

lifetime chasing the fame which Mr. Bryan has secured. The qualification of a presidential candidate are so nearly unattainable that most of the inhabitants of the United States are ineligible to the nominating conventions. Among them this household-word quality is indispensable. Among all the good and noble democrats that go fishing where-ever they can find a large enough and sequestered enough body of water, how many are there who are known from the banks of Salt Creek to the Amazon, from the porch on D street in Lincoln Nebraska to the Albert Memorial in London? In the campaign of 1896 Mr. Bryan realized that he was a new man and that the people were wildly curious to see him. He was confident enough of his winning ways and of his speech-making gift to be willing to travel up and down and across the country so that all who had a vote might be convinced that he knew how to talk and was pleasant to look at. Considering his comparative obscurity his tour of 1895 was the only course that would introduce him to the millions who quadrennially have an opportunity to elect the president. In 1900 the people knew him and the democratic managers favored Mr. Bryan's staying at home. By that time Mr. Bryan had acquired the travelling and speech making habit, and it would have taken a stronger man than Jones to make him stay at home and enjoy the new porch and the picturesque possibilities of his farm.

In discussing Bryan's successor it is as well not to forget that he is the only man who stands for the undefinable cult of Bryanism—a protest against combinations against Bryanism, against trusts, against expansion, against wealth, against the supreme court, against the army, and against our financial system. The party of protest must have a leader and no man in America or in the world protests so loudly, and so persistently against everything as Mr. Bryan. The republican party has its arms wide open to catch the democrats who are republicans in everything but name and a little difference over the tariff. These democrats do not belong in the party they helped to defeat this summer, especially as Mr. Bryan is still and will continue to be the head of the democratic party.

The Senatorial Situation.

The narrow margin of majority which the republicans will have in the legislature renders the senatorial situation decidedly uncertain. The practice of republicans in this state has been to nominate the party's choice in caucus, but the present outlook for such a nomination is not at all promising. Naturally each candidate will be desirous of entering a caucus when conditions are favorable to his candidacy, but whenever conditions are satisfactory to two candidates the others will face defeat and the field will be against a caucus. That one of the leading senatorial candidates has in the past reserved to himself the right to loot the nominees of the party at will, while he has never bolted a caucus where he was defeated because he has never been a candidate, operates against the probability of a caucus being held. Several of those who are candidates now were aspirants for senatorial honors two years ago and actively participated in the contest; it has not been forgotten, the occurrence is so recent, that not all who submitted their candidacy to the caucus felt bound by its decree, but on the contrary deemed an attempt to defeat the party's choice

entirely consistent with the honorable conduct of an honorable gentleman. These are incidents which will have more or less weight with the candidates when they come to determine the question of agreeing to a caucus which shall include the candidacy of those who, having failed in one camp, will be equally active in the other. Again it is said that the supporters of Senator Allen are not in the condition of those who are entirely without hope. A coalition between his forces and one who has to some extent in the past affiliated with the republicans is earnestly talked.

It has been suggested that an article which appeared in an evening paper this week was intended to prepare the way for such a combination. The writer attempted to excite the cupidity of the people of Lincoln by suggesting that Omaha had received substantial aid by reason of congressional appropriations. In this senatorial fight politicians who might prefer that Nebraska should be represented in the senate by two republicans, are to have no say; the business men of Lincoln are organizing a non partisan movement which is soon to be made permanent to advance the candidacy of a man who sold out his business interests in Lincoln to engage in business in Omaha. The non-partisan feature of the business men's organization is what lends force to the suggestion that the people of Lincoln ought to be satisfied by having one of its citizens elected senator even if that election shall result from a combination which shall give Senator Allen the other term.

A New Party.

Mr. George F. Washburn of Boston, president of the Bryan club of Massachusetts, has issued an "appeal" addressed "to the Reform Forces of the Country," upon which he invites comment. He advocates the formation of a new party by the unification of those whom he designates "Bryan democrats, Bryan republicans, populists and other small bodies." The new party which he proposes he would have operate on "a high political plane—absolutely clean and far above the mire of machine methods." Embodying the reform forces of the country this organization is to be led to victory by the late Mr. Bryan, of whom Mr. Washburn in his "appeal" writes:

"Although unsuccessful at the polls, Bryan is a mightier man today than his successful opponent. He is the greatest political crusader the world has ever seen. He stands alone. He is enough of a political genius to become the founder of a great, new party, even as Jefferson was the founder of the democratic and Lincoln the republican party. Millions of men would enthusiastically rally to his standard under these new conditions. It is not extravagant to say that Bryan could thus hold two-thirds of the democratic party and very soon attract at least one third of the republican party."

If Mr. Washburn is well versed in political history he must have indulged in sarcasm when he suggested that Mr. Bryan is enough of a political genius to become the founder of a new party, even as Jefferson and Lincoln were the founders of the two great national parties of today. Neither of these statesmen formed either parties designated. If Mr. Washburn was not indulging in sarcasm he should get wisdom, get understanding of political history. What is there in the political action of Mr. Bryan that marks him as the man who can lead the reform forces to victory? Is it his close connection, his intimate association with such men as Altgeld of Illinois and Tillman of South Carolina? Claiming

that his purpose was to give the people a better government, he went to New York and there voluntarily extended the glad hand to Richard Croker, the head and front of the worst political element, the most active enemy of reform. In the gray of this November evening he sits in his home and vainly attempts to square that act which so seriously affected his candidacy with his protestations of purity and love of good government. In the face of this incident where will Mr. Washburn find the millions who will rally to the standard of Mr. Bryan when he assumes to lead the reform forces of the country? Certainly not in Nebraska where nearly twenty thousand voters who expressed their confidence in him and his declarations four years ago voted for his undoing and his banishment as a leader this year, although he pretended to marshal the forces of reform.

If, as Mr. Washburn writes, Mr. Bryan is able to hold and enlist under his banner two-thirds of the democratic party, that entirely removes the question of reform under his leadership. It will be essentially the democratic party. Over and above all things Mr. Bryan is a democrat. Inherently and completely he is of the democracy. Reform is progressive; it ever advances; always it presses forward to the front. The democratic party is retrogressive and reactionary; with a crab-like motion it moves backward; its perpetual and unalterable purpose is to exchange good conditions for worse ones; continually it seeks a lower level. These baleful tendencies of the party are all pre-eminently characterized in the person of Mr. Bryan. He wrote the Kansas City platform and therein limited the declaration of his own and his party's constitutional allegiance to the constitution "framed by fathers of the republic," intentionally renouncing allegiance to the constitution amended since the civil war. That platform discloses a purpose of depriving ten million inhabitants of this country, citizens under the constitution, of their right of representation as well as their right to participate in the government which they are taxed to support and in whose defense they must enlist if cause shall arise. There is disclosed a backward movement which shall operate to the detriment of a race of darker hue whose condition is to be made infinitely worse than it now is. Only the enthusiasm of a hero worshipper can excuse the assertion that soon one-third of the republican party will renounce their political allegiance to unite with the democratic party under the leadership of a twice defeated candidate. The opportunity to enlist under that banner was offered them this year and Mr. Bryan was most anxious to lead them; they declined the offer. Mr. Washburn says the democratic party lost this year because it failed to make inroads in the republican ranks. It will make the same failure in the future. The democratic party, even under the leadership of Mr. Bryan, cannot be rehabilitated under the name or pretense of a reform party; it will not succeed. "For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes."

"Babs The Impossible."

The story of "Babs, the Impossible," by Sarah Grand, which is running in the Harper's Bazar, makes the arrival of that magazine on Saturday of each week a momentous event in the day's history.

In early acquaintance with Babs,

she is seldom impossible, only a charmingly pretty, healthy girl, generous, but without any feeling of responsibility, and possessing a bright but untrained mind, full of venturesome and mischievous ideas. In the last several numbers "Babs" appears in a new role. She is not "natural," but Mme. Grand has most cleverly forestalled this paramount of criticism by her title, "The Impossible." If "Babs" affaires de coeur were planned with mere coquetry on her part, they would be as wholly disgusting as they are unnatural, were it not for a certain naive artlessness and innocence in her point of view, that leaves one incomprehensible but not uninterested. "Babs," though only sixteen or seventeen, without any feeling of personal responsibility or knowledge of the world, is still too old to seek caresses after the fashion in which she does from Lord Cadencehouse or St. Lambert.

"Babs," however, in her evident inability to understand her own nature, moderates criticism of her one character, acting as she does merely from her peculiar instinct, frankly confessing her lack of feeling and wondering calmly, as a mere matter of curiosity, whether or not she possesses a soul. That "Babs" shall awake to the understanding of deep feeling is evidently the purpose of the story, but into what she will develop with this new feeling is a conundrum to be answered only by "Babs, The Impossible."

Variety in literature is a pleasure and a relief and this tale without emphasis upon the vexing problems of wealth, poverty or caste is a luxury. Mrs. Kingconstance, little Miss Spice, Mr. Jellybond, Lord Cadencehouse, Montacute, and St. Lambert form an interesting background for the heroine. The story is now in book form. Having read, however, only the magazine numbers, which are not ended, as yet, it is not possible to speak of the book as a whole, except that, thus far, its arrangement has been sufficiently artistic to so completely hide the technique that one must read carefully from the beginning, in order to discover, even in a small way, the skill and grace of the author in the presentation of such difficult characters.



THE IDENTITY OF "ELIZABETH."

Langouste, which suggests Provence is the pen name of a writer in the *Pebble*. She draws charming sketches, which in these days of half-tones and lineless smudges of gray and black, are very attractive. Her recent appreciation of "Elizabeth" are herewith reprinted:

"Still we speculate about it, still impolitely hazard guesses, and still is disappointment ours! *Impolitely*, because there is something so personal in the atmosphere which "her gracious ladyship" wreathes about herself, she moves through it with such convincing ladyhood, that it is almost a breach of the civilities to try to penetrate her mystery. We have really no business to ask her