

given a prominent place in India, and England would be foolish, indeed, to teach the rank and file of the Indian troops that when it comes to fighting 'racial superiority' has, for the nonce, to retire to the background." —N. Y. Tribune.

#### MORE ABOUT "PUTZ."

For The Public.

A recent editorial in the New York Evening Post, criticising Mr. Bryan's democratic speech and ways, called attention to the fact that people still like a leader to surround himself with something of awe and aloofness. This is true. It is perhaps due to an inherited disposition, based on natural, primitive respect for externals, which has been played upon and fostered by rulers.

Kings and emperors have understood the effect of surrounding themselves with the majesty that doth hedge them. Crowns, scepters, thrones, robes, all the paraphernalia of external dignity, have been a designed part of the programme of superiority and oppression.

It is impossible that the people, after centuries of deception, should at once emancipate themselves from the low spirit that stands in awe of such symbols and instruments of privilege and position. It is also natural that many people should still be subservient to the assumed mien of dignity and power. They have not yet learned to distinguish real dignity, which is real worthiness, from false dignity. Many still have the valet spirit.

The best friends of the people have never stooped to use external show or to assume airs in order to beget respect and reverence. Jefferson and Lincoln are noble examples.

In America to-day there is an evident tendency to return to external marks of rank and distinction. Against this tendency every lover of democracy ought to contend. It is a subtle, insidious and dangerous tendency. It is insidious because it seems to be too trifling to oppose. It is dangerous because people love show, and can easily be led to worship shams under a fine show.

The argument for it is subtle and specious; for there is truth in aesthetics. The feeling for order and dignity and beauty is laudable and ought to be cultivated. So, for every advance in ritual and parade there can be found an element of truth in the advocacy. But there is plenty of room for the cultivation of aesthetics in democracy without marking distinctions or investing the elected

servants of the people and other rulers with the stale paraphernalia of old regimes.

Whatever fictitious thing separates man from his fellows is opposed to liberty and democracy. Buckle's tenth chapter is very suggestive on this point, and has lessons for us to-day.

J. H. DILLARD.

#### THE SPRINGFIELD REPUBLICAN ON "TOM JOHNSON IN POLITICS."

The most likely possibility for future democratic leadership which the western municipal elections have evolved is Tom L. Johnson, of Cleveland. This is being recognized in the organs of all parties, and the manner in which Johnson has just taken office, after his noteworthy triumph at the polls, affords additional reasons for regarding him as a character possessed of great strength in any appeal for popular favor.

Presumably the mayor-elect of Cleveland, under the law, can claim the office as soon as he can secure his certificate of election. Anyhow, the facts are that the last city council of Cleveland had passed an ordinance transferring to the Pennsylvania railroad, for a small consideration, a valuable part of the lake front. Mayor Farley was about to sign this ordinance when Johnson went into court and secured an order restraining the mayor, for a stated period, from signing the bill. That period expired at 11 o'clock last Thursday morning. At 23 minutes after ten o'clock Johnson went before the city clerk and asked for the certificate of his election which had just been prepared. He then presented his official bond duly made out, took the oath of office before a notary and had public record made of the exact hour of the day—having in mind possible legal proceedings from the railroad company. He then hastened to the mayor's office and took possession—the retiring mayor being unceremoniously requested to move out. Thus Johnson came into possession of the office a few minutes before the court's order expired, and the ordinance in question will not be signed, for, in Johnson's opinion, it bestows upon the railroad company a most valuable tract of land without adequate compensation.

He is thus revealed as a man whose large business experience and wealth have made him resourceful to the last degree, and in any championship of the public interest which he chooses to undertake his great strength is unquestioned. His popular personal qualities are also to be taken into ac-

count in estimating his possibilities as a leading factor in democratic politics. The politicians are bringing up other considerations in his favor. They point to the fact that he was opposed to the silver part of the Chicago platform, and that he thus does not antagonize the gold democrats. But he remained with his party, and has been and is very friendly with Bryan, and is thus agreeable to the silver or Bryan element. He is by birth a southern man, and that is considered another fact in his favor. And as a man who has long advocated public policies opposed to his own selfish interests—speaking for free trade when he was making money out of protection, as in the manufacture of steel rails, standing with Henry George for the single tax on land monopoly when he owns much land, and declaring for public ownership of public service corporations when he has and is profiting heavily from private ownership, as of street railways—such a personality appeals with great force to the favor of the masses of the people, and must command a good deal of respect and admiration from men of all classes; for there is no question of his sincerity in all this, and no essential element of inconsistency, since he takes the ground that while the people insist upon having things as they are, he is legitimately moved to make the most of the situation for himself.

When corporate wealth and privilege are obtaining such a mastery in the nation as appears at present, a man like this one might easily, it would seem, make himself a great power in politics. As a figure in the demoralized ranks of the democracy he is evidently worth watching.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican of April 12.

#### CHINESE MOTHER'S SONG.

O hush your cries, my baby,  
And rest your tired head,  
For every tiny thing has crept  
Into its cozy bed:  
O hush! the winds of night will bear  
Your plaintive cries about,  
And the Christian man will get you if  
you don't watch out.

O hush your cries, your father dear  
Is hiding in the hills;  
He's hiding from the priests that make  
Our fields run bloody rills;  
With Bible and with musket they're  
Converting all about—  
The mission man will get you if you don't  
watch out.

And if you're caught, the love wherewith  
The Buddha fills the mind  
They'll turn to smiling falsehood,  
Covering hatred of your kind;  
O hush! with cross and Bible they  
Are prowling all about—  
And they'll civilize you, baby, if you don't  
watch out!

—Frederick Manley, in Life.