

sibility so remote that no one should assume it) Mr. Cleveland should be the nominee, for he in his own person represents the wounds and bruises received by the reorganizers as well as their aims and methods. If there is to be "a complete abandonment" of the party's position, if the party is to stand for "an absolutely changed policy," then no other candidate should be considered. He combines, as no other living person does, those peculiar and, let it be said with gratitude, rare intellectual and moral characteristic which embolden a public official to betray the voters of his own party and deliver his country into servitude to the money changers.

Of all those who gather their political information from the ticker and whose party enthusiasm rises and falls with the stock market, he is the only one of prominence who is shameless enough to pose as a democratic leader or offer suggestions to those who give a valuable consideration for the money which they draw from society. His intimate connection with corporate wealth and with those who manipulate it incapacitates him for the fair consideration of those questions which effect the masses. If, instead of prating about democratic principles with which he is unfamiliar he would give the public a minute description of his stock market ventures since 1888, especially detailing his connection with the Northern Pacific stock when it rose in value about the time the merger was being consummated, the voters would know how much confidence to have in his plans for the "rejuvenation" of the democratic party.

The editor of The Commoner has no personal grievance against Mr. Cleveland, for while the influence of the latter was against the former in both campaigns it was Mr. Cleveland's base desertion of his party's principles and the people's interests that made Mr. Bryan's nomination possible. But Mr. Bryan is interested in securing reforms, political, economic and social, and being convinced that the Clevelandizing of the democratic organization would mean the abandonment of all prospect or promise of reform, he has felt it his duty to meet Mr. Cleveland's advice with a review of his record and to warn the rank and file against such a disastrous retreat as that counselled by the sage of Princeton—a duty made the more imperative by the fact that most of the so-called democratic dailies in the large cities are dominated by the same influence that dictated Mr. Cleveland's policy during his second administration and which would try to force him on the party again if the republican president should disobey them. This duty is performed at the risk of displeasing some of those democrats who, without condemning the apostasy of Mr. Cleveland, remained with our party when he became the openly ally of powerful magnates whom he had for four years secretly served.

The Evil of "Substitution."

A commendable disposition to protect advertisers from the practice of substitution is manifested by the newspaper publishers of the country. A writer in the Buffalo Express refers to the practice of substitution as "the meanest phase of human nature."

"For the one man who has an idea and the courage and capital to exploit it," says this writer, there are nine men waiting to steal it from him. Even literature has its parasites. Let a novel or a play make a popular hit and within a month a dozen publishers or managers have palpable imitations on the market."

It is pointed out by this writer that olive oil is pressed from the seed of the cotton plant, and that when smeared on small herrings the joint product becomes sardines; that the orange marmalade of commerce comes from the humble turnip; that the cherry which adorns your cocktail grows on the hoof of the calf, and so on ad

infinitum, ad nauseam.

It is well said that "the just-as-good kind of merchandise is never so good as the original, for if it were, it could be sold on its merits. And the meanest kind of substitution is that which prevails in the drug trade. This is simply trifling with human life. Most of the proprietary remedies are of value in the treatment of the ailments which they are advertised to cure. They could not have succeeded without merit. Advertising can do much, but it cannot make the public buy a poor article more than once or twice. The substitutor being a thief at heart, and having already stolen the good name of the producer, sees no reason why he should keep faith with the consumer. He tells him that 'this is just as good' as the advertised article, and then deliberately gives him some preparation which will not cure and may injure, because there is more money in the transaction for the heartless substitutor."

It is not likely that the suggestion by the writer in the Express that there should be laws against substitution, and that they be enforced as rigidly as are the laws against adulteration and infringement of patent right will be carried out. This is true because of the impracticability of such laws; but a wholesome public sentiment can do much to minimize the evils of substitution. If the fact of these evils is constantly pressed upon the public, merchants who care for their reputation will hesitate to undertake to palm off a "just as good" article upon their customers.

If, however, some genius shall discover a plan whereby a law that would meet this evil could be framed and meet the constitutional test, he would have performed a valuable service for the public as well as for those who are willing that the products they have to dispose of shall reach the market upon their own merits.

A New Department.

It is the aim of the publisher of The Commoner to make the paper helpful in as many ways as possible. The various departments of the paper have been established only after mature deliberation, and an effort is constantly being made to improve them. The "Current Topics" department discusses current events in a gossiping way and is proving to be one of the most interesting departments furnished by any paper. The "Home Department" is conducted by an experienced housekeeper and writer on household topics and is always up-to-date and full of interest to the housewives and others. Other departments are carefully edited and the many kind words received indicate that The Commoner's readers appreciate and enjoy them. Another department is about to be added—a "Subscribers' Advertising Department." Doubtless many of The Commoner's subscribers have something to sell; or perhaps some have some things they would be glad to trade for some things possessed by others. By means of this "Subscribers' Advertising Department" the readers of The Commoner may make their wants known to several hundred thousand readers. The publisher hopes to make this department serviceable to the readers of the paper and invites attention to the article on page 11 which gives a detailed description of the plan proposed.

Queer Logic.

The Buffalo (N. Y.) Courier, a representative of the reorganizers, says:

"Let the men who ask for Mr. Hill's retirement go to him with clean hands. Betrayal of the party is not the way to leadership. If Mr. Hill is to be retired let the democratic party—not the men of Albany and Rensselaer and Clinton counties who re-elected Governor Odell—retire him."

The Courier has been conspicuous among the newspapers that have insisted that the democrats who remained true to the party in 1896 retire in

favor of those who deserted the party in that year.

How does it happen that the Courier, dealing with the New York situation, insists that those who demand Mr. Hill's retirement must "go to him with clean hands," and that "betrayal of the party is not the way to leadership," while with respect to the national organization the Courier insists that men who betrayed the party in 1896, men whose silence in some instances and open and avowed alliance with the republicans in other instances, contributed to democratic defeat, shall be rewarded for their perjury.

Williams and Gaston.

Under the above head the Boston Herald calls attention to the letter written by George Fred Williams announcing his intention to re-enter active politics for the purpose of aiding to bring the democratic party of that state back to democratic principles. The Herald very naturally takes the side of Mr. Gaston and belittles Mr. Williams' leadership. This is perfectly natural, for Mr. Gaston represents the ideas and aims of the Herald, while Mr. Williams stands for principles and purposes diametrically opposite. The Herald is one of the so-called independent papers that can always be counted upon to take the plutocratic side of a public question and Mr. Gaston being a conspicuous representative of organized wealth would be the natural choice of such a paper. Mr. Williams, on the other hand, having cast in his lot with the common people, and having devoted his education, his ability and his means to the defense of their rights and the advancement of their interests is naturally and necessarily objectionable to papers like the Herald. He cannot be counted upon to deceive the people or to aid in overreaching them, and therefore he must expect the opposition of all those who worship at the shrine of corporate wealth.

It is better that the opposition should be open than secret and Mr. Williams ought to be easy victor in the coming contest. By withdrawing temporarily from the party leadership he has demonstrated two things. First, that it was not his activity that caused defeat, and second, that reorganization means subserviency to the moneyed interests and the emasculation of the democratic platform.

The Springfield Republican asserts that Mr. Gaston spent money more freely than any other candidate for governor had ever done; if this be true it illustrates the fact that the reorganizers expect to rely upon republican methods and to join the republican leaders in the corruption and debauchment of politics.

Success to Williams and to a democracy that stands for "equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

Live Stock Men Aroused.

The Kansas City Journal reports that the National Live Stock association "has thrown down the gauntlet to the packers' trust." In a letter signed by the live stock association the following statement appears:

"As soon as the pending injunction against the packers has been dissolved, and there is an improvement in the money market, the packers will merge into a gigantic trust, for the purpose of controlling the meat supply of the country. The price of live stock from the producers as well as the finished product to the consumer will then be fixed by one man, thus placing the industry at the mercy of a single individual. No greater calamity could befall the country."

It is gratifying to know that the live stock association appreciates the menace of a packers' monopoly. It will control the price of live stock as well as the price of meat, and the association is right in saying that no greater calamity could befall the country. But will the members of the live stock association confine their fight to the beef trust, or will they join the democrats in declaring that all private monopolies are a menace?