

dering Federal troops upon active duty into a State, with the autocratic replies of his antagonist in this passage at arms in the field of higher politics.

V.

One of Altgeld's acts as governor was never openly criticised. It is briefly told by the Chicago Record-Herald, a Republican paper, from which we quote:

In the 1895 session of the legislature . . . franchise corporation bills were passed very like those which made the session of 1897 a reproach. Mr. Altgeld could have made a million, and probably millions, by letting them become laws, but they were vetoed.

The truth is that one million dollars in cash had been placed at Altgeld's disposal, under circumstances which would have enabled him to appropriate it with absolute safety to himself. The sole condition was that he should sign those bills. But he vetoed the bills.

At that time Altgeld's pecuniary difficulties were pressing. From a rich man he had become comparatively poor, through no fault of his own but chiefly because he refused to join any of the respectable rings that make money for themselves and squeeze money out of others by means of predatory laws. The legislature had been bribed to enact the corporation bills in question. They were so thoroughly bribed that the Senate passed them even over Altgeld's veto, and in the House only a few votes of the necessary two-thirds were lacking. The latter body remained in session long past its hour for sine die adjournment, turning back the official clock for the sake of appearances, to allow the corporation lobbyists time to buy their goods. Altgeld's veto stood, in spite of the Democratic leader on the floor, in spite of the Republican speaker in the chair, in spite of the lobbyists all over the House, and in spite of as fine an aggregation of respectable gentlemen at Chicago furnishing the funds as one could wish to meet.

Yet all this might have been avoided. Nothing was needed but another respectable gentleman of the same marauding type in the governor's chair. Had Altgeld signed those bills he might have retrieved his broken

fortunes, have grown as rich as the richest, have been honored by a debased press and fawned upon by the sycophants, might have gone to associate and conspire with other such characters in the Federal Senate, and instead of being denounced as a reactionary demagogue been lauded as a progressive statesman. But he was too able to be beguiled and too honest to betray his trust. He held the mercenary plotters back, knowing full well that the rich and influential ones among them would punish him without mercy. And they did. They plotted against this able and honest governor until even the wreckage of his fortune had disappeared. Yet, through it all he defied them and went his way—impoverished, lonely, but faithful.

VI.

Democracy like that which inspired John P. Altgeld to excite the vindictive wrath of corporation influences by challenging the Federal administration of his own party when it cast aside party ideals and defied national limitations by invading a state of which he was governor with an armed force; sincerity like that which inspired him to incur obloquy by pardoning unpopular prisoners because they had been unjustly convicted, though he might have avoided censure by giving them their liberty as an act of grace; honesty like that which impelled him, rather than bow before Baal, to sacrifice the private fortune he already had and to refuse another which he could have got without even the asking, winning at the same time applause from the powerful but sordid moneyed interests which had bribed both political parties in his legislature and needed only his signature to make their conquest of enormously valuable public privileges complete—these were the qualities which made Altgeld's patriotism vital.

Voters tell us they want able men in office; but do they? Altgeld's ability is conceded, but they turned him out of office. He was too able to be the tool of corporations unconsciously.

They say they want honest men in office; but do they? Altgeld's honesty is now admitted, but they turned him out of office. He was too honest to become the agent of corrupt and

corrupting corporations consciously.

They say they are hunting with lanterns for sincere men. But if they are, why do the rays of their lanterns never search out the man of sincerity, through the shadows of predeceous misrepresentation and malignant abuse, until after he is dead?

It was a brief and painful life, that of this able, honest, sincere, unyielding and unswerving, democratic statesman; but it closed as all such men might wish to have their own lives close. His sincere democracy made him plead the cause of the Filipinos; not for their sake alone, but for ours as well. It made him plead the cause of the Boers; not for their liberties alone, but for English liberty too. And in this fight for democracy, facing overwhelming odds, but with democratic truths pouring hot from his lips, he died while yet hardly past the middle years of human life. But now as of old, and with John P. Altgeld as with all other men, the inspiring words which Macaulay attributes to Horatius still hold true, as they ever will:

Then out spake brave Horatius,
The captain of the gate:
"To every man upon this earth
Death cometh soon or late.
And how can man die better
Than facing fearful odds,
For the ashes of his fathers
And the temples of his gods."

NEWS

A sensation second only to that of the capture of Gen. Methuen by the Boers, reported last week, was caused on the 13th by news that Methuen had been released. His captors brought him to Klerksdorp and delivered him over to the British without conditions.

Regarding the particulars of the battle in which Gen. Methuen was captured, but little news from newspaper sources is at hand, the British censorship being especially strict with reference to this event; but Lord Kitchener's official report of Gen. Methuen's account of the affair is in substance as follows: When the Boers pressed a flank attack, the British mounted troops attempted to fall back on the infantry and got completely out of control. A rout ensued. With 200 men and two guns Lord

Methuen was isolated, but fought for three hours. Having suffered a severe wound himself, and his men having exhausted their ammunition, he finally surrendered. He asserts that most of the Boers wore British khaki uniforms, and that many also wore British badges, so that they were undistinguishable from British troops even at close quarters.

Field Marshal Wolseley having suddenly gone to South Africa after the Methuen disaster, it was rumored in London on the 14th that he had gone under special orders from the king, which was regarded as a rebuff to the prime minister; but the rumors have been denied, and the question remains whether he has gone to South Africa in an important but mysterious official capacity or only as a private traveler.

The subject of the war came up in the British House of Lords on the 17th when a criticism of martial law in Cape Colony drew out from Lord Salisbury the explanation that armed resistance in Cape Colony is such as to make martial law necessary. In the House of Commons a motion by the Liberal leader, Campbell-Bannerman, for an investigation of British army scandals, made on the same day, was defeated on the 18th, the war secretary having declared that while the ministry did not fear an investigation, the proposed inquiry would be so vast and far-reaching that British operations in all parts of the world would be paralyzed.

In the United States the British reconcentrado camps have been subjected to further discussion in Congress (see p. 775) in connection with the refusal of the administration to apply for British permits to enable the Rev. Hiram W. Thomas and his wife to go into the camps for the purpose of offering the relief provided for by the Gov. Yates fund. The question of recognizing the Boer republics is also agitating Congress, a paper signed by 90 members calling a Democratic caucus for the 19th to take party action on the subject, having been presented to the caucus chairman, such a caucus was held on that date. It adopted resolutions (1) calling for an expression by Congress of sympathy with the Boers; (2) calling for an amicable appeal by Congress to the British government to accept overtures of peace; (3) demanding prompt reports by the congress-

sional committees on resolutions bearing on the subject. It is believed that Mr. Bryan, who was in Washington last week, approved active measures in this direction by his party friends. On his return from Washington, while stopping at Chicago to attend the funeral of the late Gov. Altgeld, Mr. Bryan spoke at a meeting called in honor of the visiting Boer envoys. He was earnest in his advocacy of the Boer cause, deplored the refusal of our officials to interfere with the British breach of neutrality at New Orleans, and expressed his hope that Congress would invite Paul Kruger to visit this country.

Ex-Gov. John P. Altgeld, whose sudden death at the close of a pro-Boer speech at Joliet, Ill., we announced at page 775, was buried in Graceland cemetery, Chicago, on the 16th. Private funeral services had been conducted at his home on the 14th, addresses being made by Jane Addams, Clarence S. Darrow, and the Rev. Frank Crane of the People's church. On the 15th the body was borne to the public library building, in the large marble-lined corridor of which it lay in state for 24 hours, imbedded in flowers. From 40,000 to 50,000 people passed by the open coffin, and on Sunday morning it was carried to the grave. William Jennings Bryan spoke briefly at the library building before the long civic procession moved, and at the open grave eulogies were delivered by Mr. Bryan, Charles A. Towne and Joseph W. Errant. There was no military display. Gov. Yates, who, with his staff, escorted the body both from the house and to the cemetery, had offered to call out the militia in full uniform in honor of the dead ex-governor, but at the urgent request of Altgeld's closer friends refrained from doing so. He himself attended simply as the civil chief magistrate of the State. Along the whole line of march thousands who had come to honor the occasion lined the streets on either side; while a Negro pall bearer occupied one of the six chief places of honor at the funeral of this great Democrat, and organizations of working women marched in the funeral column. For a distance of two miles or more the procession moved on foot, Mr. Bryan walking as an honorary pall bearer close behind the hearse, escorted by Judge E. F. Dunne, while Gov. Yates and his official attendants walked immediately

after the line of honorary pall bearers. A memorial meeting is to be held at the Chicago Auditorium on the 20th of April.

The final act of the city council of Cleveland on the 3-cent fare measure, described last week, took place as predicted on the 17th. By a vote of 20 to 2, the franchise was granted, the new company having obtained the necessary number of frontage consents for about 20 miles of double track. The work of construction, the mayor declares, is to begin immediately.

Further proceedings for the repeal in Colorado of the Bucklin taxation amendment (p. 776) were taken in the lower house of the legislature, notwithstanding the expectation noted last week that the matter had in effect been indefinitely postponed. All revenue legislation pending in the House was suddenly disposed of on the 7th, whereupon this repeal measure came up. The first battle was over the majority and minority reports of the committee on constitutional amendments, the former recommending the repeal, with the proviso that upon passing second reading the repeal be referred to the Supreme Court for its judicial opinion. The motion to adopt this report was carried by a vote of 33 to 26. Thus encouraged the repealers tried to force the bill through, but they were defeated on the 14th on a motion to strike out the enacting clause. The circumstances were exciting. While the vote was proceeding monotonously, Representative Whitelaw's name was called. He had always been opposed to the Bucklin amendment, and as he rose to explain his vote, the assembly became oppressively silent. His explanation raised it to a high pitch of excitement. Said he:

Mr. Speaker: I am against this Bucklin bill, but I am also a representative of my people. From the hearthstones of nearly every hut on the mountain sides of my district, from the dwellers of every hamlet in my county, and from every walk of life among my constituency, has come an appeal to me to submit this question to them. I shall therefore hearken to their call and dutifully obey the mandates of those who have honored me with their suffrages. Mr. Speaker, I vote aye to kill the repeal bill.

But still the vote stood 31 to 29 in favor of the repeal. Then Representative Davidson changed his vote, making a tie, and both sides were