

anyway. And this suggests another matter, namely, that the pending statehood bill provides that every one of the judges of the statehood election and all of the election commissioners shall be republican, and that their decisions shall be final. This is the acme of partisanship.

G. W. T. Conrath, Bowling Green, Ohio.—Enclosed please find check for \$2.00 for my subscription to The Commoner and the 4th and 5th volumes of The Commoner Condensed. Before closing I want to give The Commoner a plan to not only largely increase its circulation but its sphere of usefulness. I suppose it would be presumption on my part to point out the gravity of the present situation to The Commoner, its distinguished editor and his able official family, but certainly the recent trip and utterances of our late lamented candidate for the first office within the gift of a free people were that his element will stop at nothing to frustrate the reforming influences within the party's lines. Party history records no more unworthy attempt to scuttle the craft that refused to be steered by him into the harbor of the capitalistic class than our recent candidate has afforded us. If they can't rule the democratic party they have resolved to ruin it. What more successful coup could be designed than to sectionalize the party? His was no plea for harmony; harmony might spell success for the democratic party, and that his friends and political associates don't want. They know that the Parker stripe can't win as a candidate for the democratic party. They know that a Jeffersonian democrat would ruin all their schemes of robbery, so they scheme to split the party and thus get a republican president favorable to their ideas. To frustrate their plans will require all devotion and self-sacrifice that the rank and file are capable of, and as a means to that end I submit the following plan for your consideration. Every man knows that when he enters a barber shop 99 chances out of 100 he has to wait from ten minutes to two hours to get a chance to be shaved. You know and I know that we will pick up any paper, no matter what, how old, or what its politics, and will read it to "put in" the time. Now what I propose is this. Let us start a "Barber Shop Fund,"—or, better yet,—devise some means by which we can as individuals or as a body, see that every barber shop has one or two Commoners every week for the next two years. If we can get 20,000 Commoners in barber shops in the United States they will be read by close to half a million men every week that very likely never see a Commoner. I would do this by asking some individual in each town or district to take up the work. I would send out cards for the barber

to sign agreeing that if the paper or papers are sent to him by mail or otherwise that he will put them in his shop as he does other papers for the benefit and convenience of his customers. I will be glad to subscribe and pay for copies for all the shops in my town that I can get to sign an agreement to allow the papers in their shops.

Mary E. Walker, M. D., N. P., Oswego, N. Y.—All this talk about the different "republican candidates for the next presidency" is but a sleeve-laughing, for the one who is planning in all imaginary ways to be the same. Everybody but the blind candidates can see this, even the unlettered country people.

I can not see a ray of hope for our country without the help of woman's suffrage and woman's influence. As the first woman who talked the same at Washington, D. C., and who started going to the poll to vote I have the deepest interest in the exercise of the W. S. constitutional duties of the women of America.

Senator Sumner and Chief Justice Chase told me personally that "my crowning constitutional argument will open the doors through which all women will yet walk and vote." I do not assert that Wyoming, Utah, Idaho and Colorado, that have equal suffrage through that argument, have all at all times since the equal exercise of duties and rights of woman citizenship come up to the highest claims that I make for women; for some of them need educating as The Commoner can educate, and instill the higher principles and duties of citizenship. Men who take the Commoner ought to read it aloud in the presence of women whether they now vote or not, and make them understand that their sanctioning right principles regarding national affairs is a duty as well as "raising men voters," if they consider the same a "duty," as the "writers" have joined men in asserting.

"A Patriot"—The whole United States is my country, and I raise my voice in asserting that the action in New York city regarding the raising of money and fitting out of ships to unseat President Castro when our nation is at peace with his government, is an offense punishable with fine and imprisonment; and if the laws of the country are to be respected any more, why are they not?

Sam F. Hunt, Swanders, Ohio.—In The Commoner of April 27th I find an article on National banks contributing to the republican corruption fund in 1896. Please inform us if Mr. Arthur T. Sewell of Bath, Me., democratic candidate for vice president on Bryan ticket in said year, had his National bank to contribute also, and oblige by answer in next issue of Commoner.

(The Commoner is not in a position to give definite answer to this question, although it is not probable that any bank with which Mr. Sewell was connected contributed to his defeat.)

NOT SO STRANGE

Markley—Well, that's the limit!
Ascum—What's that?
Markley—Kidder was telling me about a friend of his, named Hawke, who always takes a cab whenever he goes to look for work.
Ascum—Yes. Hawke is employed at night by a cab company to pick up fares.—Philadelphia Press.

FATAL THIRTEEN

"This talk about the number 13 being unlucky isn't so foolish as some people think."
"Nonsense!"
"It is, eh? Well, look at the people who lived in the thirteenth century—every one of 'em dead!"—Cleveland Leader.

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