

The Commoner.

Straws for Reorganizers.

In an article in the Chicago American, under the above caption, Hon. J. G. Johnson of Kansas, chairman of the executive committee of the democratic national committee, says:

The assistant republicans with democratic antecedents who have set themselves the task of reorganizing the democratic party to suit their peculiarly "conservative" theories will doubtless "view with alarm" the heresies of the progressive democrats of San Francisco and Chicago.

The new charter of San Francisco is admitted on all hands to be the most radical municipal code yet adopted by any metropolitan city in America. It provides for absolute home rule, for public ownership of monopolies and utilities, for adequate compensation to the city for the use of privileges and franchises, and, by a referendum system, that the people shall pass in advance upon proposed grants of important franchises for all purposes.

The democratic party in San Francisco indorsed and supported this charter, and after its adoption reindorsed it and elected the first mayor to administer its provisions, and has been, through Mayor Phelan, administering the city's affairs in accordance with its terms ever since its adoption, and apparently to the entire satisfaction of democrats of all shades of belief.

Within a few days the democrats of Chicago have renominated their popular mayor on a platform which declares for home rule, municipal ownership of all public utilities, including street railways, gas and electric lights, no use of public privileges by private corporations without ample compensation, and the adoption of the referendum system as a check on vicious legislation.

Mayor Harrison, on this platform, will receive, as he should, the cordial support of every Chicago democrat.

Democrats everywhere recognize these principles as being luminous with the purest democracy. They harmonize with and emphasize such time-honored democratic maxims as "economical government," "special privileges to none" and "the preservation of power in the hands of the people," and no consistent democrat will advocate a purely local application of these salutary policies. * * *

These principles are in the platform of the democracy of Chicago and San Francisco to stay. They will not be "reorganized" out. They are in the hearts of the democracy in the state and nation as well, and woe to the "reorganizer" who is wilfully or ignorantly blind to that fact.

Jackson vs. Imperialism.

Congressman Gaines of Tennessee, who represents the Hermitage district, has had printed in the Congressional Record a letter in which he presents evidence to show that Jackson was not an imperialist. The quotations given by Mr. Gaines prove that the hero of New Orleans specifically repudiated the doctrines which the republicans now advocate. The following is taken from the letter:

To the Editor of The American:

The republican speakers throughout the country, by way of justification of the injustice done the Porto Ricans, say that the laws recently passed to govern Porto Rico are exactly alike or similar to the laws passed in 1821 by Congress for the government of Florida until "the first session of the next Congress," and that Andrew Jackson as governor of Florida enforced these laws. I deny that the laws are even remotely identical, but even if it were true, we nevertheless find Andrew Jackson refusing to enforce the Florida statute except for a few months (June to October), and after setting up the government under this law as best he could, he resigned and returned home (in October, 1821), and in severe and unmistakable language condemned the law. Here are his words:

"I am clothed with powers which no one in a re-

public ought to possess and which, I trust, will never be again given to any man. Nothing will give me more happiness than to learn that Congress in its wisdom shall have distributed them properly and in such a manner as is consonant to our earliest and deepest convictions." (Frost's History of Jackson, and Monument to Jackson.)

At another time he said: "I hope that no living man shall ever in the future be clothed with such extraordinary authority." (State Papers, p. 100, Seventeenth Congress.)

How can one conceive of language more severely condemnatory of the un-republican law that conferred such imperial power?

The Statesman's Manual, volume 1, says: "Jackson took possession of Florida in August, 1821, and remained but a few months, for, disliking the situation and disapproving the extent of power invested in him as governor, he resigned the office and again retired to Tennessee."

What Jackson then condemned McKinley now endorses. He condemned both the policy and the law under which he acted, even although it was a temporary law and a temporary policy, and the people made him President and continue to honor his memory. McKinley now upholds this policy and law and demands that we make both the policy and law permanent for the control of our new imperial possessions, because he has determined to hold them permanently, thus making this policy and law necessarily continuous, since he does not propose to make them into states nor the inhabitants into citizens of the United States, nor to acknowledge that the Constitution of the United States applies to them, but must go there, if at all, "by statute as a statute," repealable at any time. And yet he asks the American people to uphold what Jackson condemned and declined to uphold, and for that reason make him again President, and thus make him and his successors, if he ever has any, the imperial rulers of 11,000,000 inhabitants who can claim no rights nor benefits under the Constitution.

The Florida territory contained about 10,000 inhabitants, white and black, and our treaty acquiring them made them citizens if they so elected, gave the immediate right of future statehood and the protection of the Constitution, now no longer doubted to apply to the territories, as the Supreme Court of the United States has held in many opinions, while the President and his party propose to hold them indefinitely, and perhaps perpetually, outside the protection of the Constitution, without ever intending to make states of the territory or citizens of the people.

A few days before he resigned and came home from Florida General Jackson, in a public letter addressed, not to serfs, colonists, or dependents, but "to the citizens of Florida," said:

"They (the secretaries of east and west Florida) are charged faithfully to protect and maintain all the citizens and inhabitants of whatsoever description, in the said provinces in the peaceful enjoyment of their rights, privileges and immunities secured to them under the treaty with Spain and under the Constitution of the United States, so far as the same is applicable."

The republicans say that the Constitution does not extend to our new possessions, but only to the states, thus threatening Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma with imperialism; whereas Jackson held that the Constitution applied to the territories, and that, too, at an early day when the courts had not fully construed or settled that question, now declared no longer to be an "open question" by the Supreme Court of the United States, composed of both republicans and democrats.

Books Received.

How to Study: by W. M. Welch. A guide for pupil's self improvement in school and home. W. M. Welch, publisher, Chicago and Omaha.

Money and Social Problems: by J. Wilson Harper. Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier, publishers, Edinburgh and London.

Up From Slavery: by Booker T. Washington. An autobiography—Doubleday, Page & Co., New York.

Odin's Last Hour, and other poems: by Henry

McD. Fletcher. The Neeley Co., publishers, New York and Chicago.

Elementary Principles of Economics: by Charles H. Chase. Chas. H. Kerr & Co., publishers, Chicago.

The Hope of His Calling, or The Anointed Life: by Rev. J. H. Goodpasture. The Cumberland Press, publishers, Nashville, Tenn.

The Religion of a Gentleman: by Charles F. Dole. Thomas V. Crowell, publisher, New York.

Municipal Public Service Industries: by Allen Ripley Foote. The Other Side Publishing Co., Chicago.

Wealth Against Commonwealth, a book on trusts: by Henry Demorest Lloyd. Harper Bros., publishers, New York.

Light in the Darkness, or Christianity and Paganism: by K. B. Birkeland. Reminiscences of a Journey Around the World. Minnehaha Publishing Co., Minneapolis, Minn.

Police Power: by W. G. Hastings, Wilbur, Neb. An essay on the development of law, as illustrated by the decisions relating to the police power of the state. Awarded two thousand dollar prize by American Philosophical Society.

Launching and Landing, or Poems of Life: by Perry Marshall. Chas. H. Kerr & Co., publishers, Chicago.

Business Without Money: by William Henry Van Ornum. A plan to reduce the dependence of business men upon money and finally to cease its use entirely. The Co-operative Press, publishers, Chicago.

American Relations in the Pacific and the Far East: by James Morton Callahan. Published by the Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Md.

My Friend Bill: by Anson A. Gard. A story with a political moral. Published by the Emerson Press, New York.

Some Cases in Point.

BY J. A. EDGERTON IN LINCOLN (NEB.) POST.

Said the snake unto the hop-toad: "I propose benevolent

Assimilation.

I possess so strong a love for you I seek your betterment

And elevation.

Should I leave you here in ignorance, you always would remain

Just an unintelligent toad, and so 'tis wholly for your gain

That I take you in and raise you to my exalted plane

Of civilization."

Said the tom-cat to the gray rat: "It has been decreed that I

Initiate you

In the mysteries of progress and unto my system high

Con-cat-enate you.

You are nothing but a savage and I want it understood

That my course is necessary and entirely for your good.

'Tis alone to lift you from your degradation that I would

Assimilate you."

Said the hen-hawk to the chicken: "By an act of Providence

'Tis necessary

To assist you in your progress to a greater eminence.

It is my very

Pleasant duty to assure you of my genuine desire

To induce you to rise upward and to help you to aspire;

In my generous affection, you unto a station higher

I'll gladly carry."

Said the lion to the lamb: "I do assure you on my word

I dearly prize you;

But your heathenish barbarity my zeal has deeply stirred,

To civilize you.

It has been arranged by destiny that I am to expand.

'Tis the voice of Duty calls me—which the same I can't withstand—

For your benefit and blessing, unto me she gives command

To gormandize you."