

tent of impoverishment, we do not hesitate to denounce devices which, in the guise of charity, or the name of altruism, serve to deaden the public conscience while universal robbery through special privilege is perpetuated.

Very few daily newspapers in the United States are national in character. Those of New York are remarkably provincial. With one exception—the Evening Post—they are neither interesting nor useful at any considerable distance from their place of publication. This is true also of the Chicago papers. It is not from either of the two great cities of the country, but from the smaller ones, that our national newspapers come. The principal paper of this type unquestionably is the Springfield Republican. It would be selected by any American familiar with the newspapers of the country who wished to send one to friends abroad. What the Manchester Guardian is to England, such is the Springfield Republican to the United States. Though published in a minor city, it is distinctively the one great national daily. Other dailies are slowly coming into notice, however, which rival the Republican in this quality of nationality—papers which, though published in “the provinces,” are far more national, far less provincial, than the metropolitan press. One of these is the Johnstown Democrat, published at Johnstown, Pa., under the editorship of Warren Worth Bailey. For nearly three years it has come to our desk, and we have found it to deserve the distinction of an honorable place in that list of high grade American newspapers of which the Springfield Republican is the oldest and most prominent representative. The Johnstown Democrat is first of all a newspaper, general as well as local. Typographically it is inviting. In editorial quality it is able, bright and sincere. While democratic in the party sense, it is democratic also in the fullest Jeffersonian sense. It is

withal the only outright Henry George daily in the country, except the Visalia (Cal.) Times and the Pendleton (Ore.) East Oregonian. In fact, it is its ‘Georgeism’ that makes it so profoundly and encouragingly democratic. And while a local newspaper of power and popularity, the Johnstown Democrat possesses in exceptionally high degree the characteristics that have given to the Springfield Republican its rare quality of nationality. We pay this tribute gladly, because of really worthy American newspapers there are so few. As a rule our daily papers are devoted to wretched pictures, trivial gossip and insincere editorials; and preeminence in producing these they dignify as successful journalism.

Mr. Bryan’s new paper, “The Commoner,” to be issued at Lincoln on the 15th at the subscription price of one dollar, will add another to the list of editorial weeklies. The New York Nation has long had that field almost to itself. But it has been aristocratic in its instincts, though democratic principles occasionally get recognition in its columns. Such papers as the Outlook and the Independent, and some others of their class—nominally religious—are not democratic at all. The democratic aspirations of the country have among the weekly reviews no representative which commands general attention. The San Francisco Star is a profoundly democratic paper, but its influence is confined to the central Pacific coast. City and State, of Philadelphia, is another; but it also is local in its influence. The weekly Springfield Republican, though an excellent condensation of the daily, is only that. It is not a weekly review. Mr. Bryan, therefore, has the possibility before him of making of his forthcoming paper the leading and universally recognized democratic review—a weekly review which shall be to the rugged democracy of the country what the Nation is to a narrow, cultured class. He has the ability to

edit such a review, and the reputation to command instant and general attention. We look forward to his venture with high expectations of the services its success will enable him to render American democracy.

It will doubtless please the friends of the late Henry George who are also friends of Mr. Bryan, to read this extract from the Christmas dispatch from Lincoln to the Chicago Record:

Mr. Bryan received many handsome remembrances and more than a hundred friendly and congratulatory messages. Among his gifts was an elaborate set of the works of Henry George in ten volumes, presented to him by the Henry George Bryan and Stevenson club, of Chicago. The author is a favorite with Mr. Bryan and he passed a large portion of his afternoon in scanning the pages of the books.

The books mentioned were set No. 1 of the library edition, which is limited to 1,000 copies. The first four sets of that edition are specially and richly bound, and this is the first of the four. It was presented to Mr. Bryan in commemoration of his speech before the club and its guests at Handel hall during the recent presidential campaign.

Over in Australia the statesmen do not put the same interpretation upon our enormous excess of exports that President McKinley does. These heathen, in their blindness, actually infer that an excessive outgo of wealth means loss, not profit. Listen to Rt. Hon. G. H. Reid, ex-premier of New South Wales and one of the leading statesmen of the Australian commonwealth, as reported by the South Australian Register of October 30. Mr. Reid was speaking to an immense audience at Adelaide. On the question of excessive exports he first referred to England, saying:

England has an export of £190,000,000 less than its imports; that is to say, every year she gets in about £200,000,000 worth more than she sends out. What a ruinous state of things! Being somewhat familiar with statistics, I anxiously turned to the column which shows the gold, silver, bullion and specie. I went to look for these 200,000,000 of sovereigns that

must have gone out for pay for these £200,000,000 of excessive exports, but I was greatly relieved to find . . . that while England during . . . 1893 to 1897 exported £187,000,000 of gold, silver, bullion and specie, during the same years she imported £205,000,000.

Having thus shown that England had got in, both in goods and gold, more than she had sent out, Mr. Reid took up the American statistics for comparison. Here he said:

Do you know that in America the exports greatly exceed the imports in value? . . . In the period of 1893-7 the imports were \$3,820,000,000, the exports, \$4,400,000,000—a balance in favor of the United States of \$580,000,000. I looked at the gold and silver bullion and specie to see whether the money goes out. I looked for the same period, 1893-7, and I found that the exports of gold and silver bullion and specie from the United States were \$350,000,000 more than the imports. There, again, you see England lending her money all over the world. She takes it in something she can eat and wear.

To American ears such boasting of the advantages of excessive imports has a confusing sound, so accustomed are we to the notion that nations prosper not on what they get, but on what they get rid of. But how comically that notion strikes our antipodal friends may be inferred from Mr. Reid's remarks.

The people of Fort Worth, Tex., have in Thomas J. Powell a democratic mayor of the democratic type. He was elected last spring on the issue of municipal ownership of municipal monopolies, a policy to which he was committed; and a council of like views was elected with him. For some reason, however, most of the members of the council have since reversed their opinions, which has brought them into collision with the mayor, who holds to his. The conflict is over proposed amendments to the city charter. To avoid a popular vote upon these, and they include a proposition for municipal ownership, the council adopted an ordinance providing for a charter convention in which the council were to sit as delegates ex-officio. The evident object was to give the council control of framing

the charter amendments for submission to the legislature, no matter how the people might vote; and for that, among other reasons, the mayor has vetoed the ordinance. He properly denounces it as undemocratic and un-republican, and insists that if a convention be called the selection of all its members ought to be by popular vote. But he advocates, as preferable to every other method, a simple submission of the points at issue regarding the charter amendments to a referendum, for or against the principle of each. It is expected that the charter question will make the issue at the municipal election next spring, in a contest nominally between the present council and the present mayor, but really between the supporters and the opponents of municipal ownership.

A MORAL ECLIPSE.

Students of history are carefully observing the rapidly evolving events which mark the closing years of the nineteenth century, and forecast the probabilities of the twentieth. The superficial thought is one of jubilation and glorification. This is easy and popular, and fetches its price in the market of Vanity Fair, both in applause and in more substantial rewards.

This century has been one of material advancement. Steam and electricity have been put to beneficent uses; and brain now labors in every direction to relieve the muscles of man, and labors efficiently. Mankind has multiplied upon the earth until it numbers nearly 1,500,000,000; and all are become, by reason of the wonderful inventions of the closing century, so closely knit by common interests that optimists may almost dream of one great human family.

The needs of man have multiplied a thousandfold. He no longer is content to live on bread alone, but demands meat—flesh, fish and fowl—spices, sweetmeats, condiments for the palate, as well as food for the stomach. For clothing he has silken robes beyond the opium-inspired dreams of his forefathers. There is

no end of books and of schools, and from kindergarten to university child and man and woman find open doors.

Kinship is found in all the religious faiths of mankind. In Christian forms he has his choice, from the stately authority of the Roman church to the fife and drum of the Salvation Army which meets him at the street corners.

The report of the census bureau, showing that during the decade from 1890 to 1900 the wealth of the United States has increased from \$65,000,000,000 dollars to \$90,000,000,000, elates the national pride; and, in the exaltation of our new importance as a world power, we approached the ruler of the universe on our national thanksgiving day with thinly veiled vanity, congratulating him upon his fair heritage of earth which confers such a luster upon his throne.

This and much more are included in the optimistic view of this little earth and its peoples, as the endless procession moves toward its countless temples during these days of 1900, chanting a Te Deum.

But how strange and discordant, in the midst of our self-gratulation, are these words, quoted, just preceding our late presidential election, from an article in the London Times:

Unconscious discipleship of Friedrich Nietzsche is common in business, social and military circles. Christianity, the golden rule of ethics, is only for slaves. Lured by prudence is the only law for free men, whether acting nationally or singly. Deeds of a type once denounced as predatory and criminal are now applauded as clever. Business men, statesmen and churchmen cheer them. A rising spirit of virile, uncompromising egotism is observable in all civilized nations, but nowhere else has it gained vigor of late as in the United States.

If this is a true indictment—and the careful student, undazzled by the glitter of statistical wealth, unmoved by the shouting of the men of war, and counting at their true worth the mummeries and mockeries of churches, knows that it is true—then it were fitting that December 31, 1900, should be set apart as a day of national humiliation and confession of sin, with prayer that we may begin the new century in righteousness. We should recoil from entering the