

# THE COMMONWEAL PARTY.

UNION WHICH DR. M'GLYNN HOPES TO  
SEE IN WORKINGMEN'S RANKS.

John McMackin, who presided at the Anti-Poverty Society meeting last night, opened the proceedings with a speech in which he said: "We are about to concentrate all the dissatisfied elements in the country into one great party. It will be a long time ere we will again have to read a large body of men out of the party. Instead of that we hope to be able to read a large number of men into the party." He indulged in some sarcastic remarks at the expense of Mayor Hewitt, the Irishmen who asked him to review their parade on St. Patrick's Day, Tammany Hall, Joseph J. O'Donohue, and Minister Phelps. Then John H. Blakeny of Binghamton, Chairman of the State Executive Committee of the United Labor Party, made a few remarks about the necessity of uniting the divisions of the laboring men.

Many of the ladies, who composed by far the larger part of the audience, stood up and cheered and waved handkerchiefs when Dr. McGlynn stepped to the footlights. He said there had never been any doubt but that it was the intention of the Syracuse Convention to lay the basis of a great national party. The platform was full of national questions, and it was hardly conceivable that a man with a beard, over 21 years of age, should quibble about them and insist that the national contest must be fought over a wretched question of percentages and tariff tinkering. This allusion to Henry George was greeted with laughter and applause. In the attempt to unite "the masses against the classes" some correspondence had passed between the representatives of the Anti-Poverty Society and the Union Labor Party. The speaker read some of these letters in explanation of the efforts being made to unite the Union and United Labor Parties. The land clause in the Syracuse platform was declared to be a vital plank in any proposed union platform. In other respects the platforms of both parties were similar. Wherever they otherwise differed there would be found little difficulty in harmonizing them. The speaker said that it would be inadvisable to hold two separate conventions at the same place on the same day. Powerful influences would be employed to prevent a union, as they were then at work in the United Labor Party endeavoring to side-track it upon the tariff question. Although himself a free trader, he was forced to accept the fact that the mass of the party he represented was committed to the protection theory, and any precipitation of the tariff question would be sure to wreck the party. But the suggestions of the speaker about a union convention were found impractical, and as the nearest approach possible to them the conventions of both parties were called for May 15 at Cincinnati. And out of a joint conference to grow out of these conventions Dr. McGlynn hoped that the union of the parties, under the new name of the Commonwealth Party, would be perfected.

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