## The Commoner.

from arrest under requisitions from Kentucky authorities in the event of your election as governor. This information has been confirmed by your conduct and by the complete sense of protection under which these two men seem to have rested since your incumbency of

the office.

You are at least entitled to the credit of having faithfully carried out your reputed agreement with them. However, in doing so you have violated your oath of office and brought discredit upon the high position you hold. But even with this understanding of your embarrassing position, confronted, as you were, on the one side by the law and justice, and on the other by a miserable political bargain, I could not believe that you would so far forego the dignity and obligations of your office and the courteous relations that exist among the chief executives of the various states, as to go out of your way to offer a gratuitous insult to the people of Kentucky and to cast a reflection upon the courts and public officials of the state. If these slanderous charges had come from you as one individual, then they would be treated with the silent contempt they so justly deserve, but as they come from you as the governor of a great state, I shall not hesitate to hold you up to public scorn, and show how unjust and unfounded are the willful and inexcusable misrepresentations in your letter.

Passing on from showing how you have disregarded the constitution and law of your country. I will proceed to show how you have perverted the record in the recent trial of Caleb Powers and sought by such action to bring discredit upon an honorable and upright judge, whose life of public service has been unstained by a single dishonorable act, and whose character as a man and as a jurist stands unimpeachable among the good people

of this state.

You criticise the recent trial of Powers and denounce Judge Cantrill for his instructions to the jury. You say in your letter he instructed it "that it might convict on the testimony of one alleged accomplice if that testimony was corroborated by that of another alleged accomplice; that it might convict the defendant fc: the act of another man to whom the defendant had never agreed, etc."

To show how untrue the statement is, I produce from the record the exact instruction of the judge in that case on this point:

"Eighth-The jury cannot convict the defendant upon the testimony of an accomplice or of accomplices unless the testimony be corroborated by other evidence tending to conpect the defendant with the commission of the offense, and the corroboration is not sufficient if it merely shows that the offense was committed and the circumstances thereof."

Is this a manly way to attack any one? Is it right and proper to manufacture evidence to blacken, if possible, character? You insinuate, too, that the judge has been influenced in his trials of these cases by his aspirations as a candidate for the United States senate. If rumor speaks true you are not above suspicion in that respect yourself, and the rancorous spirit of your letter shows that you are making a bid for the support of the implacables and radicals in your own party with a view to that end. I doubt the wisdom of your policy to secure such an honor.

There is no doubt now that the assassination of William Goebel on the state capitol grounds was the result of a deliberate and carefully planned conspiracy; that he was shot from a window in the office of the secretary of state, not over forty feet from the governor's office, where W. S. Taylor was when the shot was fired; that Taylor immediately had all entrances to the building guarded and forbade the admission of the peace officers who sought to enter and search for the assassin; that he threw every obstacle in his power in the way of preventing the arrest and conviction of any one suspected of the crime; that he issued his pardons to some of those under suspicion even before their arrest and indictment: that he was presumably the beneficiary in the death of William Goebel, who was contesting with him the title to the governorship of Kentucky; that he refused to recognize the writ of habeas corpus, filled the state capitol with over a thousand armed desperadoes and threatened the entire state with revolution and anarchy, and that today he is a cringing supplicant at your feet, begging that he be not given over to trial on an indictment charging him with being a conspirator in the murder of his successful rival. It would be no satisfaction to any one to punish an innocent man for

this crime. The mind of any civilized man revolts at such an idea. The brothers and friends of the murdered governor simply demand the punishment of those who conspired to kill him. No political advantage could be gained by any one or any party in conviction of the two self-confessed criminals now basking in the smiles of your protecting care. You ask again what was the object in appropriating \$100,000 for the conviction of the suspected murderers of William Goebel? The same object which prompted the government to pay secret service men and other detectives to discover if possible whether the miserable wretch Czolgosz had any confederates in his dastardly crime. Only \$7,000 has been spent of the Goebel reward fund, all in the legitimate expense of the trials, and it is safe to assert that at least that much has already been spent in the laudable purpose of trying to discover the anarchist plot to murder our lamented president.

The honored name of Kentucky needs no defense at my hands. Her history is one of which we are justly proud. Over a hundred years ago she became a commonwealth in the American union and her pioneer citizens cleared the forests, built her homes, schools, churches, established civil government and quickly placed her among the first states of the union. Her people are brave, generous, hospitable and obedient to the law. Life, liberty and property are as safe within her borders as anywhere on earth. Only one time in her history were these blessings threatened, and that was brought about by these two fugitives whom you harbor and some of their associates. It was then, too, that the great body of Kentuckians showed their splendid character, their forbearance and their profound respect for the law and the constituted authorities, and it was their patient courage at such a critical time that brought order out of chaos; government out of anarchy. Such a people as these could neither be helped by your praise nor harmed by your scurrilous abuse, and such a people would never knowingly permit anyone to be unjustly deprived of his life or

liberty. 111

## The Chinese Exclusion Act.

The republican position concerning the Chinese exclusion act is well illustrated by an editorial appearing in the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal of November 17. The Journal anticipates that the president is about to recommend the re-enactment of the Chinese exclusion act, and lest it might be out of the republican line, it hastens to commend the president's conclusion on this point. And yet, having anticipated the president's position, the Journal expresses this opinion:

Still it is doubtful if a "referendum" was taken under the Australian ballot system, the question of exclusion coming up independently of politics, if the exclusion act would be sustained. The coolie is an exceedingly useful person to have around when laborers are scarce and their terms exorbitant or unreasonable. The domestic service problem is getting to be a pressing one and the coolie offers a sort of

Then this thoroughly representative newspaper says:

But if the labor problem becomes in the course of time more difficult, as it promises to become if the extreme theories of the unions are carried out, and it is a square contest between the labor unions and the rest of the population, the act will one day be repealed as a matter of necessity.

This, then, may be said to be the republican position concerning the Chinese exclusion act. The exclusion act should not be re-enacted, according to the republican idea, but political exrediency may require its re-enactment. It is also instructive to be told by the republican organs that "if the labor problem becomes in the course of time more difficult, as it promises to become if the extreme theories of the unions are carried out, and it is a square contest between the labor unions and the rest of the population, the act will one day be repealed as a matter of necessity."

Why as a matter of necessity? The necessity would only exist where the trust magnates, weary of the constant controversy and contest with men who merely demand the right to live as a

recompense for their toll, found it advisable to crush out the men who made this demand,

These republican newspapers have considerable to say about "the extreme theories of unions," but they have little complaint to make concerning the extreme theories of monopolists. This particular newspaper speaks about the contest between labor unions "and the rest of the population," closing its eyes willingly and cheerfully to the fact that every reasonable demand made by the labor unions is a demand in behalf of and in the interests of the very large number of citizens.

Many things have happened in recent days which furnish evidence that the republican disposition has been in favor of the destruction of the Chinese exclusion act. It need not be doubted today that if the powers that be among the republican party dared destroy this wholesome law, the bars would be thrown down completely to any Chinaman who sought admittance to this country. The "extreme theories of the labor unions" are that reasonable hours shall be accorded and fair wages paid to the men who toil. This republican newspaper holds up as a warning and a threat to the men who labor that if these "extreme theories" are carried out, the Chinese exclusion act will one day be repealed "as a matter of necessity." Did any one ever hear of a republican organ ever threatening the trust unions? Did any one ever hear of a republican organ serving notice upon the trust magnates that unless they change their course and abandon the process of bearing down upon the people some law would be enacted requiring them to do justice or some law would be repealed under which they were privileged to do injustice?

What is there about the intelligence of the American people, what is there about the intelligence of the American workingmen that they cannot see that the republican party is the party of class, that the republican party is the instrument for evil, that the republican party is the persistent antagonist of everything that contributes to the greatest good to the greatest number?

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## Prentiss on Anarchy.

Judge William Prentiss, of Chicago, one of the best democrats of Illinois, writing for the Chicago American thus discusses anarchy and its cure:

"No human intelligence can analyze the elements that compose a being like that who slew the president, or can trace the processes of his formation. Only the infinite can do that.

"It is said that his parents came from Russian Poland. And what of Poland? Patriots in every land have wept over her sad history. Crushed by superior force and thrice partitioned between a trio of despots, her people for generations have been the helpless victims of oppression.

"There is no knowing what sorrow and hate and hopeless despair pent up and suppressed in human hearts long since returned to dust may have found vent in this crime against eighty millions of people at Buffalo. Sad but true, in human affairs, the innocent must suffer for the sins of the guilty. We are suffering today for the sins and mistakes of former ages in other lands. The mistakes of organized society, bad government, for ages back, must bear a heavy load of blame for the modern anarchist.

"But organized society must protect itself, even from the results of its own mistakes and sins. If harsh measures be necessary, they must be applied-not in anger or in revenge, but coolly and with deliberation. Reason must be kept firmly in her seat. Stern justice should preside; the highest good the only purpose of all we do.

"Above all we must not forget whence anarchists first came to our shores, and must rememberthat like causes produce like effects in all ages and

in all lands.

"We feel sure that there is no excuse for anarchy in this government of the people now; we must see to it that there never shall be. Unjust government has made anarchists. Just government alone can prevent their increase and in time will surely bring about their final extermination."