# The Commoner.

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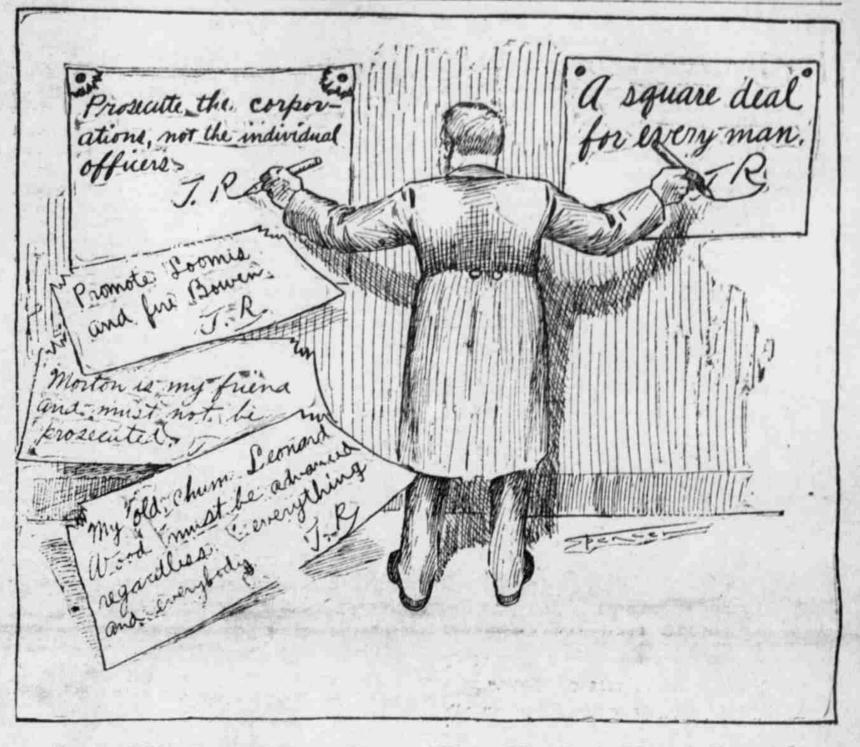
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## REVENGE

The papers announce that an eastern spinster has left her former lover a fortune estimated at \$150,000, on condition that he obtain a divorce from his wife. The spinster was disappointed because he finally preferred another woman to her and takes her revenge by trying to separate them. At first it migh: seem that the revenge was aimed at her successful rival, but the man is really the one at whom the thrust is made, for if he were sordid enough to divorce his wife to secure a fortune he would soon become an object of pity. for the contempt of his neighbors would make life unbearable. But what shall we say of the revengeful spirit which affixed the condition to the bequest. Possibly she thought she loved the man, but true love shows itself in a different way.



Does His Right Hand Know What His Left Hand Doeth?

If she had loved him as many have loved she would either have kept silent, or, if she wanted to leave him money, she would have left it for him to use to promote his own happiness and welfare. Her love was of the kind that leads young men to kill their sweethearts (when they have been rejected) and then kill themselves.

It is a selfish love—if love can be selfish that prompts one to punish the object of his affection. Sacrifice is the language of love. "Greater love hath no man than this that he lay down his life for his friend"—but the so-called love which exacts a penalty has in it the element of revenge rather that a genuine affection.

And revenge is the hardest load that any one can carry. No one is strong enough to attempt such a burden, and no one can afford to risk its corroding influence on his life. This conditional bequest shows how cherishing revenge will warp a nature.

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### WHAT RUSSIA NEEDS

Rojestvensky, the Russian admiral, explains that the ships were poorly built, the ammunition defective, the gunners untrained and the crews rebellious. With a free press the czar would have found out about the ships and ammunition, and with free government the men would have had some things they were interested in defending and preserving.

# DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES ARE POPULAR

There can be no doubt about the popularity of democratic principles. That those principles are growing in popularity is not open to question. Ask any admirer of President Roosevelt why he is popular and you will find that it is due to his advocacy, or supposed advocacy, of principles and policies that are democratic. Nothing brought Mr. Roosevelt more applause during his first administration than his settlement of the anthracite coal strike. And how did he settle it? By arbitration. Now, the democratic platforms of 1896 and 1900 demanded arbitration while the republican platforms were silent on the subject. But he not only waited until there was great suffering and loss before proposing arbitration, but he did nothing afterward to secure a permanent arbitration board for the prevention of strikes. If he won popularity by a small application of a democratic policy, would he not have won more popularity if he had urged the establishment of a permanent arbitration board?

He again won popularity by recommending railroad regulation. The democratic platform demanded that, but the republican platform was silent on the subject. The severest criticism has come from the shielding of Morton—that was not democratic. He is strong when he is democratic and weak when he departs from democratic ideas. He is now being commended for enforcing the criminal law against the Beef trust. The democratic platform demands it; the republican platform is silent on the subject. Would he not be more popular if he enforced the criminal law against all the trusts? That would be democratic.

If a president can achieve popularity by being spasmodically and sporadically democratic, what would be the popularity of a president consistently and persistently democratic?

Governor La Follette has made himself invincible in Wisconsin by advocating things which are democratic. The primary system is not only democratic in principle, but it was adopted by the democratic party in the south before it began to spread in the north. Governor La Follette is democratic on the railroad question also.

Governor Cummings has strengthened himself by showing democratic symptoms, but he lacks La Foliette's moral courage. When republicans can build up a following by adopting democratic ideas let no democrat falter in the fight.

We need more men in all the parties who will dare to espouse democratic principles. There is not a northern state but needs strong and aggressive advocates of democratic principles and policies. They are and must be the basis of all political strength.

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#### SOME CRIMES COMPARED

Not including Senator Dietrich of Nebraska, who escaped on a demurrer—three United States senators have lately been proved guilty of wrong doing. Senator Burton, of Kansas, was convicted of practicing before the postoffice department,