

quiet; after the battle, night with its compassionate stars; after a life well done, the kindly earth folded around him, with the whispered benison of all the conscious disinherited. Thus he died.

A DYING CREED.

The faith curists of the Republican party—in other words, the protectionists—are losing their hold upon the thinking portion of the party leaders. There is a notable tendency to abandon the high protectionist ground, and in no uncertain terms many of the men in high places in the party are advocating freer trade. The President, whose ear is always close to the ground, is indulging in (for him) extraordinary talk of the civilizing influences of commerce and of the importance of foreign markets. Other phrases are dropped which are no less significant. Is the Republican party the party of the free trade of the future? Many stranger things have happened. Chairman Babcock's suggestion that "trusted" articles be placed upon the free list is more radical and revolutionary, and a recent inquiry undertaken by our consuls at the direction of the State Department for the purpose of ascertaining to what extent American manufactured goods are sold more cheaply abroad than at home is another of the many straws in the wind.

It would be a curious though not exceptional instance of partisan ingratitude if the Republican party should now take up the issue in great measure abandoned by their opponents. No doubt a great many Republican protectionists would immediately become Republican free traders, since much of such habits of thought are the fruit rather of partisanship than conviction. It would be a simple matter to argue—and Mr. McKinley could safely do it—that the time had now arrived for a forward movement in the direction of "fair" trade and lower tariffs. No genuine protectionist—of the purely pecuniary, or of the congenial kind—should have been deceived by reciprocity, yet great numbers of protectionists became, under the influence of Mr. Blaine's proposition, "reciprocitarians" at once. It is easier than it looks.

And economic conditions are rapidly making this attitude on the tariff more inviting to the opportunists of the Republican party, who have never yet missed a chance of this kind. The manufacturers are feeling more and more the necessity of cheaper raw materials; the fact that the trusts—just now the *bete noir* of the people—derive much of their power from tariffs, are all circumstances that are urging the leaders forward into untried paths. Meantime the people, or some of them, are thinking, and the number of those who do their own thinking are increasing. And this may safely be predicted—the high-water mark of protective tariff legislation has been reached—it is now the ebb tide. The next Republican tariff will include a substantial reduction of duties.

THE ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL ON THE RIGHT OF THE USE OF THE EARTH.

While it is true that a people have a certain right to say what shall be done in a practical way on their own soil, it is equally true that a narrow-minded race have not the right to shut out from use vast natural resources which are as much the right of other peoples to enjoy as their own land is for the native race to govern.—Army and Navy Journal, April 20.

Will Mr. Church carry that reasoning a little farther? A narrow-minded section of the community to-day shut out from use vast natural resources which other people have an equal right to enjoy. The Army and Navy Journal has shown a disposition to discuss public questions in a liberal and fair-minded way, and we do not doubt that if it sees the application of its own reasoning it will not hesitate to avow it.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Existing systems and methods of taxation are so called on the principle of contraries—because they are not "systems" and are without "method." They are in the state of chaotic disorder and formlessness of the universe before the creation of the world. But for the same reason that a Tory of that day objected to the scheme of creation as an unwarrantable interference with chaos, so the Tories of to-day will oppose every rational attempt to straighten out this abomination of tangles. The only way that will do it is the single tax.

Every intelligent man who has had the time and the opportunity to give the question his earnest consideration is to-day a single taxer. The intelligent are converted—it remains now only to convert those to whom thinking is a task of great difficulty, because of the struggle for existence or the weariness of the body, or prejudice, or habits of thought. But we shall win; we are winning now. We are coming nearer and nearer to the goal. Man's economic freedom is assured.

"DR." GUNTON, WHO FREELY TRADES WITH HIS GROCER AND BUTCHER, IS "A SAVAGE."

Dr. Gunton devoted himself especially to replying to an argument recently made before the commission by Edward Atkinson for freer trade. Dr. Gunton said that the freedom contended for by opponents of the tariff was analagous to the freedom of the savage—a freedom which, if indulged in too freely, not only brings injury to others, but ruin to himself.—News Note.