

"a wrong" and recorded, without disapproval, Benton's denunciation of that act of aggression.

Mr. Roosevelt also quoted as one of Washington's maxims: "Give to mankind the example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence."

Mr. Roosevelt emphasized the fact that Washington put justice first and he asserted that by the treatment of the Filipinos by Taft and Wright we have shown the world how we practice the justice which Washington enjoined. Commenting upon this statement, Harper's Weekly gives to the president a reminder that cannot too often be impressed upon the people as well as upon the executive. Harper's says: "As a matter of fact, the fundamental principle of justice, upon which Washington had acted from July 4, 1776, up to the day of his death, was that 'all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.' If Washington's conception of justice is to prevail, it is for the Filipinos, and not for us, to decide what kind of government they shall have. That is the principle for which Washington fought, and if we are to repudiate it, with what propriety do we honor his birthday or celebrate the Fourth of July?"

SCARING THE REPUBLICANS

Ex-Senator Wm. E. Chandler of New Hampshire is attempting to scare the republicans into doing something for the people. He urged the senate to pass the Esch-Townsend bill, giving as his reason that if the republicans failed to act upon the railroad question "Mr. Bryan will be elected president in 1908, and with him will surely come governmental ownership of railroads, the suppression of the fifteenth amendment and of the colored vote, the destruction of the protective tariff, with the enthronement of free trade, the repeal of the gold standard with the restoration of free coinage of silver at 16 to 1, and all other unnumbered woes of which Mr. Bryan is the advocate."

He declares that no republican candidate can prevent this dismal misfortune except President Roosevelt, and that he will not again be a candidate. "Possibly," he adds, "Senator LaFollette is another republican leader who could stem the tide of democracy as driven along by the inrushing indignation of republicans."

Well, if Mr. Bryan can be used to scare the republicans into doing any good thing, he will have served a useful purpose, even if the service is rendered as a private citizen rather than as an official. As reform is the thing to be desired, it really does not matter so much whether the reform is brought about by democrats who work for the reform because they want reform or by republicans who are scared into doing right by fear of the defeat of their party.

TAINTED MONEY

The papers announced a few days ago that John D. Rockefeller had given a large sum—sometimes stated as \$200,000 and other times as \$100,000—to the missionary board of the Congregational church. And now comes the report that a committee of congregational ministers, representing Boston and various sections of New England, have forwarded to the board a protest against the acceptance of the gift on the ground that "the Standard Oil company, of which Mr. Rockefeller is at the head, stands before the public under repeated and recent formidable indictments in specific terms for methods which are morally iniquitous and socially destructive."

The petition goes on to say that "the acceptance of such a gift involves the constituents of the board in a relation implying honor toward the donor, and subjects the board to the charge of ignoring the moral issue involved."

The signers of the petition conclude by protesting against "any action by which our church may even seem to be compromised, and we implore the officers of the board to decline the gift or return it if it has been accepted." Among the signers of the petition are Daniel Evans, Cambridge; Edw. F. Sanderson, Providence; Geo. N. Gutterston, Dairy, N. H.; N. Vanderpuyle, Marblehead, Mass.; Reuben Thomas, Brookline, Mass.; Jas. S. Williamson, Haverford, Mass.

The ministers are to be congratulated upon their courage in thus protesting against the acceptance of the gift. The Standard Oil money is tainted. It has been accumulated by methods which violate the statutes of the states as well as the moral law. These methods can not be defended and no church or college should soil its hands with money thus secured. Not only has the Standard Oil company itself been guilty of all the crimes in the calendar, but the men and

institutions connected with it have been shown to act upon the same principles that characterize the burglar and the highwayman. Mr. Lawson is showing up the dealings of Rogers, who is at the present the controlling spirit in the Standard Oil. Only a short time ago in the Munroe & Munroe failure the public got an insight into the methods employed by a vice president of the National City bank. Just now the state of Kansas is in a life and death struggle with the monopoly, and the government is engaged in an investigation of it. Its methods have been so fully exposed that no one can plead ignorance. No organization can accept conspicuous donations from Rockefeller without incurring an obligation that can only be discharged by silence in regard to the crimes and misdemeanors of Rockefeller and his associates in the oil trust.

The public is familiar with the demoralizing influence which the Rockefeller donations have exerted on the Chicago University, and there is evidence that other colleges have put themselves in the position of suppliants at the feet of the oil magnate. It is fortunate that Rockefeller is stingy, for if he was at all liberal, a tithe of his plunderings would suffice to subsidize a large number of colleges and associations if they would accept his money.

If the Congregational society will refuse the Rockefeller donation it will doubtless be rewarded by a more generous contribution from the rank and file of the church, but whether or not it finds a pecuniary reward in doing right, it owes it to the public not to tar itself with the Rockefeller stick. If our churches and colleges would refuse to enter into a partnership with the trust magnates and reject the offers that come from them, these rejections would soon cultivate a public opinion that would be felt by those who have been preying upon society. If a trust magnate found that he was shunned by those who are at the head of religious and educational institutions, and that his money was not desired, it might have some influence in restraining him, and it would be sure to leave the colleges and churches more free to fight the evils of private monopoly.

Success to the petition! May it have weight with the board!

POST ON IDEALS

Mr. Louis F. Post, editor of the Public, was the guest of the democratic editors of Nebraska at Lincoln on March 22, and delivered a very strong address on democratic ideals in journalism. Mr. Post stands in the front rank of democratic journalists. His is a rare combination of mental strength, wide information and moral purpose. He has made his paper, the Public, beloved by all who read it and has earned for himself an enviable place among the earnest political thinkers and writers of the day. His own conscientious devotion to high ideals and his broad comprehension of democratic principles admirably fitted him to discuss the theme which he selected, and it may be added that he could nowhere find more appreciative hearers than among the editors of Nebraska who have so loyally devoted themselves to the promulgation of democratic principles.

JEFFERSON'S POETRY

Probably few of the millions who have read Jefferson's writings know that he ever wrote a line of poetry. A reader of The Commoner calls attention to some lines written by Jefferson near the close of his life, said to have been the very last lines penned. They were addressed to his daughter, Mrs. Epps, and refer to an older daughter and his wife who died before him. The lines are valuable because, so far as known, they are his only venture in poetry, but also because they bespeak a belief in immortality. They read:

"Farewell, my dear, my daughter, adieu.
The last pang in life is in parting with you;
Two seraphs await me long shrouded in death,
I will bear them your love in my last parting breath."

DISCOVERED AT LAST

Addressing the grand jury having in charge the investigation of the beef trust, Judge J. O. Humphrey said:

This body stands between the upright and honest citizen and the malicious accuser. You are savers of reputations, as well as the body through which the honest accuser obtains just inquiry.

I call your attention particularly to the statute which prohibits and fixes a penalty for combinations in restraint of trade, in the in-

terstate commerce laws and their various branches.

While you are not selected to try the guilt or innocence of the accused, in order to justify a true bill you will have such evidence as, if unexplained and uncontradicted, would satisfy your minds of the guilt of the accused.

You are not to disclose to any persons or at any time the secrets of your deliberations. Reputation is the greatest earthly inheritance.

The mere fact that some person's name is before you as being accused of crime would blacken reputation even though you might not return a true bill. No human being has a right to know, and you are not to disclose to any human being, the secrets of your deliberations. All that shall come to light shall come through the return of indictments, if indictments shall be found.

The law to which Judge Humphrey referred was approved July 2, 1890. That was fifteen years ago. Since then the American people have keenly suffered at the hands of trust magnates; since then the federal authorities have been repeatedly urged to enforce the criminal clause which is the chief feature of the Sherman anti-trust law; but if memory is not at fault this is the first instance where a judge, in delivering a charge to a federal grand jury, has forcibly directed attention to this wholesome statute.

The people have been patient and long-suffering; but there are many indications that they are now becoming thoroughly aroused and will insist upon their rights. Not the least of these indications is the fact that a federal judge has discovered that by the law of 1890 a powerful weapon was placed in the hands of the authorities. That weapon is the criminal indictment, the one thing which, when backed by a resolute prosecutor, the most powerful of law breakers dread.

FAITHFUL EFFORT

A Batesville, Ark., reader of The Commoner, writing under date of March 16, says: "I am a very busy man; poor and hard run. Have had la grippe for six weeks and have a probable case of fatal illness of my eldest son—the pride and idol of our family, because of his shining and noble qualities of head and heart; but I took an hour and a half this morning and got up these subscribers (club of 17—15 new and 2 renewal) because I believe it to be a patriotic duty to increase the circulation of The Commoner. By a little effort on the part of all the friends of the paper, its circulation could soon be run up to a quarter of a million, I verily believe."

Many Commoner readers are taking advantage of the special subscription offer, and as a result, The Commoner's circulation is growing rapidly. According to the terms of the special subscription 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.

Anyone ordering these cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign.

These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold.

The coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in the effort to increase The Commoner's circulation.

THE COMMONER'S SPECIAL OFFER	
Application for Subscription Cards	
5	Publisher Commoner; I am interested in increasing The Commoner's circulation, and desire you to send me a supply of subscription cards. I agree to use my utmost endeavor to sell the cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each, when sold. Name _____ Box, or Street No. _____ P. O. _____ State _____ Indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this blank. If you believe the paper is doing a work that merits encouragement, fill out the above coupon and mail it to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.
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