

which is not only surprising, but alarming. And yet how can we expect to have imperialism and plutocracy without the ceremony of the court. When once we have the broad foundation of political equality, we become involved in a never-ending controversy over relative rank and comparative importance.

INTERESTING DISCRIMINATION.
A commission should be appointed to definitely fix the amount of wealth one must possess before being classed as a kleptomaniac instead of a thief. The same commission could also fix the amount which a man must steal before becoming a Napoleon of finance instead of being a common embezzler. There is now so much leeway afforded that the public is often led to grievously wrong a man by calling him a thief or an embezzler when in truth he is either a kleptomaniac or a financier. This is because of not having a definite amount fixed from which to measure judgment. This appears to be one of the crying needs of the hour.

TORTURE INDEFENSIBLE.
The burning of another negro, this time in Kansas, again calls attention to the tendency to return to the cruelties and tortures of former times. When a similar incident occurred a few weeks ago in Colorado, republican papers were quick to connect the occurrence with a fusion majority in the state. If retaliation were proper, democratic papers might refer to the republican majority rolled up in Kansas last November, but the subject is too serious to be made a theme for partisan controversy. Such atrocities are inexcusable, no matter when or where they are practiced. Lynch law must be condemned on general principles because it temporarily suspends government and its enforcement and excitement and without a careful investigation of the evidence often leads to the doing of great injustice.

The fact that good people, aroused to frenzy by a horrible crime, sometimes take the law into their own hands, is not a justification, but simply shows that strong feeling will occasionally overmaster the reason of the best of men. Before lynching can be done, some tribunal must be authorized to decide when, under what circumstances and upon what evidence individual revenge should be substituted for the ordinary methods of administering justice. But even if lynching could be defended the addition of torture is inexcusable. It is an indulgence of passion, more hurtful to the perpetrator than to the victim. Instead of lessening crime, burning is apt to increase it by accustoming the people to cruelty and by lessening their respect for human life. Even those who in Kansas and elsewhere have joined in the mad cry for blood and exulted in the agonies of a human being will, in calm and dispassionate moments, condemn the act and deplore the weakness which temporarily conditioned it.

An unanswerable argument against such a form of punishment is to be found in the fact that no legislative body in Christendom would deliberately provide for burning as a penalty for any crime.

HAZARD SHOULD BE STOPPED.
The investigation of hanging at West Point ought to result in legislation which will forever put an end to a practice as indefensible as it is brutal. The indignities heaped upon new students of the lower classes are neither necessary for the education of the victims nor beneficial to those who find delight in wounding the feelings of others. There is nothing more vicious, more dishonorable about hanging and it is high time the authorities were laying down an inflexible rule on the subject. There is an old saying that a man is not fit to command until he learns to obey, and obedience to an anti-hanging law should be rigorously enforced.

The government should not send out men from West Point to be officers until they are far enough removed from barbarism to abandon the tortures which, according to the evidence, are sometimes inflicted at the academy.

AN EXPERT OPINION.
"Flippings of an ex-President" is the undignified caption of the Chicago Tribune places above an editorial dealing with the action of Mr. Benjamin Harrison. A scrutiny of the Chicago Tribune's files for several years past will reveal that it is an authority on flippings. And by the same token, it is easy to see from present conditions that the same caption might well be saved upon the "live rack" for use a few years hence when the Chicago Tribune is again at liberty to say what it honestly believes.

AT LEAST FOUR; PERHAPS MORE.
The British powers now prosecuting the Boer war may have reached the conclusion that the Boer is ubiquitous. The Boer has been so in the habit of appearing in the most unexpected places at the most inopportune times that the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain is to be excused if he has long since reached this conclusion. But the Boer is not ubiquitous, and in this fact lies the proof that not less than four Boers were left under arms not later than January 7, for on the morning of January 8 General Kitchener in one of his regular "I regret to state" dispatches admitted that on the night before his outposts were attacked simultaneously at four widely separated points. This could not have happened had there been but three Boers left fighting for their liberty. It must be admitted, therefore, that there are at least four Boers left in active service. And the indications are that four Boers can be active enough to make General Kitchener periodically regretful and cause him to imagine that he is fighting a foe possessed of some superhuman attributes.

A GOOD OLD CAUSE.
"Where is your good old cause now?" is the question that was put to republicans by democrats after the last election. Thomas Harrison was a lieutenant under Cromwell. He was condemned to death. He had been enthusiastic in his cause, firmly convinced of its righteousness. As Harrison walked to the scaffold, a bystander

tauntingly asked, "Where is your good old cause now?"
"It is right here," replied Harrison, striking his breast with his fist, "and I am about to seal it with my blood."
A mere political defeat, temporary, because it was unreasonable and unjust, can have no effect upon a righteous cause. The triumph of a political party that is committed to wrong policies does not disturb the principles nor destroy the cause, neither should it seriously discourage the man whose heart is in his cause.

Someone has said that defeat is merely education. No just cause was permanently injured by political defeat. The good cause as presented by the principles set forth in the Kansas City platform yet exists in the hearts of millions of the American people, and the time will come when that cause will be vindicated by the votes of the great majority.

OUR ALLIES.
If the reorganizers would spend more time opposing republican policies and less time denouncing the populists they would serve the cause better. The populists came to the help of the democratic party when the reorganizers abandoned it, and the latter are not in a position to boast of superior attachment to democratic principles. What is true of the populists is also true of the silver republicans, who have for four years vied with the democrats in their efforts to advance the doctrines set forth in the democratic platform. It will be an unfortunate day for the democracy if the booting element on the outside or the corporation element on the inside is able to so alter the party creed as to make it less acceptable to our populist and silver republican allies.

REVIVAL THAT REVIVES.
The newspapers of the country are filled with predictions made by clerical statesmen to the effect that there is to be a great revival of religion at the beginning of the Twentieth century. An organized effort is to be made on this line. An excellent plan, but we also need a revival that will apply the principles of religion to everyday life. The Chinese heathen cannot obtain a very high idea of religion when he sees that religion does not operate upon an army and does not protect the heathen from the looting process. We also need at home a revival that will prevent highway robbery by monopolies and wars for the purchase of trade.

THE ORGANIZATION.
After the defeat of 1896 the gold democrats met and congratulated themselves upon their part in the republican victory and demanded a reorganization of the party. A second defeat has brought forth another chorus of criticism and a demand that the party management be turned over to those who for the past four years have held themselves aloof from the organization and spent their time in condemnation of the policies indorsed in the party platform.

Men who have repudiated the party creed and the party candidates, and yet pride themselves upon their superior democracy, urge a return to what they call the first principles of democracy. Pressed for some definite statement of their views they either evade the question or resort to language too ponderous for any understanding. Whatever the differences of opinion may exist concerning the various planks of the Kansas City platform, the indisputable fact remains that that platform embraces the essential principles of democracy as taught by all the great leaders of the past and as accepted by the rank and file. Many democrats who left the party in 1896 came back in 1900 and were cordially welcomed. While not agreeing to every policy set forth, they gave hearty support to the democratic candidates because they believed that the platform was sound in its cardinal principles.

Exact fulfillment of national pledges and adherence to the constitution, perfect compliance with the spirit of the Declaration of Independence, firm advocacy of the Monroe doctrine, stern antagonism to militarism, relentless opposition to trusts, uncompromising hostility to an unjust dollar and to a surrender to national banks of the money issuing functions of the government, strong protest against entangling alliances with any other nation, vigorous objection to the plan of wasting the people's money in subsidies to a few individuals, earnest appeal for the restoration of popular government and the principles which have given life and prosperity to the nation—these must represent the fundamental principles of democracy and these received the indorsement of the convention which met at Kansas City.

There is a marked difference between the methods employed by the democrats who believe in the Kansas City platform and the methods employed by those who oppose that platform. The former have fixed principles, state them without ambiguity and invite judgment upon them; the latter prate about principles, assume a "holier than thou" attitude and declaim about national honor and party traditions, but never put their principles into concrete form or outline a plan for dealing with present political problems. They are against the Kansas City platform, but what are they for? They are against the silver plank, but what financial policy do they propose? Do they favor the national bank note or the greenback? Are they for an income tax or against it? Do they favor the popular election of senators, or do they oppose it? What is their attitude on the question of private monopolies? What would they do with the Philippine Islands? How large an army do they think necessary? What do they think of government by injunction?

The party as now organized has taken a position on these questions and is ready to defend it. Let the reorganizers present a statement of their views, equally definite and detailed, so that the voters, or the rank and file, if you please, may act understandingly. When these self-styled democrats left the party they said that they preferred principles to success; now they ask those who remain true to the party to surrender principles in order to secure success under their leader-

ship and they promise success notwithstanding the fact that the defeat of 1894, which came under their leadership, was the most disastrous since 1872, and notwithstanding the further fact that the ticket which they nominated in 1896 carried but one precinct in the United States.

If any change in the present organization is necessary it can be made by the voters in the regular way, and at the proper time. If in the meantime any member of the organization disrespects or is replaced by the people, ought to be in harmony with the people who select him, for, as a member of the organization, he acts in a representative capacity.

The only way to insure this harmony is to insist that the candidate shall be frank and candid in making known his views to those to whom he appeals, and every honest democrat seeking party prominence with a sincere desire to aid the party will be willing to make known his views on every disputed question. Beware of the man who boasts of his democracy, but refuses to define it.

The so-called democrats who voted the republican ticket showed by so doing that they were nearer to the republican position than they were to the democratic position. In order to regain their confidence, they must undergo a change or the democratic party must move over toward the republican position. As the organizers have manifested no change of heart the effort to reorganize might more properly be called an effort to republicanize the democratic party. To make the effort a success the democrats must either be converted to republican ideas, or be deceived into the support of men who wear the livery of democracy, but lean toward republican doctrines.

IMITATION IN CRIME.
Since the abduction of the Cudahy boy at Omaha, rogues in various portions of the country have given imitations of that crime. In Alabama a boy was abducted and demand for ransom made. In Illinois, a well-to-do farmer was notified that unless he delivered a large sum of money under certain conditions his home would be destroyed by dynamite. Similar happenings have been noticed in other portions of the country. It is interesting to observe that in each instance the plans of the delivery of the money are similar to those adopted in the Cudahy case. This forces upon the public the thought that it is of the utmost importance to every community in the United States that the abductors of young Cudahy be arrested and punished. It is to be hoped that no effort will be spared by the public officials throughout the country to capture these rogues. Their arrest and punishment will do much to discourage the terrible crime.

MR. GRIGGS IS CONSISTENT.
In his argument before the supreme court, Attorney General Griggs declared that courts may enact no tariff rate in the states and another in the territories. Considerable surprise is manifested among eminent lawyers that the attorney general should have gone so far, and yet Mr. Griggs was consistent. If congress can give one tariff rate in the states and another in our so-called colonies there is no reason why the same discrimination should not be possible with relation to our territories. It is possible, however, that the application of this discrimination to our territories would arouse some otherwise indifferent people to the iniquity of the discrimination against our colonies.

The foregoing is the first issue of The Commoner complete and in the order appearing in that paper with the exception of a number of clippings from other publications.—(Ed. Ind.)

DESCRIPTIVE NAMES
What People in Various Parts of the Country Think That the State Journal Should be Called.

In answer to your application for a name for the State Journal, we give you the following: "Nonsensical Nonsense," "Plutocratic Pandemonium," "B. & M. Crosstie," "Legislative Investigator," "Railroad Factotum," "Flamboyant Flammarion," "Daily State Weakling," "B. & M. Microbe," "Trustful Plutogogue." X. Y. Z.

I suggest the following names for the State Journal: "The Prevaricator," "The Mullet Head's Organ," "The State Tory Journal." L. E. S. Chadron, Neb.

I would suggest that the State Journal be called the "State Jumble." J. E. HILL, Sawyer, Neb.

In talking with a neighbor this morning we both concluded that a good name for the State Journal was "Father of Lies." S. S. LEE, Sr. Chesterfield, Neb.

I suggest that the State Journal be called "Satan's Advocate." J. H. BEBOUT, Nebraska City, Neb.

I think that the proper name for the State Journal would be "The Plutocratic Sham." AUG. BENGTSON, Shickley, Neb.

You ask for a descriptive name for the State Journal. I suggest: "TK's of the Plains." WALTER JOHNSON.

I suggest the following as descriptive names for the State Journal: "Mullet Head's Adviser," "Judah's Mouth Piece," "Nebbraska Imperialist," "Voter's Misleader," "Hiringling's Puncher," "State Fool's Journal," "Big I Scribbler," "Mombastic Hypocriticalist." R. ROWLAND, Bartlett, Neb.

A Russian View
M. de Witte, the Russian minister of finance, points out that the present and imminent industrial ills of Europe "come from the war in the Transvaal and the disturbances in China." Capital

that should be employed in industry is being shot away by men who should also be employed in industry. Militarism has filled up the cup of European calamities. These two disturbances are sufficient to make it run over.

That is the sensible view to take, but the republican party has altogether different views. It holds that we can get rich and prosperous by establishing large armies, building big navies and carrying on wars of conquest. The republican view is that that was entertained by the most enlightened statesmen of the dark ages.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The Independent is the Ablest Reform Paper That is Published in the United States.

You have been very lenient with me, but I have been very hard run. I have not been waiting for that wave of prosperity for I knew that it would not come except to the rich. I think that your paper is one of the best. All the people ought to read it, but they will not. Prejudice and ignorance keep them in the darkness that they may believe a lie and be damned. They act as if they were hypnotized. They have the nightmare and can't be awakened. They go to mill horseback with the grain in one end of the sack and a stone in the other just because their fathers did. J. B. HARRIS, Lexington, Neb.

I received your statement. I thank you for the kind letter you wrote me and hope that The Independent will ever prosper. I could not give it up. I get more satisfaction reading it than in all the other papers that I take. I like the stand you took about Bartley in the pardon case. B. B. YOCUM, Tekama, Neb.

I received your statement of my subscription account. I would like to have the paper continued for I think it is one of the best educators. Every one ought to have it in the house. I will try and secure some new names. Success to your paper. L. E. RUE, Brock, Neb.

Having rounded up those whom I got to subscribe for The Independent last fall, I have three renewals, two for a year and one for six months, and also send in my renewal. I wouldn't give The Independent for all the other papers in the country. It goes to the heart of all the questions that are of importance to the people, and argues them out to a logical conclusion. B. M. CLEVELAND, Fremont, Neb.

I herewith enclose \$1.00 for a year's subscription to The Independent and Wood's Natural History. I cannot get along without The Independent. I think it is the most able exponent of the people's cause. J. E. HILL, Sawyer, Neb.

Mosquito Ordinance

The people of Winchester, Va., have accepted the medical theory that malaria is conveyed by mosquitoes only and have acted promptly upon it. The town council has passed an ordinance for the extinction of mosquitoes, which requires the owners of property to place a tub or other large vessel filled with water, with the surface covered with oil, under any trees or bushes or vines which may happen to be in his yard. This ordinance was passed last summer and the effect was immediate. Before that time the people of Winchester had been grievously troubled with mosquitoes, but in a few weeks after the ordinance went into effect they disappeared almost entirely, and before the summer was over there was not a mosquito in the place. The anti-Chinese agitators Dr. Ross has nothing in common with destructive views of any sort, political, economic, or social. As a teacher, his work has been notable for thoroughness, intelligence and dispassionateness. His zeal for the institution has been shown by the doing of extra work, and by the quiet acceptance of conditions which at times must have imposed very heavy tasks upon him. In other words, if the testimony of those who know him best is to be accepted, Prof. Ross is a fine example of the liberal, open-minded, progressive teacher, scientific in his methods, catholic in his temper, and entirely free from the vice of the agitator or the lack of balance of the fanatic.

PROFESSOR ROSS

His Forced Resignation From Stanford University Is Becoming a National Question.

Champions of Professor Ross are appearing where least expected. It is well known that Prof. Small and others of the faculty of the Chicago university are defending him and now comes the Outlook, one of the publications that one would least expect to come to his defense, making it one of the leading features of its last issue. The Outlook says:

If the telegraphic reports are accurate, Professor Edward A. Ross, head of the department of economics in Leland-Stanford university, has been forced to resign because he believes in the restriction of immigration from Asia and in the ownership by municipalities of public franchises. The offending professor is a young man who has received recognition for original work in his department. He is a man of prudence as well as of courage, and in no sense an agitator. Four years ago he was a silver republican, but his course at that time was conspicuous, not only for its frankness, but also for its consideration of the interests of the university which he represented. He has contributed to the literature of social discussion a number of very thoughtful and thoroughly rational papers, and he has long been at work on a book on the subject of Social Control—a study of methods and forces—soon to be published, which is said, by those who have read it, to be conspicuously sane and temperate. His statements in regard to municipal ownership of franchises are said to have been discreet and moderate; his views are shared by many of the most conservative men in the country, and the changes which he advocates are in operation in some of the foremost cities of the old world. The remarks in regard to immigration from Asia, and especially from Japan, which have given offense to the authorities of the university, were neither extreme nor revolutionary; and

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also cured. Altogether for my whole family we have used nine bottles of Peruna, and have thus saved \$500 in doctors' bills. I am a contractor and mason by trade, and am known all over Nebraska. I have had a stomach trouble which has been greatly relieved by your remedy, Peruna, for which I am still taking it. We think it the greatest medicine on earth."—C. T. Roberts, Falls City, Nebraska.

Mr. T. G. Walker, Carneiro, Kansas, writes: "It is with pleasure that I report that I am better than I have been for many years. I believe Peruna is without a doubt the best medicine that was ever used in a family. It has cured my nervousness, with which I had been afflicted for a great number of years." It is a fact of ever-increasing astonish-

ment that so many otherwise sensible and provident people will, for the neglect of so simple a precaution as to have a bottle of Peruna at hand, bring upon themselves the needless suffering and foolish expense that a practitioner of medicine is forced to witness every day.

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