

Philadelphia has not done for herself and what she perhaps has not now the power to do, it is possible for the people of the State at large to accomplish. With the referendum system established there will be means for the rest of the State to protect itself against the dangerous influences of boss-ridden Philadelphia. And here is Democratic opportunity. Here is a chance for the party to rise to a great emergency.

New York World (Ind.), May 20.—The highly respectable financiers who control the United Gas Improvement company would probably not be capable of going into the streets of Philadelphia and picking the pockets of pedestrians. . . . But they have debauched public servants. By corrupt means they have obtained the consent of the Councils to a lease which will enable them to take millions and millions of dollars from the pockets of the people of Philadelphia. . . . All that can be said in mitigation of their high crimes against society is that they are not alone. The directors of scores of other public corporations throughout the country are engaged in the same business of infamy and treason. These gentlemen are all great sticklers for the rights of property; yet they are doing more to bring on a war against property rights than all the disciples of anarchy and socialism that the country will ever import. They are doing more to raise up a generation that will appeal to force against corruption and cunning than all the incendiary orators between the Atlantic and the Pacific. . . . If the men who control these corporations are determined to drive the country to socialism, with a prelude, perhaps, of riot and anarchy, they are proceeding in the most expeditious manner. The American people are patient and long-suffering, but if the issue must be met as to whether the public service corporations are to own the government or the government the corporations, there can be no doubt as to the result. The public will not remain forever the passive victim of its incorporated anarchists and traitors.

MISCELLANY

AN ODE TO THE HYPOCRITE.
BY A COMMON SINNER.
For The Public.

O thou eternal, un-divine and ever present one!
I bring thee now the tardy homage of my laggard soul;
For thou dost lift full oft the vexing, all unwelcome load
That else upon my hapless head might in strict justice roll.
I'm but a common sinner—poor, and oft-times very weak.
My feet they slip betimes, and I am well-nigh over gone
Wide of virtue's path in many a by forbidden way,
Where those are found who bear thine image (and, perchance, mine own).
'Tis then the troubled thought comes to my weary soul anon
To ask why I am not more steadfast in the narrow way.
At thee, O, poor old plodding, patient Hypocrite One,
I point with knowing look, and then, "his fault," I faintly say.
Sometime the parson stands before me, looking kindly sad.
He asks why all these years without the fold I ever stand.
Then quick a nimble finger do I raise and deftly point,

The hypocrite among the lambs in his fair fold to brand.

What keeps me from the kingdom wherein men most faithful strive?
It is the Hypocrite, I ween, whose shoulders broad must bear
The sins and foibles of a race full bent on selfishness.
On him I cast my every load, nor hold one carking care.
I know I'm not a perfect man, e'en as they rate them here;
But yet more holy and more just than this poor stumbling one.
And so I sit while others strive and falter—and some fall;
Hollier I than he, forsooth, because I've ne'er begun.

So now I come, thou ever present, all invisible,
Great faltering spirit, in the struggling, onward rushing train,
To do thee honor for the load that thou hast ever borne
Of sin and selfishness. E'en now from feverish heart and brain,
O thou sublime and terrible specter, pretense and sham—
To whom I point in day of my extreme necessity—
I come to do thee honor, meet in this my grateful psalm,
For in my hour of trial thou giv'st felicity.

For where, O friend, when thou art gone, will then my reason be
For thus unheeding still the call of duty or of love?
I pray for thee, O bugbear full of gloomy retrospect,
That life still long and full may yet be lent thee from above—
That in thy monstrous shadow I may hide me yet again;
For if thou di'st O Hypocrite, then whither shall I turn
To answer those who urge upon me duties over grave?
When thou art gone, thou spectre friend, the world thy worth shall learn.
When thou art called to thy reward, this world must lonely be.
I know not that there shall be left but one man, standing lone
Upon the shore of time; his face set toward the unknown sea,
And there myself shall wait the call that bids me, too, come home.
WILLIAM JAMES LEACH.
Duplap, Ill.

ABANDON THE PHILIPPINES.
RECOMMENDATION OF ADMIRAL MELVILLE.

Rear Admiral George W. Melville made a very striking address on 'The Important Elements in Naval Conflicts,' before the Academy of Political and Social Science in Philadelphia, April 8, in the course of which he said:
"During the past eight years there have been three inheritances that we have acquired, each of which is likely to prove a Pandora's box of evils and disappointments to this nation. So long as the responsibility of adminis-

tering these three inheritances remains with us, so long there will be a progressive increase in military and naval expenditures, and so long will it be necessary for us to weigh well the important elements of naval conflicts.

"The first inheritance that was thrust upon us by some evil genie was the Philippine Archipelago. These islands have been a tax upon the resources of every nation that ever possessed them.

"The second inheritance that was either assumed by us or was bequeathed to us by political necessity, was the obligation to build the Panama canal.

"The third inheritance from which we will never receive an income or substantial benefit is our attempt practically to assume the receivership of republics whose treasuries are empty as a result of national business conducted by intolerable administrative methods.

"It will subserve our financial, naval, commercial and national interests to recognize the fact that there should be no hesitancy to give up distant foreign possessions which we could not hold in time of war against any possible enemy."

Admiral Melville recommended:

"The preparation of plans for the immediate abandonment, at the slightest possible financial loss, of every distant possession that is likely to require a fleet to defend it. If it should be understood that in time of war we propose to abandon, at least temporarily, certain territorial possessions, neither the morale nor the credit of the nation would then be impaired by the seizure of such territory by an enemy."
—Philadelphia Public Ledger, of April 9.

TRUTH CRUSHED TO EARTH.

Several years ago I was engaged in crushing truth to earth for a Chicago newspaper. That is to say, I was a special writer, employed in jotting down history unhampered by facts.

When the annual schuetzenfest attracted thousands of German sharpshooters from all over the country it seemed fitting that I should record some few of the most important things that did not happen at Scheutzen park. So one day I wrote a thrilling tale of how the wife of one of the sharpshooters was carrying her small babe in her arms when a peddler came along with a large cluster of balloons; how the babe entangled its tiny fingers in the many threads; how the peddler unwittingly let go, and how the balloons snatched the little thing from its mother's arms and bore it far