

Like the colleges, the thermometer is conferring too many degrees nowadays.

The kinetoscope privilege will be worth money one of these days when Edison receives a telegraph message without wires from Tesla.

There is every reason to believe that what John L. Sullivan mistook for "one more good fight in him yet" will prove to be merely the fermentation of old prunes.

Dr. Stephens asserts in a St. Louis paper that "death is a matter of habit." That may be true, but one who has acquired that habit thoroughly never breaks it off afterward.

The average recipient of the honorary degree "doctor of laws" may thank his lucky stars that his acceptance of it is not conditioned upon his passing the freshman entrance examination.

According to a special dispatch from Philadelphia a woman in that town "has apparently eloped with her own husband." Now if she falls in love with him the neighbors may as well give up the chase.

The Lyndon (Kan.) Remark says: "Our hens are setting on eggs, our wife is setting brevier, and we are setting here thinking up news." It would be pretty hard work, probably, to break into that editor's set.

The Philadelphia Record says that from June 1 to June 26 there were forty suicides in Chicago, and adds: "In Philadelphia this could not happen." Certainly not; why should any one who is buried alive attempt suicide?

Australia has ruled out barnyards. Those now in service may be registered and licensed, but no more can be engaged. But a landlord's wife will be allowed in the bar. The British barnyard idea is not acceptable in the colonies.

Murderer Williamson was hanged by the legal authorities in Texas three times the other day before the job was done right. He could have saved considerable annoyance by requesting that a mob of lynchers be invited to take charge of the ceremonies.

In a Brooklyn greenhouse a century plant is about to bloom, and the roof will be raised to thirty feet for the event. Twenty feet, up the stem branches form, and from them the blossoms hang. After blooming the plant dies, practically melting away.

A Kansas City minister who attended a vaudeville performance the other night was so severely shocked by one of the young women dancers that he left the theater, demanded and received money back, and has been acting as advertising agent for the performance ever since.

In boring the Simplon tunnel under the Alps the workmen must contend at one stage of the work with a temperature of 122 degrees. But the engineers expect to bring it down to 90 by forcing in air and atomized water. The tunnel will be twelve and a quarter miles long, three miles longer than any other under the Alps.

As it looks now, the recent great flood in the lower Mississippi will have important compensating results. It is found that cotton lands were fertilized by the overflow, and where a planter would formerly get from one-half to three-quarters of a bale to an acre, he will now get from a bale to a bale and a half from the overflowed land. That will make a big difference in the aggregate crop.

Newfoundland, which was discovered five years after the first voyage of Columbus, has at times a peculiar visitor which is thus described: "The occasional grounding of an immense iceberg a short distance from the shore produces an astonishing local climatic change during its stay, preventing the opening of crops and garden fruits, but presenting at sunset magnificent prismatic or iridescent effects." It is a symphony in ice more enjoyed by tourists than farmers.

There is a difference of opinion concerning the effects of the long arctic night on explorers or visitors. Nansen says it caused no discomfort to him. But a surgeon under Peary declares that during the prolonged darkness "the mind was depressed and all animal functions became less active. Vague muscular pains, vertigo, cerebral congestion and anemia indicated the sluggish circulation." By Christmas the party was lethargic and melancholy, and the returning light found their skin jaundiced and pale.

Mrs. Besant, who some time ago startled the world by declaring that the aura of intelligence was yellow, has come to Chicago and with the aid of stereopticon views is showing the faithful what this aura and other auras look like. The color of human thought and emotions was given and the audience was shown how anger, love and parental affection appeared to those who had the eyes to see. The aura of an angry person, for instance, was a red cloud, in form resembling a rainbow tump—that is, a moderately angry person. The aura of one who was thoroughly hot under the collar re-

sembled the bursting of a giant crack-er. Unselfish love and high devotion were represented by a lilac haze. A smudge of brown stood for the thought of the average person. When the inner eye of the human race has been trained to see these auras with the aid of a stereopticon trouble may be avoided by steering clear of the red auras and happiness may be had by cultivating the lilac ones. Only at present the milliners and dressmakers say that lilac is not fashionable.

Those curious and harmless people who collect stamps are very much exercised just now concerning the arrest of one of their number in New York for having in his possession some packages of the periodical stamps of the United States. They claim that the government some years ago made it a practice to sell sets of those and other stamps, and gave the purchasers receipts therefor. They assert, moreover, that during the recent postal congress at Washington the postal authorities gave 700 packages to the delegates, and that the most of these sets have since found their way into other hands. If the government has really made it a practice in the past to sell stamps to collectors there is a reasonable doubt of the arrested man's guilt. One wonders, however, whether the amount thus realized ever found its way into the treasury or whether it was pocketed by some employe of the department.

It remained for a practical business man of saffron color to break down the wall of prejudice that has been reared between the Chinese and the Americans since the period of their first intercourse. Ah Fong, a humble Chinaman of an investigating turn of mind, went to Hawaii many years ago in search of a quiet spot where rice was cheap. There he organized himself into a sugar trust, and now he has money to use for stove wood. He also found time to raise a family of thirteen daughters. As Col. Fong's wealth increased his daughters grew more beautiful. As these adorable young ladies round out into womanhood their dotage and yellow papa gives each \$1,000,000 and never misses it from his pile. The rare beauty of the maidens thus adorned soon attracts the eyes of thoughtful young white men. One of the Misses Fong has married a uniformed officer of the United States navy; another is spoken for by a San Francisco attorney, and it is probable the whole thirteen will be annexed by individual Americans before the government gets around to annex their island home. By his simple plan Ah Fong has found a more practical way to overcome class prejudice than that adopted by the Chinaman who represented himself as an Irishman in his efforts to evade the Chinese exclusion laws. The only thing a Chinaman must do to gain favor with Americans is to acquire \$13,000,000 and thirteen daughters. Then he will be recognized like Ah Fong, who is sending his daughters one by one to make it pleasant for their father when he comes over as Senator from the State of Hawaii.

The serious mental illness of Thomas M. Cooley, the distinguished Michigan jurist, will be regarded by the members of the American bar and by all good citizens as a melancholy event. Yet in the course of nature mental and physical decrepitude pass along on parallel lines. Judge Cooley is well along toward octogenarian age and the failure of his powers was to have been expected. Judge Cooley began his public career as editor of the Michigan Watch-Tower, published at Adrian, a Democratic newspaper of renown in the early political history of the West. He afterward became a lawyer of prominence, served on the bench, was chief justice of Michigan and a writer of the highest authority on questions of law. Judge Cooley's volume entitled "The Constitutional Limitations Which Rest Upon the Legislative Power of the States of the American Union" is the ablest and most thorough work on the subject of American constitutional law that any library contains. It is exhaustive and complete. It embodies all the learning of legal practice and of the schools on the subject to which it relates. It will remain to all time a text-book of law having authority equal to the "Commentaries" of Blackstone or Kent. It is one of the most valuable contributions to the cause of law and to the development of justice that have emanated from the human mind. Judge Cooley's highest merit as a jurist and writer on legal subjects consists in the fact that he was always an aggressive advocate of the cause of law and order. He believed in liberty of the largest kind consistent with good government. But he earnestly argued, at all times, in all places and under all circumstances, the duty of the enforcement of the laws. No good citizen could have a higher mission. By none could such a mission be fulfilled with greater vigor and fidelity than Judge Cooley has manifested in the writings and acts of his long and useful public life.

Electrified Rain. A remarkable shower of electrified rain recently fell in Cordova, Spain. At the close of a close, warm day the sky became heavy with clouds. Soon after dark there was a flash of lightning, followed by great drops of rain, which cracked faintly on reaching the ground, sparks flying from each of them. This remarkable incident ceased as the air became heavy with moisture.

Imperfect teeth are a sure sign of civilization. Perfect teeth are found, as a rule, only among savages. An umbrella insurance company has just been organized in London. It will insure cases as well as umbrellas.

OUR ONLY SALVATION

GOVERNMENT BY DIRECT LEGISLATION THE THING.

Treachery of Representatives Leads the People to Say that All Men Have Their Price—Party Spirit the Bane of Politics.

A Deplorable Situation. It is almost safe to say that, barring revolutionary upheavals, there is scarcely an instance where representative governments, as at present constituted, have legislated in the interest of the masses, or where class law has not been the order. Government by representation, or where chosen representatives of the people have made the laws, without consulting the constituency, have drifted into a condition where wealth is concentrated in the hands of the few. As selfish and designing men have controlled kings and monarchs, they have also controlled the representatives of the people in republics.

Most civilized nations to-day are governed by legislative assemblies that mould and shape their institutions, and while republics are more nearly representative of the people, the monarchies of Europe are by no means absolute. Germany has her Reichstag, England her Parliament, Spain her Cortes, etc., and the people of those monarchies imagine that because they vote for their representatives, they enjoy the blessings of liberty.

Our system is patterned after that of England, and while we have thought that the American Congress reflects the will of the people, it is a serious question, in the minds of many, whether we enjoy much advantage over the limited monarchies of Europe, in matters of practical statesmanship and in legislative results.

A representative in Congress is supposed to carry out the will of his constituents and to make such laws as they desire, but has this been the result of our system, so far? If not and if this can not be accomplished under the present system of representation and manner of legislation, a change of system naturally suggests itself to our minds.

Our politics is now conducted by means of party and parties are supposed to stand for ideas, but it remains to be seen whether the idea controls the party or the party the idea. There have been as yet few parties during our national existence and, while we have not gone through enough history to establish positive rules, it is evident that names are about all we have voted for.

The abolition of slavery for which the Republican party stood is about the only instance where a great reform was accomplished by a party and where the party carried out the will of its constituency.

But let us see how this object was accomplished. The platform of the Republican party in 1860 opposed the extension of slavery, but it did not demand its abolition. Slavery was abolished as a war necessity, but not until the Hazard circular appeared, which was a suggestion that slavery of the white man, by means of a money system that guaranteed "capital control of labor," was a system "superior to" chattel slavery and more to the interests of the moneyed classes.

Congress had gotten into the control of the money kings, the greenback was crippled and the national banking system under way before slavery was abolished. Therefore, the Republican party did not abolish slavery, but only substituted one form for another. Again, while the Republican party instituted the greenback money system, the necessity of the war forced it, and just as soon as circumstances admitted, it repudiated it and passed into the control of the money power. So that, after all, the party has carried out reform measures for the people, only so far and as long as circumstances forced it to do so.

The Democratic party opposed the course of the Republican party, in relation to financial legislation, in 1868 and 1872, but when it seemed it was about to gain the ascendancy in 1876, it was brought under the control of the money power, where it remained for twenty years and until the development of a new party on the same issue forced it back to the adoption of a platform in conformity to popular demands.

And it is a notorious fact that, in the days of the slave power, the Democratic party was subservient to the slaveholder. The accession of the Democratic party to power now, even though entirely regenerated, could mean no more than that it would be as potent for reform as was the Republican party in 1860.

The next question to consider is that of the exercise of corrupt influences over legislative bodies. I need not refer to a few instances. It is a matter of history that members of the English parliament in the last century had their price, and that Ricardo, at the instigation of money-lenders, corruptly procured the demonetization of silver in the parliament in 1816.

It is so well authenticated that silver was secretly demonetized in 1873 in the Congress of the United States that the International Encyclopedia has so recorded it as a historical fact; and few will deny that the Illinois Legislature in 1897 was absolutely purchased.

Now, we may ask, did the representatives of the people, in either of the instances cited, carry out the will of their constituency? Not only do we know they did not, but, in the case of the Illinois Legislature where the proposed legislation was publicly known before it was enacted, there was a uni-

versal popular demand that it be defeated, to which demand the Legislature paid no attention.

Worse yet, individual members, who, previous to their election, made the strongest opposition to all monopolies, went boldly over to the enemy and betrayed the trust confided in them.

Parties are composed of men and it can not be claimed that the individual members of one party are more honest than those of another. They are all human.

Seeing that all parties are corrupted how can any party, whatever its pretensions, come before the people and ask their confidence and support?

Indeed, we find to-day a sentiment almost universal among the people that no party can be trusted and that all men have their price—a deplorable situation.

We often hear it remarked that men are not to blame for taking advantage of the system under which they live and operate.

Is this not, in a measure, true, and is there not something wrong with our system of legislation?

I believe that the people really expect no great reform under the present system.

A change of system, such as will effectually handicap corrupt methods, is our hope, and the "referendum" is the only system that can gain the confidence of the people.

This, in a word, is a system of legislation where every law of importance must be ratified by popular vote, and where the people may force vote by petition.

Switzerland has been under this system for fifty years and the most happy results have followed.

This is a forward step in popular government and places all legislation in the hands of the people. It is the ultimatum of Republican institutions and under it there is no place for the lobbyist.

Not only this, but the greatest benefit to arise from it is that it will force the masses of the people to take an interest in the affairs of their country, and when this occurs we will be on safe ground.

All governments of the past have drifted into a centralized despotism where the interests of the masses have been ignored and it is because of their system of legislation.

The trusted agents of ancient Greece sold their country into unholy alliance and Rome languished and died at the hands of a plutocratic Senate. The people took no hand in legislation and consequently knew no remedy.

When Moses ordained the government of the Jews, he admonished the people to take a constant and lively interest in all the laws and in the conduct of public affairs, and Josephus says that, so long as they did this, they were prosperous and happy.

Through negligence they forgot the laws, designing men took advantage of them, confusion followed, when they made the mistake of choosing a king which resulted in final dissolution.

And it is rather suggestive that those kings of the Jews, that the Bible denounces as good, had the laws read regularly to the assembled multitude.

The salvation of our country rests in the political education of the masses and the referendum is the means to the end.

We must do directly what we have been trying in vain to do indirectly; we must do ourselves what chosen agents have failed and are failing to do.

I believe that the bane of our politics at present is party spirit.

In referring to the shrewd diplomacy of the great Augustus, Gibbon says: "He had learned that mankind are governed by names." And the historian laments that, at a given period in Rome, party spirit smothered every principle of patriotism, and that the distinguishing characteristic of parties was only one of the colors of the rainbow. It was not what public policy do you favor, but only, are you for the blue, the green or the yellow? (Democrat or Republican.)

As when we rob a hive of bees, we put on a mask, as conspiracy "masks its monstrous visage," even "to show itself by night," as Brutus said to the faction, so men put on the mask of party to further their schemes of public plunder.

Jay Gould said: "If I have a Democratic Legislature, I am a Democrat; but if the Legislature is Republican, then I am a Republican."

And, if a street car railway company purchase the Legislature of Illinois in the face of the most stupendous popular protest, what would the combined money kings of the world do with a Congress that is elected to overthrow their entire system?

Indeed parties are very convenient political instrumentalities to prejudice and hoodwink the people who follow the name more than men or principle; and so those who have axes to grind watch the popular current and change their party affiliations to suit the situation.

By the use of money they worm their holdings into party offices and nominating conventions, and through the press popularize the flimsy tools of corporations, until they just barely have enough influence to defeat the popular will, leaving the people to believe that they cause so near getting the right that they will trust the party again so to be again deceived.

Let us consider, gain the length of time it requires to develop a party for the accomplishment of a reform, whereas, under the referendum, I could on petition be forced to a vote in sixty or ninety days. Consider the party strife and prejudice that stands in the way of reform under present methods, whereas, under the system proposed, this is altogether obviated. A party may start out now to accomplish a great reform, and before it succeeds the generations have changed and the people become accustomed to present

conditions and imagine them natural and good enough. Besides, let us consider the danger that might follow the corruption of a reform party after it gains power. The people, in such a contingency, would be so thoroughly disgusted that they would lose confidence in our institutions, and, desiring to produce this loss of confidence, the money power and the enemies of free institutions would turn heaven and earth in the effort to control the representatives of the people.

If forced to put laws before the people on petition and to subject those of their own creation to popular vote, the hands of representatives are tied, as should be the case with all agents who are sent on important business.

I believe the framers of the Constitution never contemplated the necessity of political parties, but provided for petition for a redress of grievances just as proposed by the referendum.

Is it proper and practical for the people to adopt the referendum?

In our State governments the people are asked to vote on constitutional amendments, and if they may vote on the fundamental law, why not on those laws that are subordinate to and dependent upon the Constitution?

As to its practicability, we can do what Switzerland has done, certainly.

Favoring the referendum as I do, and having full confidence in it as a means for a higher civilization (civilization being molded by legislation), I have no party fealty only for its accomplishment, and ask no other declaration in a platform than a pledge for direct legislation. This accomplished, and the people can direct the making of laws as they see fit, and faction and party will be a thing of the past.—H. J. Parker, in Chicago Express.

The Only Hope.

If nature intended the factory system to be the highest glory of human progress, why was not the earth built like the model town of Pullman? If we were to spend six-sevenths of our time feeding iron machines, why were our hands made so soft and tender? Why have we not iron hooks instead of fingers?

Why wasn't the sun fixed so we could use it for a furnace and save coal?

Why wasn't the ocean shut up in a boiler?

Why wasn't the earth built up in flats, with tenements instead of mountains?

Why can't we have free trade with the stars? Why don't the clouds drop sawdust? Why are there no meters on the sunshine and the rain clouds? Why was sleep made a necessity for poor people, when it is so wasteful? Why are the common grains and fruits on the surface of the earth, while the gold, precious, divine gold, is buried among rocks and mud?

It is enough to drive Pierpont Morgan insane to think of the money-making possibilities that God overlooked when He made this world. It is certain that whoever made this world was no financier.

If business were the one great end of life, why are there any unsalable rainbows and sunsets and flowers and butterflies? Why is the human mind encumbered with such useless furniture as imagination, sympathy, ideals, friendship, love? If our great aim is to become passive, non-resisting, non-thinking machines, why were we not made into machinery in the first place, instead of degenerating by the present painful process?

No nation ever suffered as much as America is suffering now, because no people ever had ideals so high and feelings so sensitive. Our hope for reform is based on the refusal of our working people to eat shin-bones and live in tar-paper shanties, and grovel in the shadow of a few industrial despots.—Herbert N. Casson.

Liberty Threatened.

There is no longer any place in the archives of the G. O. P. for the declaration of independence. It is a document which the narrow minded bigots of the gold trust are quite willing to have destroyed. They are doing all they can to make it a cross outworn, and as they fatten on the gifts of a Republican administration they grow more bold in their attacks on the principles of liberty and the right of free speech.

In a lame apology for the action of the trustees of Brown University, the New York Sun makes the following unpatriotic and disloyal remark: "But it must be remembered that the corporation did not ask the head of the institution to change his views. He was requested to abstain from such conduct as would do harm to the college." In other words, all that was required of President Andrews was the abandonment of the constitutional right to free speech and consummate the sale of his manhood at the dictates of the money power. When such an outrage on the basic principle of free government can find an apologist in a leading newspaper, it is time for the people to protest. Honest men of all parties are shocked at the overt acts of those who, in their greed for gold, have forgotten their manhood and abused themselves in an attempt to defend the indefensible. The liberty-loving men of America will not tolerate such oppression, and the trusts and combines will eventually discover that they have only been laying up wrath for the day of wrath.—Tri-State Farm News.

Prosperity for Gage.

Lyman Gage continues to announce that prosperity is in sight, but so far the tangible evidence seems to be pretty closely confined to the Gage family. The son, who owns the Alaska transportation line, doubtless realized his presence last week when he sold tickets in six days amounting to over \$450,000, but the poor dupes who are going to freeze to death in Alaska this winter are the victims of a false civilization which worships a golden calf and

teaches men that metal is money. They are aiven to desperate straits by our infamous systems of rent, usury and taxation, and will face almost certain death rather than endure them forever. Yes, prosperity is here for Lyman Gage and his son, but God help the balance of us.—Chicago Express.

Three Miles for a Cent.

In Australia, on Government-owned railroads, you can ride a distance of 1,000 miles for \$6.50, first-class, while workmen can ride six miles for two cents, twelve miles for four cents, thirty miles for ten cents, and railroad men receive from 25 to 35 per cent. more pay for eight hours of labor than they are paid in this country for ten hours. In Victoria, where these rates prevail, the net income from the roads is sufficient to pay all the Federal taxes, which is another convincing proof of the possibility of government without taxation.

In Hungary, where the roads are state-owned, you can ride six miles for one cent, and since the roads were bought by the Government the men's wages were doubled.

Belgium tells the same story—fairs and freight rates cut down one-half, and wages doubled. Yet the roads pay a yearly revenue to the Government of \$4,000,000.

In the United States, under private ownership, it is the other way. We have paid the railroads billions in land and money and are now paying them millions yearly for carrying the mail, and yet freight and passenger rates are so extortionate as to be almost prohibitive, while wages paid railroad employes are degrading and almost criminal in their smallness. Surely, America has a deal to learn from its various mother countries.

In Germany you can ride four miles for one cent on the government-owned lines. Yet wages are over 125 per cent. higher than when the corporations owned them, and during the past ten years the net profits have increased 41 per cent. Last year the roads paid the German Government a net profit of \$25,000,000.

If our Government owned the railroads we could go from Boston to San Francisco for \$10. Here is the proof: The United States pays \$275 for the postal car from Boston to San Francisco. A passenger car will carry fifty passengers, which, at \$10 each, would be \$500, a clean profit of \$250 per car, and this too, after paying five and one-half per cent. on watered stock, which is fully 100 per cent. on the cost of the road. These quoted figures are taken from a reliable source.—Uncle Sam.

The Initiative and Referendum.

Places the enactment of all laws in the hands of the people.

It will cause the people to study all the laws.

This will simplify the laws.

It will purify the ballot.

It will detrone the party boss.

It will destroy lobbying and cause general discussion of economics among the people.

It will destroy corporate and private monopoly.

It will broaden and purify the minds of the people.

It will prevent physical revolution.

It will establish a government of, for and by the people.

It will destroy sectionalism.

It will simplify government.

It will reduce lawsuits to a minimum.

It will destroy slavery to party.

It will reduce taxation to the needs of economic government.

It will stop the corrupting of Legislators and Congressmen.

It will establish justice to all and exclusive privileges to none.

It will destroy our present cannibalistic civilization and inaugurate the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.—West Texas Sentinel (Abilene).

Before and After.

Private Ownership. Public Ownership.

Bangor, Me. \$150 \$48
Lewiston, Me. 182 52
Peabody, Mass. 185 62
Bay City, Mich. 110 58
Goshen, Ind. 156 71
Huntington, Ind. 148 56
Chicago, Ill. 250 96
Bloomington, Ill. 111 57
Elgin, Ill. 296 43
Aurora, Ill. 326 76
Fairfield, Iowa. 378 76
Marshalltown, Iowa. 125 27

Cumberland is now paying out some \$8,000 to have her streets half lighted. Under public ownership the present service should not cost half that sum. Are not \$4,000 worth saving, you tax-ridden citizens, or don't you think you have as much sense as the citizens of the above towns?—Uncle Sam.

Think a Moment.

You have never heard of there being a scarcity of postage stamps, have you? You have never heard of postage stamps depreciating in value, have you? You have never heard of postage stamps being at a premium, have you? You have never heard of postage stamps going to Europe, have you? You have never heard of postage stamps being hoarded, have you? You have never heard of the Government having to issue bonds to buy postage stamps, have you? You have never stopped to think why these things are not so, have you? Well, do so right now for about five minutes.—Living Issues.

We are taking no particular interest in the present coal strike. It's the same old set game that the miners' officials in consort with a few big operators have played for years—but God pity the women and children.—Advance Guard.

When Democrats quote Jones and Stewart of Nevada as Populists, do not notice the statement on the spot. They are bastard Democrats and have no honor part with Populists.—Southern Mercury.