

# The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Vol. 5, No. 4.

Lincoln, Nebraska, February 10, 1905.

Whole Number 212

## CONTENTS

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

TAFT ON ULTIMATE INDEPENDENCE

NEW JERSEY'S TRUST FACTORY

ENFORCE THE CRIMINAL CLAUSE

"SPECIAL CABLES"

TWO RELIGIOUS ADDRESSES

A BAD PRACTICE

INVENTOR AND CONSUMER

A BISHOP DEFENDS WAR

WASHINGTON NEWS

NEWS OF THE WEEK

### Taft on Ultimate Independence

Secretary of War Taft recently appeared before the ways and means committee and in the course of his testimony declared that he expected the Filipinos to have independence ultimately, but added that the present status would probably be maintained during this generation because of present incapacity for self-government. While this seems almost like an endorsement of the democratic position it differs in two important respects. First it makes no promise and therefore gives the Filipinos no assurances, and, second, it puts this nation in the position of denying the present capacity of the Filipinos for self-government—a position which is antagonistic to the Declaration of Independence. There is a vital difference between a promise of independence to be fulfilled as soon as a stable government can be established and a vague prophecy that independence will be given some time provided capacity for self government is hereafter developed.

Capacity for self-government is relative—we measure the capacity of others by our own capacity. If we are many generations ahead of the Filipinos how are they going to decrease the gulf between us unless they make more progress than we? If we are going to deal with the Filipinos according to American principles we must begin by recognizing that the Filipinos have both the right to self-government and the capacity for it and then promising independence proceed to assist them to establish a republican form of government, which, when established, shall be turned over to the elected representatives of the people, just as the Cuban government, when formed, was turned over to the Cuban people.

### New Jersey's Trust Factory

New Jersey's governor has just taken his annual exercise in annulling corporate charters and some thirteen hundred promising industrial conspiracies will be known no more, because they were too poor to pay the state tax. Just as long as a trust can collect enough money to satisfy the demands of the state it can prey upon the public without let or hindrance, but woe unto it if its exactions are not sufficient to enable it to pay the annual bribe required by the New Jersey government.



WILL HE "STAND FROM UNDER?"—From the Omaha World-Herald

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN

"Soberly," said Abraham Lincoln in 1859, "it is now no child's play to save the principles of Jefferson from total overthrow in this nation."

In this year of 1905, forty-six years after Abraham Lincoln made that statement, it is now "no child's play" to save the principles of Jefferson from total overthrow in this nation.

Mr. Lincoln was born February 12, 1809, and the ninety-sixth anniversary of his birth will soon be celebrated. It is not likely that Lincoln's birthday will be generally celebrated throughout the nation, although many organizations will meet and their members will listen to eloquent addresses. The American people can not too often dwell upon the sound advice which this man of the people gave to his countrymen; and it is eminently fitting that the approaching Lincoln anniversary be made an occasion for recalling some of the wise suggestions made by this distinguished American.

Lincoln was not a man of one idea. His thoughts were not entirely centered upon the slavery question. He knew that, aside from the institution of slavery, there were other deep-seated

problems with which the people of a republic must grapple and his writings and speeches are full of statements which have direct bearing upon the great contest in which the American people are now engaged—a contest wherein it is to be determined whether a plutocracy or the people shall govern in this great republic.

"I hold," said Mr. Lincoln, "if the Almighty had ever made a set of men that should do all the eating and none of the work, he would have made them with mouths only and no hands; and if he had ever made another class that he intended should do all the work, and none of the eating, he would have made them without mouths and with all hands. But inasmuch as he has chosen to make men in that way, if anything is proved it is that those hands and mouths are to be co-operative through life and not to be interfered with. That they are to go forth and improve their conditions, as I have been trying to illustrate, is the inherent right given to mankind directly by the Maker."

Many of the things written and said by Mr. Lincoln seem to have been written for this very