Bryan and Mr. Cleveland, and this is not changed by Mr. Cleveland's recent death. As to that responsibility, then, what are the facts?

✣

If Mr. Bryan did take leadership in the Democratic party against the "sound money" humbuggery, he did not do so until Mr. Cleveland had taken leadership in its favor. Mr. Bryan turned for the time from the tariff question to the money question, after the tariff question had ceased for the time to be the dominant issue in our politics; but Mr. Cleveland had already turned from the tariff question to make the money question the dominant issue. Mr. Cleveland had been elected with a popular mandate to put down Republican protection as a fraud. Instead of obeying that mandate, instead of listening to his disinterested advisers, he listened to his Whitneys and his Morgans, and shifted the issue from tariff to money. It was not until Mr. Cleveland had completely succeeded in that treacherous coup that Mr. Bryan sprang into party leadership on the money issue.

✣

We have no desire to revive unpleasant recollections about dead men, although Mr. Cleveland was not squeamish in that respect with reference to Altgeld, and even to the point of misrepresentation; but when his friends persist, as the New York Evening Post has done in this case, in perpetuating so deceptive a superstition as that which we quote above, the verity of history and the rights of living men demand that the responsibility of the dead be remembered even if unpleasantly.

✣ ✣

President Taft, Showman.

We should beg pardon for calling President Taft a showman were it not that we merely quote from one of the most faithful of Taftian organs, the Chicago Tribune of August 7. "For two months," says the Tribune, "the President will lead the nomadic life of a traveling theatrical company on the one night stand circuit." But the Tribune neglects to explain that the expenses of Mr. Taft's showmanship, to begin September 15 and to take in a circuit of 13,000 miles, rest upon rather shaky ethical foundations.

✣

Congressman Rainey of Illinois tells the story in a speech reported in the Congressional Record of June 19, at page 4676. Briefly, these are the facts: On the 24th of February last, an appropriation bill of the lower House which had gone to the Senate and come back loaded with amendments was again under consideration in the House of its origin. Among the amendments was one increasing the salary of the President, who had been elected a few weeks before, from $50,000 to $100,000. It was in the nature of a contribution by the party in power to its own successful candidate, made between his election and his inauguration, one that could not have been made after inauguration because the Constitution provides that the President's compensation "shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected." The amendment was not, however, so bald a diversion of public funds as it appeared to be on its face; for the usual allowance of $25,000 a year for traveling expenses was to be included in the $50,000 increase of salary, thereby making the increase approximately only $25,000. Even this was cut down, the salary being increased to $75,000 inclusive of traveling expenses. So far so good, but now comes the sequel.

✣

After President Taft had been inaugurated,—indeed as late as the middle of last July—his friends in Congress gave him $25,000 more for traveling expenses for the current year, and out of that gift he is to pay the expenses of the trip which the Chicago Tribune quite aptly even if irreverently likens to a theatrical company "on the one night stand circuit." Mr. Taft's generous friends in Congress ignored the fact that his traveling expenses had been distinctly provided less than six months before by the increase of his salary from $50,000 to $75,000 inclusive of expenses for traveling; they ignored the fact that this appropriation for his theatrical trip of "one night stands" was in contravention of the clause of the Constitution forbidding his receiving, during his term of office, "any other emolument" than the compensation fixed before his term began; and President Taft himself ignores both, by taking his traveling expenses out of public moneys instead of paying them out of a salary distinctly intended to cover precisely such expenses.

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It is almost wicked, to be sure, to criticize President Taft for this—for anything, in fact, he being a Republican of the Brahman variety. It indicates also a pessimistic temper, as of one who sees only the hole in the law instead of the halo around it. But think of the example he sets! Or shall we have one moral law for the exalted Brahman and another for the despised pariah? Is it

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not possible for the real friends of President Taft to think of him in this connection along the discriminating lines of the Journal of the Knights of Labor for August, which also condemns this dishonest appropriation for his junket expenses, "trifling in amount," it explains, "but abominable in principle"? The Journal says: "We respect President Taft very highly, but we despise this constant pilfering of the treasury in the interest of powerful men."

✤ ✤

The Grand Junction Charter.

An examination of the full text of the Grand Junction charter (p. 776) to be voted on at referendum on the 14th, confirms our impressions from the outline, as to the superiority of this plan of municipal government. It seems to be as far advanced in the direction of home rule and people's rule as the Constitution of Colorado permits.

✤

The election clauses are especially interesting, because they put into full operation, for the first time in this country—although it is familiar to Australia (pp. 610, 678)—the preferential system of voting. Preliminary nominations are made by individual petitioners on separate sheets to the number of twenty-five, only one candidate to be named on each sheet. This secures the printing of this candidate's name on the official ballot. But it does not prevent the writing by a voter when voting, in a place provided for it on the official ballot, of any other name. In making up the official ballot, the City Clerk classifies the candidates according to the office for which they are nominated, those for Commissioner of Public Affairs being grouped together under the title of that office, those for Commissioner of Highways being similarly grouped, and so on, spaces being left for writing in one additional name in each group. Opposite the candidates' names are three columns for indicating respectively "first choice," "second choice," etc.; and the voter may make a cross in each column opposite one name for each office, thereby signifying the order of his choice of candidates for those offices respectively. Three choices being allowed, a voter for Commissioner of Public Affairs, for illustration, may vote for John Doe as his first choice, for James Foe as his second, and for Richard Roe as his third. In canvassing the votes the following instructions, in substance, are to be observed: (1) Enter on tally sheet the total number of votes cast; (2) enter on tally sheet the total of first, second and third choice votes for each candidate, no vote for any candidate on any ballot to be counted more than once; (3) send tally sheet to City Clerk as required by law; (4) the person receiving—

more than one-half of the total number of ballots cast at such election as the first choice of the electors for any office shall be elected to that office; provided, that if no candidate shall receive such a majority of the first choice votes for such office, then and in that event, the name of the candidate printed on the ballot having the smallest number of first choice votes, and all names written on the ballot having a less number of votes than such last named candidate shall be excluded from the count, and votes for such candidate or persons so excluded shall not thereafter be counted. A canvass shall then be made of the second choice votes received by the remaining candidates for said office; said second choice votes shall then be added to the first choice votes received by each remaining candidate for such office, and the candidate receiving the largest number of said first and second choice votes, if such votes constitute a majority of all ballots cast at such election, shall be elected thereto; and provided, further, that if no such candidate shall receive such a majority after adding the first and second choice votes, then and in that event, the name of the candidate then having the smallest number of first and second choice votes shall be excluded from the count, and no votes for such candidate so excluded shall thereafter be counted. A canvass shall then be made of the third choice votes received by the remaining candidates for such office; said third choice votes shall then be added to the first and second choice votes received by each remaining candidate for such office, and such remaining candidate receiving the highest number of first, second and third choice votes shall be elected thereto. When the name of but one person remains as a candidate for any office, such person shall be elected thereto regardless of the number of votes received. A tie between two or more candidates is to be decided in favor of the one having the greatest number of first choice votes. If all are equal in that respect, then the greatest number of second choice votes determines the result. If this will not decide, then the tie shall be determined by lot, under the direction of the canvassing board. Whenever the word "majority" is used in this section, it shall mean more than one-half of the total number of ballots cast at such election.

We have no hesitation in characterizing those provisions as the best yet adopted for destroying political machines and securing a true expression of the popular purpose. Although an outgrowth of the Galveston plan, upon which the Des Moines plan was a great improvement and the Berkeley plan a greater one, the Grand Junction plan, while adopting the best in the others, is a clear improvement upon them all. It preserves the efficiency of commission government which originated in Galveston, and the popular checks

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