

endorsement of everything that the republican party has done, is doing or expects to do. If the republican party is expected to reform the tariff after refusing to promise it, why not expect it to enforce the criminal clause of the Sherman law about which it made no promise? Possibly the republican victory wasn't an endorsement of republican policies at all.

Too Much Style

Right Rev. Monseigneur Fox, vicar general of the Catholic diocese of Trenton, N. J., in addressing the young women of his church recently, said:

Women are dressing more and more extravagantly each year, and the cost of dressing deters young men from marrying. The minds of too many of our young women are filled with dress and style. This weakness is one of the many causes that have made marriage unfashionable these days. The poor young man's heart drops down to his shoes, when he realizes the cost of the things girls wear in order to be stylish. Half the things girls wear have no apparent use. You see them dressed in furs, but no warmth. You would think that the furs should cover the delicate part of the body, the lungs. Not at all. These garments rest on the shoulders, fly open in front and the rest go flapping in the air. "Look at that hat," the poor young man says, "How much did it cost?" God help the present-day young woman and her style! God save the young man from style! We want more common sense and less style.

It is no doubt true that female extravagance in dress deters many young men from matrimony. It is also true that some are deterred by the idea that they must be able to care for their wives as well as they were cared for at home, and yet the great majority of girls are willing to sacrifice for one they love and willing to begin in an economical way and thus help to lay the foundation of a fortune. While girls might with advantage lessen their expenditures for finery it will not do to lay all the blame upon them. The boys have their extravagances, too. Girls do not spend any more on hats than young men spend on tobacco and ribbons are not more expensive than treating. In fact, the girls can drop their fashion expenditures much more easily than men can drop their bad habits. Both would be better for adopting a simpler life. They could thus save in the days of strength and vigor and make provision for age and infirmity.

Wagner's Thanksgiving Sermon

Charles Wagner, the author of "The Simple Life," taking for his text "Praise the Lord, oh my soul," has given to the public a very interesting Thanksgiving sermon. There runs through the sermon a spirit of brotherly love that explains the hold that Mr. Wagner's writings have taken upon the world. He suggests the following prayer for those who sit down to a Thanksgiving dinner:

Oh, Heavenly Father, we praise Thee for the great gift of bread. May we remember that the bread is made of Thy sunshine and of the labor of man, so it shall feed in our hearts confidence and love for Thee, and gratitude and cheerfulness for our brethren.

The following extracts from the sermon, as much as the copyright will permit us to quote, will give an outline of his thought:

"Painters give a dark background to the most luminous pictures. Never is a shining figure brighter than against a shadowy background. So I would offer as a background to the clear face of a thankful mind the dark abyss of ingratitude. All the good, the lovely, and the helpful; all the work of sacrifice in the world, may be cast into this abyss without changing its aspect; without lessening its depth. As the ocean shows not the paths of crossing ships, so the mind of an ungrateful man bears no sign of gifts received.

"Ingratitude not only swallows up the goodness of a man's fellows, but forgets the goodness of God himself. Therefore, we represent that ugly vice—dark as a hopeless night, dark as a covered grave."

"If you would see clearly all that a morsel of bread may teach you, every meal would become for you a blessed communion with the divine and the human life, and would be to you a similitude of the solemn Lord's Supper. Not only would

you take with your daily meals strength and rest, but they would inspire in you confidence in the Father and brotherly love toward your brother man—not for the poor brethren alone, but also for those who make the bread.

"Who thinks about the laborer, the man of the plow and the furrows, while he asks 'Give us today our daily bread?' Is it fair to praise the Heavenly Father for giving us plenty, and to forget the man who makes the bread in stormy day and heat of summertime?"

"But it is exactly what we too often are accustomed to do. We forget the gardener when we eat fruit; the farmer when we eat bread. Sitting in our homes, we forget the carpenter and mason; while enjoying the warmth of the fireside, we forget the woodman or the miner. Even if we sing praises and give thanks to the Heavenly Father for all these precious things, it is not fair to forget our fellow-men, without whose labor, as human instruments, we should not have them. I would try to lead every one to a thanksgiving which would inspire a hearty gratitude, both for the unseen Father and for the visible man who does the Father's work and is the messenger of His merciful spirit."

"May we be warned and avoid the sin of sterile gratitude and selfish contentment, from which God and all the angels of the blessed martyrs turn their faces.

"Similar caution should be given concerning public welfare, just laws, efficient schools, every worthy national institution or characteristic. To give warm thanks for public liberty and firmly established commonwealth is not enough; to remember and honor those who have fought and died for their immortal country is not enough. A nation can be overwhelmed by a selfish pride in her own institutions, and, like a man full of self-laudation, pray the Pharisee's prayer—that hateful thanksgiving soiled by disdain of others. We ought never to forget the severe judgment which fell from Christ's lips over every self-righteous state of mind. It is surely for any land an awful sign, symbolic of corruption and decay. Are we sincerely grateful for our national blessings, beloved liberty, and generous opportunities? And what is the proof of our sincerity? It is a double one; at first a deep impression of responsibility, because every new source of natural wealth and every increase of national riches is a new series of duties; and who has been weighed in the balance and found true? Second, a brotherly and helpful feeling for foreign nations who lack our inexhaustible resources.

"A good Thanksgiving Day should be a day for the opening of our arms, the cleansing of our hearts, and the enlarging of our minds."

"I would call all of you brothers in grief and sorrow; all you who have behind you a shadowy year. Come and let us think about what we should do; let us think about our place amidst thanksgiving people.

"At first I say: 'Let us be glad through the joy of others.' This is ever a goodly help for a suffering but large-hearted man. Do not separate your daily life from that of others, or you will lock a door leading toward true and blessed enjoyment. If the good fortune and prosperity of others make you glad, you will also give thanks for every good which has come to pass in the world around you, because you will be unselfish enough to feel that any blessing is a blessing for all; and so your grateful heart takes its part of all the sunbeams falling down over this gloomy earth, even if they do not directly touch your own path.

"But we have still another and important reason for mingling our voice with the songs of gratitude which are heard today. Nothing can be compared to the fact that we are the children of God, standing by our Father's side, happen what will. To know that God is near is to know that He is over all. It is the morning light of bright and delightful days. It is the star of the darkest nights. Let us be grateful for this treasure and enjoy a pure spiritual liberty in the peaceful feeling that neither high things nor low can separate us from the love of the Lord."

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"Politics in New Zealand"

Dr. C. F. Taylor, 15 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, has just issued in the Equity Series a condensation of the book published by himself and Professor Parsons on "Politics in New Zealand." This condensation is in paper cover, contains a lit-

tle more than one hundred pages, and sells at 25c per copy. Special attention is called to it because all reformers ought to have a copy.

New Zealand is one of the most progressive countries in the world. Free to form their own government and to shape their legislation, unhampered by previous systems, the people of New Zealand have successfully adopted a number of reforms which are under discussion here and elsewhere. The Torrens title registration is in operation there; the telegraph and telephone lines are owned by the government, postal-savings banks have been established; government insurance is in operation there; the Australian ballot and the primary system have been adopted, and the railroads are operated by the government.

These are some of the reforms which the people of New Zealand have worked out for themselves and every student of economic and sociological questions is interested in knowing what has been done and what success has attended the experiments.

The Real Politicians

The Commoner again calls the attention of its readers to the sentiment expressed by Matthew Arnold:

"Because these things, right and wrong, are really what do govern politics and save or destroy states, the few who keep insisting on the good of righteousness and the unprofitableness of iniquity are the only real politicians."

This sentiment will be reproduced from time to time in order that the readers of The Commoner may become familiar with it. If the democratic party is to be a power for good in this country it must "keep insisting on the good of righteousness and the unprofitableness of iniquity."

The Railroad Question

The Nebraska State Journal says:

There seems to be but one effective way in sight to check the growth of the sentiment in favor of the government ownership of railroads. That is to clothe the interstate commerce commission with the power to enforce its decisions. The people of Nebraska will be more interested, perhaps, in the votes cast during the coming session of congress on this question by their representatives, than in any other part of the record.

Yes, that is the only way to check it and that is the one way that the republican leaders have heretofore avoided. Will they do better now? Or will they regard the election as an endorsement of their inaction on this subject?

A Liberal Subscription Offer

According to the terms of this offer, 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.

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