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ISSUED WEEKLY.

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"There is only one United States," sagely observes a republican contemporary. Let's see; didn't Oklahoma make the forty-sixth?

By the way, isn't the prosecution of the New York World case entitled to about the same consideration as the writer of an anonymous letter?

Recent democratic action in Pennsylvania contributes to the number of reasons why Pennsylvania goes republican by such heavy majorities.

Just about two weeks left before we are to have that promised extra session for a revision of the tariff—up on some things and down on some other things.

We judge by the silence of the Washington correspondents that Israel Putnam's ride down the stairs has not yet been equalled by any modern presidential equestrian.

The "leading republican" who has not yet been mentioned for a place in the cabinet would do well to look around and see if he is really leading anything or anybody.

At any rate, this discussion of Poe's right to a place in the Hall of Fame has resulted in causing a lot of people to turn from the silly literary trash of today and read some of the real literary productions of the American writer under discussion.

The mere fact that Senator Hopkins has experienced considerable difficulty in securing a re-election to the senate from Illinois is evidence of a considerable moral development on the part of the state that gave a Lincoln and a Grant to the service of their country.

The philosopher of the Hastings (Neb.) Tribune says: "The girl who makes the best wife is the one who is as much at home in the kitchen as in the parlor." Yes, and the best husband is the one who gives his wife a chance to be as much at home in the parlor as in the kitchen.

The Associated Press on January 23 carried the startling information that Secretary Root actually had to wait fifteen minutes before the Washington grand jury was ready to hear him. The members of that grand jury ought to be haled before some judge and cinched for lese majeste.

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Letters From the People

A Subscriber, Brandon, Wis.—I think the opinion and assertion of the Catholic Citizen of Milwaukee should have at least as much consideration as that given to your many correspondents who are contributing their individual views on the subject "What Did It?" and therefore enclose clipping from late issues of that paper.

From the Catholic Citizen, Milwaukee: The Commoner (January 21) continues to let democrats tell "What Did It?" Here is C. W. Robbins of Custer, S. D., who despairingly complains: "If the people all over the country had voted their sentiments, Bryan would have been elected by the largest majority ever received by a presidential candidate. But it has come to pass that such an expression can no longer be had in this country. The labor vote was scared; the bank and business vote was united and the Catholic vote was delivered." Now, if the Catholic vote was "delivered," as Mr. Robbins intimates, to Taft, it must have been contracted for. Who were parties to the contract? We feel that Taft's managers have a cause of action against any Catholic person who contracted to deliver him the Catholic vote. It was not delivered. Two-thirds of it went to William J. Bryan. It would do no harm for The Commoner to admit the fact, now that The Commoner's own columns have called the matter into question; and indicate that Mr. Bryan had some gratification in the compliment. On the other hand, we note with regret that the Methodist ministers did not swing many Methodist votes to their brother of the cloth in his latest sacrificial run. Mr. Roosevelt got more Catholic votes in 1904 than Mr. Taft got in 1908. Two-thirds of the Catholic vote went to Mr. Bryan in November, 1908. But it is true that since 1896 there have been more Catholic republicans than ever before. It is also true that there are not a few democrats who are as narrow on the religious question as Mr. Roosevelt is broad.

James H. Clark, Summerfield, Kan.—As a democrat and a reader of The Commoner I regret the fact that efforts have been persistently made since the late election to convince Mr. Bryan and the democratic party that the defeat of the ticket was due to religious considerations. The charges in this regard are made mainly by victims of a peculiar religious horror that has always manifested itself in human nature and should not be given serious consideration. A recent issue of The Commoner contains extracts from the St. Louis Mirror as follows: "If Mr. William Jennings Bryan wants to know one reason for the overwhelming character of his defeat last November I can tell him that it was the great slump of Catholic democratic votes to Taft because of that gentleman's fair treatment of the church in the Philippines. Even the simple and kindly nuns were working for him in their convents." As a Catholic I will say that such assertions are prompted either by imagination or deliberate malice. The assertion that nuns were working for the election of Taft is a ridiculous attempt at misrepresentation, as nuns neither vote nor talk politics to voters. In the issue of February 5 A. A. Layton, Denver, Colo., writes: "Taft showed favoritism to the Catholic church." The enclosed clipping will show that Mr. Taft tried to make amends for his fair dealing with the Catholics by using government money to build and maintain Protestant churches and other sectarian institutions in the Philippines and elsewhere. Ninety per cent of the Catholics in my community are democrats and voted for Mr. Bryan. Even our local clergyman, who is a republican, voted for the head of the democratic ticket. The Catholic clergy like all other classes of men, have different political ideas and have no authority to dictate nor influence the political action of church members except in cases where faith and morals are positively assailed. It is true that certain prelates of the Catholic church expressed gratification at the action of Mr. Taft in the Philippines, but generally speaking those men are republicans and their sentiment had but little effect upon the voter. The quotation from the St. Louis Mirror says further: "The Catholic church is dead set against socialism." This is true. The Catholic church opposes socialism because the consummation of its design would tend to derogate the integrity of the home and the influence of home life which it recognizes as the basis of organization and society. The charge that "Catholicism is the salvation of wealth and the predestined ally of vested interests" is a palpable slur which will find lodgment only in ignorance. In every community

men who professed to be democrats and even contributed to the democratic campaign fund, fearing that they might lose a few dollars from the threatened business depression or future speculation went to the polls and voted for the head of the republican ticket. Thus the dollar designs the destiny and the penny outweighs the principle.

J. A. Gaynor, Grand Rapids, Mich.—I regret very much that one of your broad views and understanding should give space to such grossly false, offensive and defamatory utterances and insinuations as appear in the first communication on page seven of your issue of January 29. "The Holy Father had told them all to vote for Taft." Do you believe there is any element of truth in such stuff? Do you not see that it is a gross insult to a large class of your fellow citizens, and if so why allow the clean pages of The Commoner to be used for such purposes? Do you know any Catholic democrats who voted for Taft, because "the Holy Father had told them to?" I know hundreds of Catholic democrats, but not one of them talked or voted for Taft at the last election. The article above referred to is but one of many such that have appeared on that page since election, and I shall feel very much disappointed if you neglect to correct the false impression they are creating.

Robert Haydn, Butte, Mont.—The enclosed clipping from The Commoner of January 29, 1909 is an "A. P. A." statement, utterly unworthy a paper presided over by William J. Bryan, for whom I, a Catholic, have voted every time he was nominated for president. The vote in this county, Silver Bow, is nearly half Catholic, and the county went for Mr. Bryan last November. This clipping is the only thing that I have ever seen in connection with Mr. Bryan that suggests a reason for mistrusting him. I have no religious prejudice. I'd fight today for the Chinaman's right to worship his idol as I would for a Catholic's right to attend mass.

Nick Colgen, St. Charles, Minn.—In your Commoner I notice quite a few who attribute your defeat to the Catholic vote. If those writers had gotten their education in a Catholic parochial school they would not be so bigotted and also know that all German and Irish Catholics are all democrats, and that French, Italian and Spanish Catholics are a very small percentage of the whole in this country, and like as not a good percentage of them may be democrats. Now let us take up these peoples' line of reasoning and pursue it a little farther, I. e.: You are a Woodman, so am I, but of all the M. W. A. of my acquaintance, seventy-five per cent voted for Taft. Why? You may also be a Mason, still I know of no Mason who voted for you or who would admit of having voted for you. Still, not a word about all this from anyone. But with Catholics things are different and any old croak thinks he has a legal right or moral obligation to pick flaws or express criticisms. When Cleveland was elected a certain Rev. Burchard explained the election by saying that the three R's—rum, Romanism and rebellion—accomplished the defeat of the republican ticket, he probably knew, or he would not say so, for was he not a Methodist minister, and of course a man of truth? Now, if Burchard was right, to what class or "R" did your present Catholic critizers belong? Romanism? Hardly, and of course that would explain their conduct all along. I send you two clippings from two Catholic papers, the leading ones in the west, so you can see for yourself how leading Catholic journalists look upon this question.

A. Freeland, Mount Pleasant, Tenn.—The democratic party has two chances to secure control of the federal government. One is for the industrial depression to continue four more years. The other is to cease attempting the impossible task of mixing oil and water. Let the democratic party stand for public ownership of all public utilities, progressive free trade, anti-militarism, direct legislation, anti-injunction, the overthrow of the national banking system and the assessment for taxation of the raw material resources of the trusts, such as coal, iron and oil lands, etc., at their market value, and for all vital reforms. Such a platform will drive every would-be privilege grafter out of the democratic party into the republican party, where they belong and would prove a standing invitation to the millions of honest republicans, who as yet see no reason for jumping out of the frying-pan into the fire.