

ture. Little did I care what the gentlemen in frock coats and the ladies in bonnets thought of my lectures. I did not care what they thought, because I knew that the real arena for myself and the rest of them was not in that theater of disputations, elucidations and plausible explications of all sorts of theories. It lay outside, inside, in a world of things which each carries about with him, and into which each penetrates when the voice of the lecturer is no more heard in the theater.

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### POLITICAL STRATEGY.

Improvements are the order of the day. The People's Sovereignty League of America, with headquarters at Washington, D. C., points out that the constitutional amendments for the initiative and referendum that are being framed in legislatures are purposely made defective so that the machine rule legislature may continue in power. An improved program of reform is suggested, namely, that the initiative and referendum system should be framed at a State conference of the legislative committees of organized farmers, organized labor and the other reform forces, after the candidates for the legislature have been pledged to install the advisory initiative and advisory referendum. To install the advisory system requires only a majority vote in the legislature, which can be secured by the systematic questioning of candidates throughout the State and the publication of replies. It is stated that the pledge should be that a direct vote system be installed at the opening of the session. After election day is passed and the installation of the system is assured, the next step is the holding of a State meeting of the legislative committees of the reform forces for framing the initiative and referendum system, also a direct nominations law and a ballot reform law. These should be attached to initiative petitions, circulated for the required number of signatures and filed with the legislature when it meets. The legislature after considering the measures and framing competing systems if it so desires, will be bound to refer the measures to a referendum campaign and vote.

In this way ideal systems can be framed and voted upon, and in the next State campaign the candidates for the legislature should be pledged to obey the voters' instructions. In that way the legislature can be pledged to enact an ideal system of direct nominations and ballot reform and submit an ideal system of initiative and referendum.

Is there any flaw in the program?

GEO. H. SHIBLEY.

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### THE PITY OF IT.

Editorial in *The Crown*, of Newark, N. J., Rev. E. A. Wasson, Editor.

Because the public is thoughtless, it is often unjust and cruel. Here is a man whom for a great many years the country has honored and enjoyed and exalted to its high places. Now, as he totters on the brink of the grave in bodily imbecility and mental senility, society guffaws and points the finger at him because he has been exposed as an imposter

and rogue. He is both; but it is more society's fault than his own: he has been more sinned against than sinning. He was born with an evil nature, the nature of a sycophant and cheat, with a mind that reached out, as it developed, in the direction of the unclean. In a truly Christian society these evil tendencies for which he was not responsible, would have been discouraged and checked; and the man's great natural talents would have been directed into useful and honorable channels. But in fact it was the evil in him that was encouraged, honored, and rewarded. No sooner was he admitted to his profession than a lucrative career, quite in accord with his shifty nature, was opened to him as lobbyist of great railway magnates at the state capital; and this in fact was his real profession till disgraced a year or so back. For some years, he did the dirty work himself, directly, with his own hands. Later, he employed agents; and later still, as the interests multiplied, he moved farther and farther away from the arena of corruption, and managed and controlled the business through various grades and circles of agents and tools.

His occupation was known to practically everybody in his walk of life. But was he rebuked, frowned on, avoided for it? On the contrary, he was honored, feted, rewarded. He became an influence in politics, to such an extent that he seriously aspired to the nomination for president of the country at the hands of one of the great political parties. Also he was selected a member of his university corporation term after term. He was many times chosen president of the most powerful and honorable political and social club in the country.

He was elected and re-elected to high political office. He was made director in something like seventy-five corporations, including the most powerful and wealthy in the land. He was the favored speaker at Y. M. C. A. conventions, church gatherings, great dinners, and great occasions. A Washington, a Lincoln, could scarcely have been more highly honored. The great public, to be sure, did not know his real character. But the men who were near to him did, the men who were responsible for his rise, for his greatness and glory and riches—they knew well enough that it was a question whether he had ever done an honest day's work or earned an honest dollar. The men in his walk and grade of life knew all about him, the financial men, the society men, the railroad men, the political men, the insurance men, the corporation men—they knew him well enough for a princely grafter. . . .

Yet these men, so far from rebuking him, moved heaven and earth at his wish to induce President McKinley to appoint him ambassador to Great Britain; and every sort of influence, ecclesiastical, political, commercial was brought to bear, to this end, with a president by no means proof against such forces. Yet, to his honor, McKinley, who was a pure, clean man, indignantly refused. . . .

But the college men and the religious men, the superior men generally in politics, in business, in professions, in society never objected. . . . When he used to visit his university, the boys who probably did not understand his character would unhitch the horses and draw his carriage themselves. They say now they would ride him on a rail instead. But