

The Commoner.

war with Mexico than Thomas Corwin, and even Abraham Lincoln repeatedly added his protest against that war, and yet the names of Corwin and Lincoln are among the illustrious of America's dead.

The difference between a monarchy and a republic is that in a monarchy the people must acquiesce in the monarch's will, but in a republic the public officers are supposed to acquiesce in the people's will. "The king can do no wrong" so long as he does exactly as he pleases. The public officer in a republic can do no wrong so long as he adheres to the Constitution and the law. When he violates that Constitution and when he transgresses that law, he is in error, and it is just as much the people's duty to criticize him then as it is their duty to commend him when he sustains the Constitution and upholds the law.

Men who insist that this nation, in its dealings with its new dependencies, shall be governed by the same principle which the founders of this Government claimed for themselves; men who insist that the Declaration of Independence was written for all time and provides a rule by which all men should be guided; men who insist that the prohibitions in the Constitution must prohibit, that the limitations in the Constitution must limit, and that public officers and public bodies whose existence depends upon that Constitution cannot ignore it and assume authority and power not given by it; men who insist that this Government is too great and too strong to enter upon an era of oppression to the weak and the helpless; men who insist that honesty is the best policy for nations as well as individuals; men who insist that liberty was designed for the brown man as well as for the white man and the black man—these men are not made of the stuff of which traitors are constructed.

No government has anything to fear from citizens who adhere to the principles upon which the government was founded and through which it has prospered. No nation has anything to fear from citizens who insist that the nation must be true to its own traditions and faithful to its own professions. No nation has anything to fear from citizens who are willing to go down to political defeat in defense of what they believe to be the truth. No nation has anything to fear from citizens who can bring to the support of their cause the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the declarations of every great American in every great political party from the period of Washington to the present day.

Hazing Finds a Defender.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean rises, or rather sinks, to the defense of hazing. It says:

Now this is the sort of discipline many young men entering a new environment greatly need, and which in various ways they everywhere receive. The newcomer in schools, in clubs, in lodges, in churches, in offices, in factories, in every place where men must live and work together, if he show an overweening sense of his own importance, receives just this kind of lessons. If administered in the proper spirit such lessons are valuable to the learner. They show him just what he is worth in the eyes of those by whose judgment he must stand or fall. They are means of discipline which make the social machine work more smoothly.

Excuses must be scarce indeed when a news-

paper is compelled to liken hazing to initiation into a lodge or to one's experience in joining a church.

If the Inter-Ocean can discover an instance where soap or tobacco sauce was administered by a lodge to a new member, or where a fist fight was made compulsory in any religious organization it has only to point it out and it will have the satisfaction of seeing how publicity will put an end to the practice or to the organization.

Trial by Jury Denied.

The President, in his instructions to the Philippine commissioners, is careful to exclude trial by jury from the blessing conferred upon the Nation's oriental subjects. The omission is the more noticeable because the sixth amendment to the Constitution is quoted entire with the exception of the clause guaranteeing trial "by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law."

Below will be found, in parallel columns, the sixth amendment and the instruction taken from it:

The Sixth Amendment.

In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

One by one the safe-guards of the Constitution are being abandoned; one by one the doctrines of imperialism are being adopted. There is not a vital principle of government, heretofore considered sacred, which must not ultimately be abandoned if this Nation continues to tax subjects without representation and govern them without the consent of the governed.

The Presidential Term.

The suggestion made by Ex-President Cleveland, to the effect that the presidential term should be extended to six years and the president made ineligible for re-election, has excited discussion. The latter part of the proposition has met with the more cordial reception. There seems to be a wide-spread opinion that a president should be limited to one term in order to prevent his using the first term to secure a re-nomination.

President Jackson suggested this limitation in his first inaugural message.

Mr. Hayes in 1876, in his letter accepting the republican nomination, said:

The declaration of principles by the Cincinnati convention makes no announcement in favor of a single presidential term. I do not assume to add to that declaration, but believing that the restoration of the civil service to the system established by Washington and followed by the early presidents can be best accomplished by an executive officer who is under no temptation to use the patronage of his office to pro-

mote his own re-election, I desire to perform what I regard as a duty in stating now my inflexible purpose, if elected, not to be a candidate for election to a second term.

Mr. Cleveland in his first letter of acceptance stated, in even stronger language, the objections to a second term, saying:

When an election to office shall be the selection by the voters of one of their number to assume for a time a public trust instead of his dedication to the profession of politics; when the holders of the ballot, quickened by a sense of duty, shall avenge truth betrayed and pledges broken, and when the suffrage shall be altogether free and uncorrupted, the full realization of a government by the people will be at hand. And of the means to this end, no one would, in my judgment, be more effective than an amendment to the Constitution disqualifying the president from re-election.

When we consider the patronage of this great office, the allurements of power, the temptation to retain public place once gained, and, more than all, the availability a party finds in an incumbent whom a horde of office holders, with zeal born of benefits received and fostered by the hope of favors yet to come, stand ready to aid with money and trained political service, we recognize in the eligibility of the president for re-election a most serious danger to that calm, deliberate and intelligent political action which must characterize a government by the people.

Human nature is as yet too frail to withstand the temptation to use for selfish purposes the great patronage of the executive.

If it is argued that a nation might be in such a crisis that it could ill afford a change in the administration, it may be said in reply, first, that the same argument could be made at the close of a second term and, second, that when the nation reaches a condition where only one man out of the whole population is able to assume and properly discharge the duties of the executive it will scarcely be worth saving.

As to the lengthening of the term considerable difference of opinion has developed. The principal affirmative argument is that business interests are disturbed by a presidential election. If this argument is to have a controlling influence we might as well choose the executive for life, or, in order to reduce the disturbance to a minimum, establish an hereditary succession. There are political reasons in favor of the present length which outweigh any business considerations.

Jefferson was an advocate of frequent elections. In a letter written to Samuel Adams, in 1800, he said:

A government by representatives, elected by the people at short periods, was our object; and our maxim at that day was, 'where annual election ends, tyranny begins;' nor have our departures from it been sanctioned by the happiness of their effects.

Sixteen years later he said:

The rights of the people to the exercise and fruits of their own industry can never be protected against the selfishness of rulers, not subject to their control at short periods.

The fact that commercial reasons are deemed sufficient with some to justify the surrender of a principle absolutely necessary for the protection of the public shows the dangerous pre-eminence given to money and money making.

To lengthen the presidential term is simply to enlarge the stake for which great interests play. The trusts could increase their campaign contributions fifty per cent. if they could secure control of an administration for six years instead of four.

Short terms are necessary not only to protect