

tion, more victims fall to it yearly in the United States than to the dreaded cobra in India. Some twelve thousand Americans are killed every year by its bite. Three hundred thousand more are made seriously ill from the after effects. Unfortunately, the virus works so slowly that alarm is stilled. The victims do not sicken at once. The bite is forgotten; but ten days or two weeks after the subject falls into a fever. Yet, because there is nothing horrific to the sensation-loving imagination in the malaria-bearing mosquito, public inertia or ignorance tolerates it with a grin and permits it to breed in city and country alike throughout the length and breadth of the nation. Compared with it, as a real menace, all the combined brood of snakes, scorpions, centipedes, tarantulas and other pet bugaboos of our childish romanticism are utterly negligible; are as figment to reality, as shadow to substance. It is perhaps characteristic of our wryly humorous American temperament that we should have invested the unimportant danger with all the shuddering attributes of horror, and have made of the real peril a joke to be perennially hailed with laughter in a thousand thoughtless prints."

AN INTERESTING story relating to Lincoln is printed in the Kansas City Star and is vouched for by Mr. A. H. McCormick. It will probably cause considerable discussion among the students of Lincoln literature. The Star's story follows: "There are not many people who know that President Abraham Lincoln looked into the future during the civil war and prophesied that the next generation following him would see the initiative and referendum adopted by every state in the union. This is the statement of A. H. McCormick, a member of the last legislature from Crawford county, Kansas, and republican nominee for re-election. 'I heard President Lincoln tell General Grant and General Meade that the initiative and referendum was bound to become universal in the United States,' said McCormick. 'I was a union soldier. Just a short time before the breaking of the confederate lines in front of Petersburg President Abraham Lincoln visited General Grant at City Point on the James river. At that time I was crippled in the left arm by a musket shot and was detailed as mail agent for the Second corps. I frequently made trips from the front to City Point. One day General DeFobriann gave me a letter and ordered me to deliver it to General Meade. He asked for a reply. When I entered General Meade's tent I found with him General Grant and President Lincoln and two other officers. They had evidently been talking earnestly about Switzerland. They stopped when I entered the tent. I presented my letter to General Meade. He read it and said: Tell the general 'Yes.' I was about to withdraw when a sudden thunder shower burst. General Meade turned to me and said: 'Soldier, sit down and wait for the rain to quit.' I sat on a camp stool in rather a dark corner of the tent. Apparently not noticing my presence President Lincoln continued the conversation evidently where he had left off when I came in. Turning to General Grant, he said: 'General, the day will come, but it will not be in your day or mine, when every state in this union will have the initiative and referendum. When that day comes the people will rule, the people will rule.' As he said this he brought his fist down on the table with such vehemence that he overturned the ink bottle. I knew shorthand. I sat there and took the conversation as it was given. When I returned to my camp I made two copies of President Lincoln's remarks. I sent one copy home and kept the other. I carried it in my family Bible. I still have it. It was many years after before I realized what President Lincoln had meant by the initiative and referendum. I became an advocate of the principle. It was I who introduced in the last house 'house concurrent resolution No. 2.' This called for the initiative and referendum. It was lost. I intend to try again this winter if I am sent back to the house.'"

JUDGE PETER S. Grosscup, of the United States circuit court, Chicago, delivered an address on democracy before the Knights of Columbus at Chicago. Judge Grosscup said: "To establish an enlarged democracy for the future—a democracy that will harmonize in freedom in production with a just distribution of the fruits of production—something more than mere criminal prosecution, something more than stirring the depths of unrest—we need nothing less, indeed, than a president and

congress who have courage enough to recognize that monopoly is here to stay and that the way to deal with it is to make it deal fairly with the people by putting a limit on its profits; nothing less than a president and congress who will take up the tariff, in judicial tribunals, take up cases that demand a careful and disinterested inquiry into the facts; nothing less than a president and congress whose purpose will be to so reconstruct the corporation (those that are monopolies as well as those that are not) that the corporate medium of holding property will become as representative of the people as the land laws have become. And to accomplish this we must take our leaders, not from those who, in the language of a friend of mine, sit on the tail board of the wagon and do nothing but cry 'whoa' nor from among those who sit with the driver urging him to whip the horses into a runaway. The American people, I believe, are in no mood to come to a standstill; nor do they wish a smashup. There need be neither. There needs to be a leadership, however, into which is put the superb faith of Columbus that ahead is the shore sought, and the superb faith of Lincoln that, with the saving common sense of the American people behind it, no just cause needs be lost."

THE NEW YORK Christian Advocate, a Methodist publication, contributes a final note to the music of the world when it pays the following tribute to a famous Catholic priest: "Father' Lambert, otherwise the Rev. Louis Albert Lambert, editor-in-chief of the Freeman's Journal of this city, and author of Notes on Ingersoll, Tactics of Infidels, Thesaurus Biblicus and Christian Science Before the Bar of Reason, died last month at Newfoundland, N. J., a place whose healthfulness is widely known. He would have been seventy-six years old had he lived till February 11. His mother was a Quakeress who, after her marriage, became a Roman Catholic. When the civil war broke out, Father Lambert was appointed chaplain in the army, and after that he was pastor in Cairo, Ill., for two years, when he was made professor of moral philosophy at the Paulist Institute in this city. In 1877 he founded the Catholic Times, at Waterloo, N. Y.; later the paper was removed to Rochester. Father Lambert did a great work in exposing the fallacies of Colonel Ingersoll in the North American Review. The eloquent orator attacked the Christian religion vigorously. Father Lambert replied to him in a series of newspaper articles, which were published in book form, under the title Notes on Ingersoll. This book ran through ten editions in about as many months. Two years afterward a Reply to the Rev. L. A. Lambert's Notes on Ingersoll was produced by another writer. Immediately Father Lambert answered that in a book entitled Tactics of Infidels. These volumes have been approved in both Protestant and Catholic circles. The Young Men's Christian Association circulated them by the thousand. A short time after that a dispute occurred between Father Lambert and his bishop, the militant Dr. McQuaid. The bishop took Father Lambert's parish from him. The latter appealed to Rome, which decided against the bishop, who was forced to give Father Lambert a pastorate, and he sent him to Scottsville, N. Y. The parish work there was light enough to afford him abundant opportunity to write, and for some time he edited the Catholic Standard of Philadelphia. Since 1894 he had been the chief editor of the Freeman's Journal in this city. He had a 'strong, keen, witty, logical, hearty style of controversy.' We had much pleasure in his acquaintance and had a compact with him that if we erred in any statements concerning Catholicism he would notify us privately before attacking us publicly, and we were to treat him in the same manner. But he did not have occasion to notify us frequently, as we do not hastily represent the views either of our own or other religious bodies. His dissection of Ingersoll's tirades against Christianity was a needful work well done."

WHAT THE TARIFF HAS DONE FOR ME

(The Commoner will print letters describing personal experiences with the republican high tariff. Letters must necessarily be brief and to the point.)

Amsterdam, N. Y., September 12, 1910.—"Looking backward" again at the farce which was given at Washington, D. C., under the name of "Tariff Revision Downward," the subject again arises, viz: How many votes did the corporate interests gain by the protective tariff?

The cry has been through many campaigns, and it has served to catch the eye of the eager voter. "Protect American labor from the pauper labor of Europe." It looks fine and if put in practice it would be, but how does the republican tariff protect the American labor from the European labor when no thought is given to the immigration laws and instead of having to compete with this pauper labor in Europe we have to compete with them at our very doors, and what American laborer can compete successfully with this class of labor, which works shoulder to shoulder with them in our mills unless the American laborer lowers himself in the mode of living, so as to be exactly on the level with the low class laborer of Russia and Italy?

I will quote an instance: There is a large cotton mill in this city owned by a man that is an ardent protectionist and member of the republican state committee. This man employs a large number of help and conducts part of his factory all night, making a twelve hour shift. He employs entirely for this work Poles and Lithuanians, and pays them at the rate of eighty-five and ninety cents per night, and this same employer is one of the first to come forth with that clarion cry, "Protect American labor from the pauper labor of Europe."

This man, of course, is not alone in this, for it is general among corporations but it is an example of how these "patriots" pull the wool over the eyes of the American people. Thinking this might be of some interest to you, I am

Your ardent admirer,
A. D. ANDERSON.

A BOOK WORTH READING

Anthony Van Wagenen of Sioux City, Ia., has just issued, through Putnam's Sons a book on the Government Ownership of Railroads, which ought to be in the hands of all who are studying the transportation question. He discusses the principles involved, compares private and public control and reviews the experience of other countries. His statistics are valuable and his conclusions instructive.

"ELECTION NIGHT"

Several years ago on election day the Omaha World-Herald printed a poem entitled "Election Night." This poem was from the pen of Will M. Maupin, well known to Commoner readers. It is printed now by request:

ELECTION NIGHT

I am going home this evening when the voting has been done,
And I have it fixed so Golden Locks and I Will forget about elections, or that counting has begun,
As we journey to the land of By-lo-By.
We will board our good ship Slumber—she the captain, I the crew—
And we'll sail away without a care or sigh
On a journey old as ages, though a journey ever new,
To the flower land of pleasure, By-lo-By.

While the politicians argue and the office-seekers fret,
And the gamblers and the brokers shake with dread,
We will set our sails and journey, all our cares and trials forget,
Past the flowered, drowsy isles of Nod-a-Head.
What care we for politicians with their tales of grief and woe?
Or what all the oily orators have said?
We have raised our good ship's anchor and before the wind we go
Past the flower-covered isles of Nod-a-Head.

And we set our sails and tiller, catching ev'ning's balmy wind
Far away from grief and trouble we will fly;
And we'll haste to cross the water, leaving politics behind,
And cast anchor on the shores of By-lo-By.
Yes, I'm going home this evening, greet my babe with eyes of blue,
Then together we will journey, she and I,
On our tried and true ship Slumber to the land where dreams come true—
To the flower-laden land of By-lo-By.

The American Homestead, a monthly farm journal of national scope, will be sent to all Commoner subscribers, without additional cost, who renew their subscriptions during the month of November when this notice is mentioned.