

praisements," the mayor applied for the writ of mandamus which was granted as stated above.

In all these proceedings Mayor Johnson aims, as we have before explained, at something more important than an increase in the taxation of railroads. He aims at a substitution for the Ohio system of taxation, of one that would tax men and corporations upon the value of what the public does for them and not upon the value of what they do themselves; upon their franchises and not upon their earnings. Much has already been accomplished in this direction in the way of stirring up public sentiment. Mr. Johnson's overhauling of railroad taxation is opening wide the eyes of the people of the state to the favoritism, not to say corruption, of the present tax system, and its utter inequality. Naturally, the great tax dodgers strive to create a diversion by spreading the notion that he is trying to raise the taxes of the poor. When Johnson was told that some people are getting this impression, he answered:

Are they? Well, their minds will be disabused before I get through. I am after the big fellows and if I land them the little ones are bound to reap the benefit. If we raise those who are paying too little then we can lower those who are paying too much. I have said right along that the poor people—the small property owners—have been paying too much. In proportion to what the rich men are paying, they are assessed most outrageously. They should pay less and the wealthy more. The decennial board of revision has full power to adjust this inequality, and I am preparing to make a demand that it do so. The board begins its session June 4 and I will appear before it without delay. It is not that property in Cleveland is taxed too high that people complain—it is that some are not paying their just share, while many pay more than their share. The steam railroads, street railroads, gas companies and other corporations are the ones who are paying the least, considering what they own. I don't expect to make them my friends; in fact, I expect to make many enemies, but that is something I can't avoid and don't care to avoid. The small property owner will reap only good from this tax fight.

POLITICAL PARTIES AND POLITICAL IDEALS.

A recent passage at arms between Mr. Watterson, of the *Courier-Journal*, and Mr. Bryan, of the *Commoner*, furnishes the clearest possible exposition of the discord now existing in the democratic party.

Commenting on Mr. Watterson's imperialistic views, Bryan lays down a few self-evident propositions like the following:

Questions must be decided by the application of fixed and immutable principles.

Yielding to a bad principle because it seems triumphant is simply an easy method of avoiding labor and sacrifice.

What the democratic party needs is not advice to surrender, but courage to resist the attacks which are being made upon American doctrines and democratic principles.

A nation that is selfish enough to want a colony is too selfish to do justice by it, and a party demoralized enough to indorse a colonial system would be impotent to administer it satisfactorily.

He also quotes Jefferson's saying:

I know of but one code of morality for men, whether acting singly or collectively.

And Franklin's dictum:

Justice is as strictly due between neighbor nations as between neighbor citizens.

Mr. Watterson, after a little of the witty badinage for which he is famous, declares that the above extracts show Mr. Bryan to be "not a party leader but a moral philosopher." Furthermore, Mr. Bryan is not a statesman. For, says Mr. Watterson:

He is no statesman who has not learned to detach his policies from his visions. He is no statesman who has not emancipated himself from that which for want of a better name dreamers call the ideal. He is no statesman who does not apply his means to his ends, going fast or slow as occasion requires, but making no mistake in reading the riddle of the time, in deciphering the mathematics of the moment, in translating the spirit and temper of the people.

Mr. Watterson is a perfect representative of that faction of the democratic party which opposes Bryan, and which is responsible for every democratic defeat. By his own confession, he and all those who share his views

are men who have thrown away their ideals, that is, their principles, and who hope to get back into power by using the tactics of the republican party.

Opposed to Mr. Watterson and his followers we have Bryan and the Bryanites, men who have never learned to detach their "policies" from their "visions" of a perfect American democracy; who would as soon commit perjury or theft as emancipate themselves from their ideals; who see no riddle in the time that may not be clearly read by the application of the "eternal verities" of justice; and who, instead of translating the spirit and temper of the people and making this their guide, are busy keeping their own spirit and temper true to their ideals, and striving to infuse the same spirit and temper into the people.

Does any one dream of "harmonizing" these two factions of the democratic party?

Impossible thought!

There will never be harmony in the party until the men who have cast away their ideals walk out from the ranks of democracy and openly ally themselves with the republican party. With this treacherous element eliminated, democracy would know its real strength, and would be able to devote that strength to fighting the enemy outside its ranks, instead of dissipating it, as now, by fighting enemies within.

The leaders of the real democratic party to-day are men who are doing for America what the Hebrew prophets did for the Jewish nation. "These prophets," says the great Jewish scholar, Darmesteter, "were men to whom justice was an active force. The idea of right was converted by them into a fact before which all other facts pale. By virtue of believing in justice they advanced it to the rank of a factor in history. They taught many to live and die for the right without the hope of Elysian fields. They taught the people that without ideals 'the future hangs before them in tatters.' That the ideal alone is the aim of life, and that it consists not in the glory of the conqueror, nor in riches nor in power, but in holding up as a torch to the nations the example of better laws and of a higher soul."

It is an easy matter in this age to sneer at men who cling to their ideals and who make morals and philosophy their guide, and no one is more competent to do this sneering than Mr. Watterson. But the thoughtful student of current history finds only one fact to keep him from falling into the darkest pessimism: it is, that in the midst of the selfishness and injustice that the future historian will have to record against this country, there yet remains a party composed of men who would rather "play it right" and lose, than play it wrong and win; and who, through fair fortune and through foul, will continue to make their ideals the aim of life. *

NEWS

President McKinley's tour, which was interrupted at San Francisco last week by the alarming illness of Mrs. McKinley, has not yet been resumed. It was feared on the 16th that Mrs. McKinley would die. The 17th also was a depressing day to the watchers at her bedside. But on the 18th she was stronger, and hopes of her recovery revived. She was able to leave her bed on the 19th, from which time recovery was rapid. No date, however, has yet been set for the president's departure from San Francisco.

Members of the cabinet were requested by the president to keep all their engagements, regardless of Mrs. McKinley's illness; and on the 21st the president himself reviewed 45,000 San Francisco school children, and made them an impromptu speech, in which he said:

Nothing has given me more pleasure in my long trip from the Atlantic to the Pacific than the scene which we have witnessed here this morning. Every child waving the flag of our faith and our hope, and every little heart filled with the love of country. What an army for liberty and union and civilization! Why, we have in the public schools of the United States fourfold more children than there were people when this government was founded, and all of them proud of their country, and all of them revering its institutions, and all of them meaning that when the time comes for them to take the responsibilities of administration they will be prepared to do their duty and pass along this free government with

ever increasing virtue, intelligence and patriotism.

Prior to this Mr. McKinley, with Gov. Nash, of Ohio, attended the ceremony of launching the American battleship Ohio. A workingmen's demonstration was arranged in the president's honor at the Union iron works, where the ship had been built, and in responding with a speech, he said:

What we want is to build more ships. We ought to have a good commercial line from here to the Philippines, made in the Union iron works—built by American workingmen and manned by American sailors and carrying the American flag. There is nothing in this world that brings people so close together as commerce. There is nothing in this world that so promotes the universal brotherhood of man as commerce, and we want to encourage commerce. The nations are close together now. The powers of the earth are tied together. We have overcome distance. We not only want a commercial line, but we want a cable line from here to the Philippines. We want it to be an American cable. That cannot be cut by any power in the world. They say trade follows the flag. The telegraph must follow trade. My fellow citizens, we have got problems before us. We never had more important ones. We have expanded. Do you want to contract? It is not a question of whether we will acquire the Philippines or Porto Rico or Guam or Wake Island or Hawaii or Tuituila. We have acquired them; they are ours. The question is, shall we give them up? And from one end of this country to the other comes the answer. They are ours, not to subjugate, but to emancipate; not to rule in the power of might, but to take to those distant people the principles of liberty, of freedom, of conscience and of opportunity that are enjoyed by the people of the United States. Our flag never goes anywhere except it carries blessings. Our flag never oppressed anybody, but it has given freedom to every people over whom it has floated.

The relations of Cuba with the United States are assuming more satisfactory shape. On the 16th the committee on relations, to which, as reported last week, the constitutional convention had referred the report of the committee to Washington, came to a vote by which the majority were understood to recommend acceptance of the Platt amendment; and on the 20th, at a secret session of the convention, a majority and a minority report were read. The majority re-

port, omitting the introduction, was as follows:

Inasmuch as Secretary Root, being authorized by President McKinley, says that the Platt law has for its object the guaranteeing of the independence of Cuba, and does not mean interference with its government or the exercise of a protectorate or of sovereignty, and also that intervention will only take place when independence is endangered by outside powers or grave interior disturbances, creating anarchy; and inasmuch as Secretary Root has said that the naval stations will not be used for vantage points of intervention, but only to protect Cuba against foreign powers, we report as follows:

That, in virtue of the fact that the Platt law, in its preamble, says it is a fulfillment of the joint resolution and has been adopted by congress with the principal object of establishing independence, we do propose to the convention to accept the following as an appendix to the constitution:

1. That the government of Cuba shall never enter into any treaty or other compact with any foreign power or powers, which will impair or tend to impair the independence of Cuba, nor in any manner authorize or permit any foreign power or powers to obtain by colonization or for military or naval purposes or otherwise lodgment in or control over any portion of said island.

2. That said government shall not assume or contract any public debt, to pay the interest upon which, and to make reasonable sinking fund provision for the ultimate discharge of which, the ordinary revenues of the island, after defraying the current expenses of government, shall be inadequate.

3. That the government of Cuba consents that the United States may exercise the right to intervene for the preservation of Cuban independence, the maintenance of a government adequate for the protection of life, property and individual liberty, and for discharging the obligations with respect to Cuba imposed by the treaty of Paris on the United States, now to be assumed and undertaken by the government of Cuba.

It being understood that the United States have the right to intervene to prevent the action of a foreign power or disturbances causing a state of anarchy, and that the intervention always shall be the act of the United States, and not of isolated agents. The intervention shall suppose neither sovereignty nor a protectorate and shall only last sufficiently long to establish normal conditions. Said intervention, it is also understood, shall not give the right to interfere