a powerful defender of human liberty. Great writers are not so scarce but that there is always a supply to be found among the living. But the man of genius is much too rare, who finds himself becoming famous, who sees his works become popular even with the powerful and the influential classes, and yet continues to use his talents in behalf of the wronged and oppressed and against the measures which no one can oppose without risking the disapproval of fortune's favorites. Such a rare character was Mark Twain. His humor was not the kind that aimed merely to enable one to enjoy an unusually witty remark. In all his humor there appeared a serious purpose, to expose the hypocritical frauds and shams by means of which the people of the United States and elsewhere are despoiled and oppressed.

In his "Yankee at King Arthur's Court" he not

only makes monarchy and hereditary aristocracy ridiculous, to the great joy of the patriotic American; he also exposes the stupidity of this same American in approving and applauding a defrauder and oppressor of his own—the protective tariff. The economic truths that he proclaimed in this work, were made additionally clear by the accompanying illustrations of the artist, Dan Beard, a single taxer who, with Mark Twain's approval, showed the great fundamental wrong to be the private ownership of the earth.

He did not stop with denouncing wrong at home. Many a pseudo patriot can forgive unsparing criticism of his government's domestic policy, even though the criticism does show him to be an ass. But there is no pseudo patriot who can forgive denunciations of outrage and wrong which his government has committed upon a defenseless foreign nation. This pseudo American patriot will applaud an unsparing denunciation of England's policy in Ireland, India, or South Africa. He is ready to grow indignant over Belgian atrocities in the Congo. He will get black in the face denouncing massacres of Christians in Armenia, and massacres of Jews in Russia. But ask him to hear the truth about American outrages in the Philippines, and then you realize what it means to commit an unpardonable sin. Mark Twain did not hesitate to risk all the consequences of this offense. His "To the Person Sitting in Darkness" brought upon him a shower of abuse from those who make the flag a fetish, but have no sympathy for the principles of which it is but a symbol.

To the real American patriot, if not to the counterfeit variety, it is a matter of pride that the country should have produced a genius possessed of such candor, and so strongly attached to his convictions. Examples of great writers who have had similar opportunities and failed to use them, are too plentiful. The instance of Herbert Spencer, who presented the pitiful spectacle of a great thinker repudiating a great truth that he himself had shown and merely that he might enjoy the social favor of the titled aristocracy, and the example of Rudyard Kipling misusing his talents to uphold wrong and oppression committed by his government abroad and at home, show that it is not so easy a matter for even a genius to remain faithful to unpopular truths.

Mark Twain was a genius who had the courage at all times to use his talents in behalf of the right. That is the highest praise that may possibly be spoken of any man.

DANIEL KIEFER.

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## THE WHITE PLAGUE.

Warren, Pa.

If I kept a diary, it would have in it something like this:

Sunday, April 24, 1910.—Today, all over this country, preachers have been talking about the "White Plague." I did not trouble myself to hear any of them. I am quite confident they did not tell very much of the truth on the subject. To do that would stir up a hornet's nest, and most people are very cautious about disturbing hornets.

If within my range there had been a single

preacher who was at all likely to uncover any luminous truth concerning the "White Plague," I should certainly have been present to hear him (choosing a back seat near the entrance—where few of the well-dressed congregation would see me in my old-fashioned, much-worn clothes—where the usher would willingly put me—where, when the preacher had done, I could quickly disappear).

Most preachers, like most of the people they talk to, can easily see a little thief with the naked eye, but can hardly see a big one with a magnifying glass. These good fellows have never gone very deep into the eighth commandment. If I should shake my finger in the face of one of them and tell him that violations of that commandment is the chief cause of tuberculosis, he would think I had just escaped from a lunatic asylum.

What fun it would be, for a fellow who has a little courage and knows something about thieves, to preach a sermon on the "White Plague" and set the hornets to buzzing and stinging!

ASHER GEO. BEECHER.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before, continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

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Week ending Tuesday, May 10, 1910.

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### "The King Is Dead; Long Live the King."

Edward VII, King of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India, died in London at 11:45 p. m. on the 6th, at the age of 68, after reigning nine years (vol. v, pp. 183, 200, 295) as immediate successor to his mother (vol. iii, pp. 657, 663, 680), Queen Victoria. The reported cause of his death was pneumonia following a bronchial attack. Gossip from Buckingham Palace, where the late King died, describes him as conscious of approaching death, and quotes him as saying, "It is all over, but I think I have done my duty."

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The Privy Council was immediately summoned, and on the 7th it assembled in the throne room of St. James' Palace to formally proclaim Edward's successor, who, however, pursuant to the act of Parliament under which British monarchs hold, not by "divine right" but by consent of the people, succeeded instantly to the office, and simply from the fact of his father's death. The successor, who is Edward's second son, the oldest having died eighteen years ago, bears the name of George Frederick Ernest Albert, and chooses as King the designation of George V. He is 45 years old, hav-