

here one sees both the mystery of creation and the manifestations of the Father's loving kindness. Here man finds a witness, unimpeachable though silent, to the omnipotence, the omniscience and the goodness of God.

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MICHAEL DAVITT

Michael Davitt died at Dublin near midnight, May 29. Mr. Davitt was born in County Mayo, March 25, 1846. One newspaper writer referring to Mr. Davitt says:

"The lesson enshrined in Hugo's 'Jean Valjean' for uplifting the submerged in all civilizations was the gospel, in a measure, that was followed by Davitt. He might, indeed, be called the Irish Jean Valjean. Hugo's grand hero had his soul centered in the welfare of Cosette. Erin was the Cosette of Michael Davitt, and through years of painful suffering, imprisonment, contumely and degradation he wrought courageously, unceasingly, for the creating of better conditions in the storied land that was the idol of his hopes and dreams."

In every land, wherever men have aspired to liberty, the name of Michael Davitt is known and loved. And today men of every race pay loving tribute to the memory of this great Irishman. Thomas Brennan, a well known Omaha business man, was one of Mr. Davitt's most intimate friends. Mr. Brennan pays to his dead friend and to liberty's great champion this beautiful tribute:

"Michael Davitt's life is the modern history of Ireland, and to him more than any man of his day, is due the improved condition of the Irish people. He was the greatest organizer that existed in any country since Carnot's time. He was the greatest teacher Ireland has produced since Thomas Davis died, and he was the most practical Irish reformer since Wolfe Tone cut his own throat rather than let the English government hang him. His was a life of sacrifice and self-denial. Every moment of that life was devoted to the redemption of his people, to their material and intellectual advancement. He is gone, but the seed he has sown is bearing fruit, and a redeemed Ireland will some day realize that on Memorial day, 1906, one of her greatest sons passed away from this earth, and the whole world will realize that humanity lost one of its greatest lovers when Michael Davitt ceased to breathe."

A GENERAL DEFENSE

The New York Tribune, republican, says that the opinion discharging from custody George W. Perkins will "harmonize with the opinions of most persons who try to form a fair judgment of financiers instead of joining in demagogic or at least unreasoning outbreaks against them."

The Tribune adds:

"No judicious person, however much he might condemn the custom of contributing corporation money to political campaign funds, ever supposed that Mr. Perkins acted from evil motives in the transaction about which he testified before the Armstrong committee. He clearly had no thought of stealing the money or converting it to his own uses or doing anything but contribute it, on behalf of the company and under instructions, to a cause which he believed it was the company's best interest to promote."

We believe the Tribune has had much to say by way of condemning Andrew Hamilton, the insurance lobbyist, but what the Tribune says in defense of Perkins' contribution to the republican campaign fund may be said in defense of Andrew Hamilton and every other corruptionist. The insurance magnates who poured out their policyholders' money for the purpose of buying legislatures and preventing legislation inimical to their interests "clearly had no thought of stealing the money or converting it to their own use, or doing anything but contribute it on behalf of the company, and under instructions, to a cause which they believed was the company's best interest to promote."

A FORCEFUL REMINDER

The revelations in the meat packing industry serve to recall a few incidents that occurred during the Spanish-American war. It will be remembered that during the progress of that short war

it was charged that "embalmed beef" was being fed to the soldiers. Immediately a storm of denunciation arose, and those who declared that "embalmed beef" was a part of the army ration were denounced as "little Americans," "yellow journalists," and even worse. The soldiers who dared to complain were called "malingerers," "coffee coolers," "berry pickers," and every other term of contempt. The idea that the beef packers would be guilty of such a crime was scouted. The soldiers who complained that they were being poisoned have now plenty of evidence to vindicate their complaints. A trust that would seek to profit by selling poisoned food to the public—to helpless women and little children—certainly would not allow patriotic sentiment interfere to prevent further profit from selling "embalmed beef" to the soldiers. The veterans of the civil war who had their experience with paper-soled shoes, shoddy uniforms and cast iron muskets, furnished by rascally contractors, are in a position to prove that there are men who never allowed their declared patriotism to interfere with their graft.

"OIL"

The Lincoln (Nebraska) Star, a republican paper, takes the Omaha World-Herald to task because that paper condemns the acceptance by the authorities of the state university of John D. Rockefeller's gift of \$66,000. The Star refers to the World-Herald's criticisms as "foolish," and adds:

"Neither the university, nor any one connected with it, now or hereafter, is under any obligation to respect Mr. Rockefeller's views, political, civic, economic or religious. 'Tainted money' it may be that comes through Rockefeller, but if he took it wrongfully from the people, as the World-Herald doubtless would argue, then no one has a better right to receive the money than the people for their universities or other public institutions."

In the same issue of the Star there is another editorial entitled "Syracusan Anarchy." The first paragraph of that editorial follows:

"Chancellor Day, of Syracuse university, seems perfectly clear on the sort of loyalty the head of a university ought to show to the multi-millionaire who furnishes oil to keep the wheels from creaking; but when it comes to the expression of his sentiments the doctor seems somewhat hazy."

Nebraska, as well as Syracuse, was furnished "oil to keep the wheels from creaking," but in the opinion of this republican newspaper Nebraska is to be exempt from criticism. It will occur to a great many people that the Star is not only "somewhat hazy" in the expression of its sentiments, but that it is "not at all clear on the sort of loyalty the head of a university ought to show to the multi-millionaire."

THE EIGHT-HOUR BILL REPORTED

Despite the efforts of the republican majority of the house committee on labor the eight-hour bill has been favorably reported for passage and it is believed on all sides that it will pass the house. The representatives of the labor organizations of the country have been struggling for many months to get this bill out of committee, but the republican majority frustrated them. On May 29 the committee was in session listening to an argument presented by ex-Representative Payson of St. Louis. The majority members had grown a little careless and as a result only three republicans were present. Three democrats were present. Representative Hearst, a member of the committee, who was thought to be in San Francisco, suddenly walked into the committee room. That made a quorum, with three republicans and four democrats present. Immediately Representative Hunt of Missouri, democrat, moved that the committee go into executive session. This the committee did and immediately the bill was favorably reported. Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, was the only republican member voting for a favorable report on the bill. This is the bill which President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor has long sought to secure a favorable report upon, but his efforts have been foiled by the republican majority.

"STURDY DEFENDERS."

Referring to Senator Tillman's expose of bank assessments for the benefit of the Republican campaign fund in 1896, the Pittsburg Times (Republican) says: "The head of the banks were

sturdy defenders of honor and they most materially assisted in opening the path to the prosperity which blesses the nation today. Mr. Tillman may seek to make partisan capital out of what the banks did ten years ago, but the more closely the facts are studied the higher they will stand in the estimation of sensible and patriotic men."

If memory is not at fault, The Times approved the prosecution of heads of insurance companies for contributing to campaign funds, the money of their policy holders. If these bankers are to be regarded as "sturdy defenders of honor," then with what reason shall the heads of insurance companies be prosecuted?

HE FORGOT IT

While Representative Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, was delivering a tariff speech in the house he was interrogated by Representative Underwood of Alabama. The following is taken from the New York Herald's report:

"Can you name," said Underwood, "a place in the world where steel rails are produced at less cost than in Pittsburg?"

"I think not," said Dalzell.

"Then can you name a place in the world where pig iron is produced as cheaply as it is in Pittsburg?" said Underwood.

"I think not," said Dalzell.

"Then," persisted Underwood, "why should the country put a protective tariff upon either steel rails or pig iron?"

"I will come to that later in my speech," said Dalzell.

"But he never did come to it."

Yet in the same speech Mr. Dalzell said that the republicans would welcome the tariff issue in the republican congressional campaign.

"DISHONEST DOLLARS"

The North American Review prints several articles relating to the income tax and the inheritance tax propositions, and says: "The argument is—How much money can a man honestly earn? Who knows? Who can tell?"

Perhaps no one, exactly. But we do know that every dollar he acquires through special privilege within the law or without the law is a dishonest dollar.

And while waiting until our sociologists determine just "how much money a man can honestly earn" would it not be well for the American people to set themselves resolutely to the task of preventing the accumulation of what they know to be dishonest dollars—those dollars that through unjust laws are taken out of the pockets of the many for the enrichment of the pockets of the few?

SOMETHING LIKE IT AT HOMESTEAD

In his speech on the tariff question Representative Dalzell of Pennsylvania, said: "We read our tariff lessons in the blazing light of open furnace doors, amid the noise of industrial activity and with the sweat on our brows that we coin into wealth. And God help the man or the party that would put out those fires, silence the music of that noise and send the workman home to a foodless and hungry household."

Let us see. The McKinley tariff law was on the statute books in 1892 when the Homestead strikes were given to history. There was considerable "noise of activity" in those days, but it was something different from "industrial activity."

A FAMILIAR SOUND

George F. Baer, president of the Reading Railroad company, has at last admitted that there is something out of gear in the business world's machinery. He speaks about "the evident lowering of American business ideals," but hastens to add: "Our rules of conduct appear in sharp contrast with those of the other great railroad corporations of the land. We not only possess that common honesty that it is disgraceful not to have, but in our management we have always held fast to that integrity which is the only standard for men and corporations of the land. * * * They will not find us as others."

Does any one doubt that Mr. Baer really believed what he said when he announced that he was a "trustee of God?"