

and the Hebrew church lost the Rev. Dr. Gustave Goothiel, who was so long in charge of Temple Emanu-El, New York city. Rev. Dr. George Dana Boardman, another well-known divine, is numbered among the dead.

The drama escaped to an unusual degree. M. Legouve of Paris is the only dramatist of world-wide fame whose name appears upon the mortuary list. The stage lost Stuart Robson, Jerome Sykes, Sybil Sanderson and Frau Marie Giestinger.

Three of the best known newspaper workers in the field of journalism were called hence during 1903—M. de Blowitz, the famous Paris correspondent of the London Times; Julian Ralph, often designated as the "best newspaper reporter," and Andrew C. Wheeler, long famous under the nom de plume of "Nym Crinkle."

The world of music lost three eminent composers—Robert Planquette composer of "The Chimes of Normandy;" Augusta Holmes, composer of "Hero and Leander," and other popular symphonies, and Ardit, the famous French composer.

Only one world renowned inventor was called hence—Dr. Richard Gordon Gatling, inventor of the famous gatling gun.

The art world lost heavily. Chief among the illustrious artists who died in 1903 was James L. MacNiel Whistler, an American, but who spent most of his famous career in England. J. W. Whymper's fame was scarcely second to that of Whistler. Phil May, the noted caricaturist and acknowledged to be the best black and white artist of his time, also is numbered among the artists dead. Others of deserved reputation were Camille Pissoro, Edwin Lord Weeks, Julian Rix and Otto Sarony, the latter famous as an artist photographer.

William E. H. Leckey, English, and Theodor Mommsen, German, are the two prominent historians who passed away during the year. The great philosopher and mental scientist, Herbert Spencer, whose work will survive while time shall last, also passed from earth during 1903.

Organized labor lost P. M. Arthur, for years the head of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. James B. Pond, the noted lecture manager and writer, deserves much more than a passing notice. Mrs. James G. Blaine and Mrs. George F. Hoar are also numbered among 1903's well-known dead.

Army and navy lost heavily. The list of well-known dead is too long to permit or other mention than merely giving the names. General Samuel Thomas of Ohio, General W. F. ("Baldy") Smith of Pennsylvania, General W. B. Franklin of the confederate army, General Schuyler Hamilton of New York, General W. H. Jackson of the confederate army, General Bradley T. Johnson of the confederate army, General Alexander MacDowell McCook of Ohio, and General Francis Marion Drake, ex-governor of Iowa, are numbered among those well known in the army service. The naval branch finds these names enrolled among the dead: Rear Admiral Frank Wildes, who commanded the cruiser Boston at the battle of Manila; Rear Admiral Lewis Wood Robinson, who achieved fame during the civil war; Rear Admiral William Harkness, whose naval fame was exceeded only by his fame as a mathematician and astronomer; and Rear Admiral George E. Belknap.

The death roll of 1903 contains many names the world will remember.

**Humble Heroes.**

The world builds monuments to some heroes—but the world does not always choose wisely. Some of the greatest heroes receive little or no attention, and their names are forgotten in an hour. The best known names in history are those of men who won fame in war—Hannibal, Caesar, Wellington and Napoleon. But wails the world halls as heroes men who won their fame in war, it is too prone to forget heroes whose bravery resulted in the saving of human life. Scarcely a day goes by that some deed as heroic as any that ever adorned history's page is not performed, but passed by without even a notice. And if noted at all, it is a fleeting notice, a newspaper comment, and then forgotten. No monument is erected to perpetuate the memory of the deed and honor the doer. How many people know who James McGinnis is? And yet McGinnis recently performed a deed as brave and as heroic as a majority of those perpetuated by marble shaft. McGinnis is an engineer at a coal mine near Scranton, Pa. During working hours the air compressor exploded, leaving the miners exposed to death by suffocation. Flying fragments tore his flesh and scalding steam cooked him. He swooned with

the pain, but recovered in an instant and remembered his comrades deep down in the mine. He dragged himself to the signal box and sounded the warning. Then, despite his awful wounds he stood at the throttle and lever of his engine and hoister and brought the imprisoned miners to the surface. Is it not true that such a deed of heroism is worthy of as much notice as that given to deeds which called for the sacrifice of human life?

A disastrous wreck on an eastern railroad recently brought forward two heroes whose names should be remembered—Louis Hilgot and Thomas Baum. Seventy people met death in that wreck, but the list would have been greatly lengthened had it not been for the presence of mind and heroism of these two men. Hilgot, the conductor, was fearfully mangled and scalded, but in the midst of his agony he remembered his duty. "For God's sake flag 49 or she'll be into us in a few minutes!" he cried. And Thomas Baum, the baggageman, with his head frightfully cut and his body mangled, crawled down the track and flagged 49 by setting fire to his coat and waving it in front of the fast approaching train.

Are not these three heroes—real heroes—worthy of as much praise and honor as many a man whose monument perpetuates deeds upon the field of battle? But how long will the world remember McGinnis, Hilgot and Baum?

**NOTICE**

**Commoner at Convention.**

If the necessary arrangements can be made a daily edition of The Commoner will be published at St. Louis during the Democratic national convention.

**Mr. Bryan's Return.**

Mr. Bryan has returned from his two months' trip abroad and will resume active editorial work. The Commoner has already published several articles descriptive of countries visited and of places and persons seen, and the series is not completed. Among the articles yet to appear are the ones on "Switzerland," "Three Little Kingdoms," "Rome," "Russia," "Tolstoi" and "Germany." While it is hoped that these articles will prove both interesting and instructive, they will not be allowed to exclude editorials touching on political questions and on the approaching campaigns. The Commoner will make an uncompromising fight for an honest platform and for candidates in full and sympathetic accord with the platforms of 1896 and 1900. It will make this fight, first, because it is right; second, because it gives the best assurance of immediate victory, and, third, because only in this way can a foundation be laid for permanent success. The Commoner invites the co-operation of all who are willing to enlist in this work.

**A Democratic Prayer.**

In a brief autobiographical sketch, Amos Luck, who represented a New Hampshire district in congress some fifty years ago, describes the growth of the cause with which he identified himself and the success of those who espoused that cause. In the course of his comments he gives expression to a sentiment which deserves to be emphasized at this time. He says that these men had "some title to be considered far-sighted, though," he adds, "they simply had faith in the wisdom of doing right." This truth has been expressed before, but it is doubtful whether it has ever been expressed as concisely, as simply and as forcibly. The dictionaries ought to define political foresight as "faith in the wisdom of doing right." What a contrast between this candid recognition of the triumph of the truth and the miserable, short-sighted doctrine of expediency! There is no basis upon which one can calculate expediency; there is a standard of morality and conscience by which one can measure every public question. One seeks for expediency as the hunter searches for game, uncertain where he will find it and fearful that even when discovered it may yet escape him, but as the farmer follows the plow, confident that sun and soil will reward his industry and that in spite of local flood or drouth the earth will yield its increase, so he who

attaches himself to a truth knows that he works in harmony with immutable and irresistible laws.

Let the hosts of democracy take courage; let them appeal to the honest and the conscientious even if in doing so they risk the alienation of the selfish and the sordid. Let them put their trust not in corruption or deception, but in that sense of justice which is at once the source and the guarantee of good government.

As we approach the important work of writing a platform and nominating candidates, we may well adopt as a democratic prayer—and it is a prayer fit for any party: "O Lord, give us faith in the wisdom of doing right!"

**The Movement to Reorganize.**

The Wall Street Journal indorses what it calls "the movement to reorganize and re-establish the democratic party." This Wall street publication says that this movement is "directly in line with the best interests of the country;" and yet while indorsing this movement, the Journal says that there is "danger" that "in order to secure the support of that financial section of the republican party which is opposed to President Roosevelt, it (the democratic party) will make such compromises and alliances with this Wall street element as to make it impossible for many members of the party to support its candidate and platform."

Then the Journal says: "Any party which shall go into the presidential campaign of this year carrying the heavy burden of the support and approval of that portion of Wall street which has been identified with excesses in promotion, with overextension of credit and with violation of the law in the creation of combinations and monopolies, will surely not meet with a favorable result on election day."

Yet the editor of the Journal must know that the reorganization movement which the Journal so cordially indorses has for its purpose the re-publicanization of the democratic party, and the delivery of that party into the merciless keeping of the Wall street magnates.

In spite of the proud boasts of these reorganizers, it is becoming plainer every day that they are not to have their way in the repudiation of democratic principles and in the republicanization of the democratic party. These reorganizers have mistaken the temper of the rank and file of the party and have overestimated their own power.

In the contest that is now upon us, The Commoner hopes to play an important part in defense of democratic principles. In order to widen The Commoner's sphere of influence, it is necessary to increase The Commoner's circulation. To this end, therefore, a special subscription offer has been arranged. This offer is similar to the lots of five plan adopted last year. Cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner, will be furnished in lots of five at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Any one ordering the cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the effort to widen The Commoner's sphere of influence.

These cards may be paid for when ordered or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold.

A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who are willing to assist in the coming contest.

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