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The leading commonwealth of New England, home of Harvard, with more college men to the square mile than any State of the Union, has elected to its highest office an ex-shoemaker and a present maker of shoes.

When a thousand men in Massachusetts who might have adorned the gubernatorial chair were fitting themselves in school for a college training that was to follow, this man was pegging shoes. If he had gone to college, he would not have posted the State with pictures of himself as a boy pegging shoes, for he would have acquired better taste than to parade his past career in such fashion; but — he probably would never have been governor of his State.

How came it about that this Democrat was elected against such heavy odds? Of course he is a man of energy and good business ability. His success as a maker and seller of shoes shows this. But there are thousands of energetic, wise business men in Boston and other cities of Massachusetts. What elected this man? There seem to be two reasons that stand out above other minor reasons.

For one thing this employer of labor has always been open, fair, and square in dealing with employees, retaining, moreover, from his humble beginning a sympathetic attitude towards workingmen. This attitude was shown when he was in the legislature, where he always stood on the side of bills

that were in the interest of the laboring masses.

But chiefly, it seems clear that Douglas's election was due to his brave, frank, business-like presentation of the tariff issue as it is best seen in his own State. During the whole campaign, throughout the country, at a time when the tariff should have been the leading issue, the best speech on the subject, because it was the most honest speech on the subject, was made by Douglas. It was clear, and it was forcible, coming from the heart as well as the head of the man. He believed in what he said. He had something to say, which he knew by experience.

When Douglas told the people the folly of the tariff laws as they applied to problems which they could understand, he told it with an earnestness that carried conviction. He showed furthermore that it was a principle rather than a personal advancement that he was earnest about, a fact which had been already proved by his offer to run second on the ticket rather than first. This combination of a brave, earnest man, with a clear-cut issue bravely met, won the day.

From all accounts it seems likely that the new governor of Massachusetts will make an honest and creditable executive; but we fear Harvard is glad that her ancient custom of conferring LL.D. on each succeeding chief magistrate of the Commonwealth has already been abandoned.

Certain "safe and sane" Democrats of the Atlantic seaboard are reported to be again secretly combining to fasten the Democratic organization in the clutches of plutocracy. Let these men make no mistake about the kind of

reception their agents and wire-pullers will get if again they come into a Democratic national convention as they came into that at St. Louis five months ago. The sweeping vote for Roosevelt means something, and it doesn't mean that Roosevelt is especially popular. It means that the Democratic voters of the country did at the polls what their true representatives could not do in the convention. The plutocratic Democrats were doomed from the start, in spite of their control of the convention; and election day sealed their doom. They bought a party convention, but the party itself did not go with the bargain. The "safe and sane" plutocrats cannot again control a Democratic convention. Their day has gone by. The Democratic party has shaken itself.

Apropos of the meeting of the Federation of Labor in San Francisco the Star of that city, a paper whose praise is a guarantee, pays a high compliment to Samuel Gompers as a leader. "But above all," says the Star, "and standing out in bold relief, is this one great and grand fact: He is incorruptible. He cannot be bribed nor cajoled. The lust of office (which has so frequently been tendered him) is dead within him. Other men, prominent in the labor movement, have surrendered their leadership when opportunity for office came their way, but not so Sam Gompers." It seems strange, but it is true, that the highest thing that can be said for a public man to-day is that he cannot be bribed.

Most persons who are intelligently and disinterestedly concerned about the education of the deaf, will approve the action of the Chicago school board in favor of establishing the oral system in the Normal School. Their action