chances of Mr. Taft, who had not, however, like Cass with Van Buren, played him false on a previous occasion and caused him to fail of a nomination which he thought he carried in his "vest pocket." In 1844, Cass and his Northwestern Democrats, it will be remembered, entered into a "deal" with certain Southern leaders to defeat Van Buren, who had a large majority of the delegates to the Democratic national convention which nominated Polk.



But a more interesting parallel appears when we compare Roosevelt with Douglas, whose scheme of settling the slavery problem in the Territories was one which evaded the issue, and promised a peaceful solution which could not be a solution at all, and which therefore naturally drew to Douglas both ardent pro-slavery men like Henry A. Wise, Governor of Virginia, and anti-slavery men like Horace Greeley.

Roosevelt's trust solution attracts ardent monopolists of the Perkins type, and fine-spirited humanitarians like Miss Jane Addams.

Douglas, however, brought about the final overthrow of the great party of slavery, and made certain the election of Lincoln, whose work, aided by the foolhardy moves of the pro-slavery men, resulted in the downfall of the power which at that time was as great a menace to democracy as is that of the trusts today.



At Milwaukee, Roosevelt said in the last paragraph of his speech: "I have said nothing that I could not substantiate and nothing I ought not to have said—nothing that, looking back I wouldn't say again. I am all right."

This ought to be a great consolation to him; few of the rest of us could say as much—none, I fear, if we thought we faced death.

The only similar instance I can find in history is that of Philip II, when he said to his confessor a few days before his death:* "If I have ever committed an act of injustice, it was unwittingly, or because I was deceived in the circumstances. In all my life, I have never consciously wronged any man."

The confessor of the great Catholic prince said that Philip found much pleasure in contemplating his career of perfect rectitude.

These unconscious testimonials of great men tell us more about their real characters and purposes than the most elaborate speeches and programs.

WILLIAM E. DODD.

*Motley's History of the United Netherlands, Vol. III, 474.

## THE SILENCE OF GREAT CONCLUSIONS.

Mahomet, the camel-driver came in from the night and the desert to say things very quietly to his family, in his tent, which began a new religion and moved great armies, in the end, from Arabia to the borders of Italy and France.

Loyola, an Iberian of the old Basque provinces—a vastly quiet man, a wonderful worker, and a most interesting man, perhaps by racial stock a son of lost Atlantis,—Loyola created his great Order of Jesuits in the same astonishing and all-powerful spirit of mute consecration.

Now, whenever any man of worth is impressed with a great need, a great thought, a great emotion, he locks it fast, he holds it in, he becomes in the language of the politicians "difficult to place." When one finds that many persons are passing through this experience, and are locking up their conclusions, one may be certain that things will ultimately happen.

All over this country the one most curious element politically is the extent to which the currents are out of sight. There are new forces; there is a new sort of quiet resolve to get results; there is a vast, slow ground swell. Thus it happens that none of the politicians in any of the parties can get a line on the way that the plain people are going to vote this year. But those of us who move among the plain people, work with them, belong to them, and understand the way in which they struggle towards great conclusions (which they cannot put into words, but which they can vote for now and then)—are sure of one thing, that more men than ever before are humbly trying this year to think in terms of social science.

Men are asking themselves, "How shall one so vote as to best help his fellows everywhere?" Against this earnestness the ordinary campaign arguments fall very flat; spell-binders cannot work their old charms; party lines are no longer authoritative. Under such circumstances the mystery and the power of the secret ballot are intensified beyond measure. This is one of the epochal years in which the plain voters are going to surprise a great many people.

CHARLES HOWARD SHINN.

"The sthraw vote seems to show——" Mr. Hennessy began.

"Ye can't take annythin' so sthrong as American pollyticks through a sthraw vote," said Mr. Dooley.—F. P. Dunne in Chicago Tribune of Oct. 27.