

uation that at this time confronts the democracy of Chicago. The true interests of the democratic party, both national and local—those interests of principle and policy which alone justify democratic partisanship—call loudly for the defeat of Harrison.

This call would not have been a very embarrassing one to respond to, had the republicans nominated Harlan. Personally above reproach, and in political principle as applied to local government not only a better democrat than he is republican, but an infinitely better democrat than Harrison, democrats could have voted for him without compunction, and his election would at once have saved the democratic party from Harrison's ring, and the city of Chicago from the political cliques and corporate clans that will exploit it no matter which way the election goes. The man the republicans did nominate is a ring politician and corporation tool. If elected he will do all he can to serve the interests of special privilege. But so will Harrison. The only difference between them in this respect is that Harrison cooes gently to anti-monopoly sentiment and Hanecy does not. The monopolists care little which wins. They have stacked the cards so that the game is theirs either way. On this score, therefore, there is nothing to choose, unless Hanecy be favored on the old principle that an open enemy is safer than a treacherous friend.

On the score, however, of purifying the democratic party of Chicago there is something to choose. It is a negative choice, but none the less important on that account. So long as the ring that circles about Harrison remains in control of city hall patronage, so long will the democratic party of the city, and measurably also of the state and the nation, be at the mercy of that ring. To it political principles are nothing. It works with the republican machine of Cook county, trading county tickets for city tickets,

and bartering a presidency for places in the city hall. If anyone refuses to believe that this ring "threw" the presidency last fall, let him compare the deadness of the campaign it then made for Bryan with the very lively campaign it is now making for Harrison. Let him also notice Harrison's popularity among certain kinds of republicans. That Harrison will be re-elected is more than likely. Should he be, it will be part of the price the republican machine paid last fall for Bryan's defeat in Chicago. Nothing could be worse for the democratic party, nor for good local government, either, than the continuance of such a man as mayor in office and of such a ring in control in the party. While that condition remains, the ring dominates democratic primaries, dickers with republican bosses, serves privileged corporations, and altogether demoralizes the party and the community. There can be no true democratic party in Chicago while the democratic ring is in possession of city affairs. The first necessary step is to put it out, and it is not very important who does that. The city can better endure two years of bad government under Hanecy, with the prospect of seeing at the end of that time a campaign of principle, than two years of bad government under Harrison, with no prospect at all except of his using his power of patronage to wring democracy out of the democratic party.

Another negro burning outrage is reported from Texas. The negro was charged with assaulting and murdering a white woman. A confession was obtained from him by a committee of the mob which waited upon him in jail, circumstances which, as all legal experience goes to show, make confessions valueless. He was then chained by the mob to an iron post in the courthouse yard, and after being saturated with oil was burned to death. The tragedy occurred at Corsicana. Worse than the tragedy, in a sense, since it reflects upon the character of the whole peo-

ple, was the coroner's jury verdict. It commended the mob for its crime. But Gov. Sayers proposes to redeem the state from the reputation for barbarism which attaches to it from these negro-burning outrages. He is unrestrained in his expressions of indignation at the behavior of the local authorities at Corsicana, and announces his intention of addressing a special message to the legislature upon the subject.

With reference to southern outrages upon the rights of negroes, the action of Judge Benet and the grand jury of Anderson county, S. C., should not be overlooked. They have brought to the bar of the criminal court, prominent white men of that county for endeavoring, in the guise of labor contracts, to reestablish negro slavery. Back of this courageous judge and grand jury there is, of course, a healthy public sentiment. Otherwise they would have been powerless. And that sentiment is one of the encouraging signs of progress in the south. But there is also an opposing sentiment, which has the temporary strength that comes from tradition, from old habits of thought, and from old race feeling. To challenge such a sentiment, even with the backing of a better but newer one, is no boy's play, and that is what Judge Benet and the Anderson grand jury have done.

By going over to the republican party Senator McLaurin, of South Carolina, becomes a pioneer in the movement we have predicted, of the aristocratic and plutocratic elements of the south to join the political procession that Mr. McKinley leads and Mr. Hanna drives. They have been deterred only by fears regarding the race question. As soon as they acquire confidence, as Mr. McLaurin has already, in the intentions of the republican party under Mr. Hanna's management to settle that question in their favor, they will go over to it in shoals. The solid south will then be a memory, except as the negro vote,