

bute of respect to the last national standard bearer unless it wishes to be deliberately insulting. In taking this stand, Mr. Johnson and the Ohio convention over which he presided have set an example that all Democrats who sincerely wish for harmony on democratic principles will be glad to follow. The criticism of those who use "harmony" as a catch-word to promote plutocratic schemes can be easily endured.

On state issues the Ohio platform is bold and explicit, as was Chairman Johnson's speech. There is no false note or timid tone about it. Only knaves can misinterpret it; only fools can doubt its sincerity. On all the subjects that interest the people, not of Ohio alone but of every state in the Union, it has the sonorous ring of radical democracy. Its principles are summed up in the phrase with which the distinguished chairman characterized the issues of the campaign—"Home rule and just taxation."

Of the candidate whose name leads the Ohio ticket, for the office of secretary of state, but little need be said in these columns. To our readers the name of Herbert S. Bigelow is a household word. It has been objected that he is one of "Tom Johnson's preachers." But that sneer has lost its sneeriness. When Johnson became mayor of Cleveland, he appointed a clergyman to a place in his cabinet as director of charities and correction; and now the people of Cleveland unite in saying that the Rev. Harris R. Cooley is the best director of charities and correction the city ever had. When Johnson had become the acknowledged leader of Democratic politics in Cleveland, he suggested for the director of schools a graduate in theology whom the opposition dubbed "reverend," though he had not served in a pulpit. Nevertheless, the Rev. Starr Cadwallader was elected; and the good people of Cleveland now acknowledge that he is the best director of schools the city ever had. It may not be wise, then,

for Republicans of Ohio to say too much about the Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow as "one of Tom Johnson's preachers." The good people might all want to try him and see if he wouldn't make the best secretary of state Ohio ever had.

Mr. Bigelow, a graduate of Adelbert college and Lane theological seminary, is the pastor of the Vine street church of Cincinnati, which has an enviable record as one of the underground railway stations through which escaping slaves used to pass from Kentucky to Canada, and which cherishes and exemplifies, under Bigelow as its pastor, the spirit of liberty in which it was born. It is a church that knows no distinctions of color or class, and in which the golden rule is taught without apology or modification—a church of the common people. Of Bigelow it is enough now to say, as of Johnson himself, that he is an able, eloquent and devoted advocate of Henry George's concrete application of the golden rule.

Another follower of Henry George—not a preacher this time, but a journeyman blacksmith—whom Johnson is credited with enlisting in the great combat between democracy and plutocracy already thickening, is Edmund H. Vail, whom the congressional convention of the Twenty-first Ohio district has called directly from his anvil to make a contest for Congressman Burton's seat. Mr. Burton is a difficult man to defeat. Not because he has rendered exceptional service to the country as a national legislator. No one would make that claim. But because he has rendered faithful service to the water front proprietors of Cleveland in connection with the river and harbor appropriations. In spite, however, of water front and kindred interests, the district can be carried by the workingmen if they unite; and if they cannot unite upon Vail it is hopeless to expect them to unite upon any one. He has made his way through

life as a journeyman blacksmith; has made him a little home; has educated his children in the schools; has educated himself in public affairs; and has done it all in the sweat of his own face and not in the sweat of somebody else's face. In Congress, Vail would not only want to vote right on public questions, and dare to do it; but what is equally important, he would know how.

If the people of Ohio are at all alert, the Democratic candidates will be elected this year by overwhelming majorities, so bold have the Republican leaders become in disclosing their devotion to private in preference to public interests. With them public office is anything but a public trust. Both United States senators—Foraker and Hanna,—who between them manage the state administration, are deeply interested in street car monopolies. These interests evidently come first in their consideration, and Hanna is candid enough to say so. In a newspaper interview at Columbus last week he declared:

"My street railway is my savings' bank. If I cannot look after my street railway interests and politics, too, I'll quit politics and look after my business alone."

This was said in connection with the use he is making at Columbus of his influence as a Republican senator and leader of his party in framing the new municipal code. He wants it framed in the interests of his street railroad, regardless of the interests of the people of the state or even the interests of his party.

Senator Hanna has become either so arrogant or so fatuous that he openly demands perpetual charters for street cars. Not indeterminate charters that can be terminated at any time by the cities, be it observed; but indeterminate charters which the cities can never terminate if the companies perform their agreement, and which they would be powerless to alter except at intervals of 10 or 15 years, and then only with the consent of the companies or by making a case upon which the courts could act.