

"Therefore are my people gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge."

THE REFERENDUM IN OHIO.

The Ohio Legislature has now before it a proposed amendment to the Constitution for the Optional Referendum and the Direct Initiative. The advocates of this reform claim that the necessary three-fifths of the members of both houses are pledged to vote for it, and in that event it will certainly be adopted by the people of the State. The discussion by the voters of Ohio of the advantages of the Referendum system has been quite one-sided, for but few newspapers have declared directly against it, though those controlled by the Hanna and Foraker rings are damning it with faint praise, or urging that many obstacles are in the path of its fulfillment.

The independent newspapers of Ohio have given the subject great publicity, and the Cleveland Press, with over 128,000 circulation, has just published an article in large type by Col. Jephth Garrard, under the caption: "The Initiative and Referendum—What It Would Mean to Ohio," which will be of interest to the voters of other States. It is as follows:

"Initiative is the right to propose any measure to be enacted by the General Assembly; and if the same is not enacted by the General Assembly, to have same submitted to a vote of the electors of the State to be enacted or rejected at the polls.

"Referendum is the right to require that any law which the General Assembly may have enacted shall be submitted to a vote of the electors of the State before becoming a law.

"These rights, Initiative and Referendum, to be secured by petitions signed by the electors—the number of electors required to be a definite per cent. of the votes cast at the preceding State election.

"The amendment which is to be urged upon the Ohio legislature follows closely the Oregon amendment, which was adopted in 1902 by a vote of 52,024 to 5,668.

"In Ohio the advocates of this measure have been doing quiet but effective work, and claim that they have already received from the newly elected representatives more than enough pledges to give them a three-fifths majority in each house.

"What this measure is, and what it is expected to do for Ohio, may

best be told by describing the form and the practical effects of the Oregon amendment.

"It is not proposed that all the laws passed by the legislature shall be referred to the people. It is proposed merely that the people shall have the power, to be exercised at their discretion, of bringing to referendum vote any particular act of their representatives.

"This power is guaranteed by the Oregon constitution in this way. It is provided that no act of the legislature, except emergency measures, shall go into effect until 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature.

"If, during these 90 days, petitions are signed by five per cent. of the citizens of the State, demanding a popular vote upon any act or acts of the legislature, and if these petitions are filed with the Secretary of State, the legal effect of the petition is to hold such act or acts in abeyance until the next regular election, when they have to be submitted to a vote of the people.

"If any measure so referred to the people receives the support of the majority, it thereby becomes a law; if it fails of a majority, it is thereby repealed.

"Under the foregoing provision, most, if not all, laws passed by the legislature will go into effect after the expiration of 90 days from their enactment without a popular vote. Referendums will be infrequent.

"The chief aim of the Referendum consists, not in the frequency of its use, but in the fact that it may at any time be invoked. Experience shows this to be true."

GEORGE H. SHIBLEY.

THE MATTER OF DRESS.

From the comments of the London Speaker on a correspondence that has been raging in the London Daily News upon the question, "For Whom Do Women Dress?"

There is nothing humiliating in dressing to please yourself, any more than in playing cricket to please yourself. A painter paints, a poet makes verses to please himself. At least, if they do so for any other reason they waste their time. In fact, whatever we do well we do to please ourselves; and our object in life should not be to do everything against the grain, but to take pleasure in things worth doing.

There seems, however, to be a belief among men . . . that it is not worth while to dress well. They have

given up the business as a bad job. They are content to be eyesores, and make a virtue of their ugliness.

Yet men in other ages, and men, too, who did great things, have spent some of their abounding energy upon their clothes. The young Elizabethan conquered worlds and made great verses, arrayed like Solomon in all his glory; and the Spartans combed their long hair at Thermopylae. Are our affairs more important than theirs, or do we manage them better, that we have no time to adorn ourselves? Is it not rather that we are more oppressed by the burden of life than they were, and that we can no longer sustain it with an air? It is a common error for the man of a poor and starved nature to reproach the man of a rich and abounding temperament with frivolity. It is one of the mean consolations of life that pleasure always seems foolish to us when we lack the energy to share it; and that, no doubt, is the reason why men are angry with women who still have enough joy of life to take a pleasure in their clothes. . . .

Dress ought to be an expression of the joy of life, and not of any kind of sense of duty whatsoever. But it is not for the sex which includes bishops and soldiers to reproach women who dress from a sense of duty with the inevitable result. Men are nearly all figures of fun, and if they do not laugh at each other in the street, it is only because they cannot laugh at the same joke a thousand times a day.

MAYOR JOHNSON ON THE MUNICIPAL CONTROL OF VICE.

A REPLY BY TOM L. JOHNSON, MAYOR OF CLEVELAND, TO A COMMUNICATION FROM A COMMITTEE OF THE MINISTERS' UNION OF CLEVELAND.

Rev. Wilbur C. Mickey and Associates, Committee of the Ministers' Union of Cleveland, O.

Gentlemen: I regret that my written reply to the representations made to me by you in conference has been so long delayed, but the pressure of other matters has until now prevented me from giving to the subject that deliberate consideration which it requires.

The problem presented is most difficult, but I am satisfied that you and the city administration have a common aim in view. We both most earnestly desire to make Cleveland a good place to live in, to promote the happiness of our people, and to surround them with such freedom from temptation