

# The Commoner.

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## A Father's Sorrow

Mr. M. H. Crippen of Los Angeles, Cal., father of Dr. Crippen, who is being taken back to England to stand trial for the murder of his wife, thus pours out the anguish of his soul: "I have not the money to go to Hawley, but if I had I would gladly go and be of whatever consolation I might be to him. I have not received a word from him and do not expect to. It is hard to have to be alone and suffer, but I don't think it will last long. I am not long for this world. I feel as if I would like to go away alone and die. I did my best to educate Hawley, and his son. I did the best I could and now in my old age I am alone and overwhelmed by this disgrace."

The words of the stricken old man recall the pathetic lament of David over Absalom. Sad that the son did not think of his poor old father when he was yielding to the temptations that resulted in this international crime! But the publicity given to Dr. Crippen's flight will serve as a useful purpose. It will teach anew, first, that the wages of sin is death. Second, that there is little hope of escape from the officers of the law, and none whatever from the lashes of conscience. Third, that one does not live unto himself alone.

If the child would only think of the parent and the parent's indissoluble connection with all that affects the child's career there would be less of sorrow in the old home. And there is a lesson for the parent, too. It is not sufficient to "educate" the children—moral development must go hand in hand with mental growth. The child must learn that there is more in life than money and physical enjoyment—there is duty. No person is safe until he understands that he was created for a purpose, that he must learn and pursue that purpose, conscious at all times of his responsibility to God for every thought and word and act. If Dr. Crippen's father did not sufficiently emphasize the moral element in his son's development his grief will be the more bitter now; if the fault is entirely with the son the fact that he rejected his father's advice will make his present punishment more acute.

### REAPING THE WHIRLWIND

One would suppose from the manner in which the liquor organs gloat over the action of the Nebraska democratic state convention that the brewers had won a great victory, but did they? They kept the last legislature from submitting the initiative and referendum and planned to prevent it in the next, but with all three parties in favor of this reform the brewers are helpless and hopeless. They have robbed the democratic party of the credit it would have derived from securing this great and needed reform, but can not control enough senators to over-ride the platforms of all the parties. Are they happy? The friends of the initiative and referendum are rejoicing at the early, easy and complete victory which they have won.

And what about county option? If the brew-

ers had permitted the submission of the initiative and referendum at the last session or at a special session county option could not have been submitted under it before 1912; but now it seems likely that it will come by statute this winter. Won't it tickle the brewers to get county option two years sooner than it could have come under the initiative and referendum, and then get the initiative and referendum besides?

But that is the natural result of their impudent and insolent entry into politics. They will possibly learn after awhile that the more active the liquor interests are in politics the more they will disgust the public and the more vigorous will be the protest from the voters. If they insist upon sowing the wind they must expect to reap the whirlwind. If they could by any possibility defeat county option they will simply hasten state prohibition—not because a majority of the people desire it, but because the people will not submit to the domination of the liquor interests.

### POLITICAL CROP PROSPECTS

As Kansas is one of the great agricultural states of the union it may not be out of place to borrow an illustration from the fields to explain the prospects of the different parties. The insurgents are reformers but they do not go as far as the democrats do. The standpatters are supposed to oppose all progress but, as a matter of fact, even the standpatters are moving just a little. It is a matter of degree. The attitude of the three parties on reforms may be likened to three corn fields—the democratic field was planted in May, the insurgent field was planted in June and the standpat field was planted in July. Of course, the democratic corn is more advanced, although some of it was injured by late frosts. The insurgent corn is growing nicely and was greatly refreshed by the recent primary shower. The standpat corn is naturally the most backward; it did not come up well and some of the seed fell where the thorns sprang up and checked it—it has suffered considerably, too, from a hot wind from Illinois that swept over the state recently and "fired" a number of stalwart stalks.

And the crop? Well, the democratic field seems to promise the largest yield; the insurgent field will need good weather up to November to mature the grain; and, as for the standpat corn, it will hardly make fodder.

### THE IOWA PROGRESSIVES

Senators Cummins and Dolliver are making a brave fight in Iowa and deserve credit for the courage they show, but they are greatly handicapped by the fact that the standpatters succeeded in nominating their candidate for governor and in nominating several standpat candidates for congress. If the standpat candidate for governor is elected it will be heralded as a repudiation of Cummins and Dolliver. If, on the other hand, enough insurgents scratch the head of the ticket to elect Porter, the democratic candidate, the state will not only get a good governor but the administration at Washington will know that Iowa can not be counted on to endorse Aldrichism.

Democratic gains in congressmen is to be expected and every democratic congressman gained will be a nail—or rather a spike—in the political coffin of the Hon. Joseph G. Cannon. Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa are likely to make republican leaders sit up and take notice this fall.

### IT PAYS

For years the democrats of Kansas met and declared for re-submission—but they are not doing it any more. They are enforcing the law and not only have their self respect but a good chance to grow. It pays to take the moral side of a moral issue.

### GOOD HEALTH

If Cannon had not taken sick Anthony might have been knocked out in the Leavenworth district. The insurgents may well pray for the speaker's health.

## Insurgent Kansas

Who says that Kansas is not insurging? Governor Stubbs' nominated by more than twenty-five thousand; the two insurgent congressmen nominated without opposition; four more insurgent congressional candidates nominated over standpat congressmen and another standpat congressman almost defeated! Only two standpat candidates nominated in the entire state, and there is a good chance to defeat these in November. This is good enough for one year; and the victory is made the more decisive by the fact that Uncle Joe went to Kansas and read the insurgents out of the party.

Every republican reformer must rejoice that the rank and file of the party has presented so forcible a protest against the Payne-Aldrich surrender to the protected interests. And republican standpatters ought to see in the results proof that the patience of a long suffering people will not stand the strain that the monopolists are putting upon it. The democrats, too, will be gratified because the insurgent victory is really a victory for democratic ideas and shows that the masses are at heart in sympathy with democratic principles and policies.

The fight in Kansas ought to be a friendly one from now until November. Senator Hodges, the democratic candidate for governor, is a progressive democrat; he stands for all the good things favored by Governor Stubbs and for more. As between Governor Stubbs and a corporation democrat many democrats would prefer Governor Stubbs, but as between Governor Stubbs and Senator Hodges all democrats will prefer Senator Hodges. That is the situation now and the democrats will be more and more drawn to their ticket as the campaign progresses.

Governor Stubbs and the insurgent congressmen having been nominated, will now try to secure the votes of the standpatters, and to do this they must minimize party differences. They must praise President Taft, who indorses Aldrich while they denounce Aldrichism.

It is probable that many standpat republicans will vote with the democrats and that others will stay at home on election day but democrats must be careful not to hold out any inducements. A democrat whose position on public questions would invite the support of a standpatter would repel democrats.

There are certain arguments, however, which a democrat can with propriety address to the standpatters. First, that if democratic principles are to be applied they ought to be applied by democrats. It is an infringement on the democratic patent for the insurgents to claim credit for policies put forward first by the democrats. Second, the standpatters and insurgents are engaged in a life and death struggle for the control of the republican party. If the insurgents win they will be strengthened for their fight in the nation; if they lose the standpatters will have easier sailing in the next national convention.

The insurgents, on the other hand, can face the future with confidence. If they win at the polls they will be in a position to carry their fight into the next national convention; if they lose, the victorious standpatters will be more arrogant than ever and thus invite a national defeat. The Kansas democrats are in a position to profit, no matter which way the election goes, and they deserve the good that is coming to them, for they have been faithful for, lo, these many years.

### RUBBER

Aldrich made a great mistake in raising the tariff on rubber—his party needs a large quantity of it just now. In fact, it is going to strain even the most elastic hand to hold the standpatters and insurgents together.

### TIMELY

The republicans are waking up in Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa, but it is time. It's a long while since daybreak.

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