

The Commoner.

crat; his wealth, considerable for that day, might naturally have made him partial to the rich, but he cast his lot with the common people. Many with less education have from a feeling of superiority held aloof from their fellows, but he employed his knowledge of history, of law, of science and of art for the defense and protection of the masses.

He believed in the right of the people to govern themselves and in their capacity for self-government. When near the end of life, fortified by an experience and observation such as few men have had, he wrote: "I am not among those who fear the people. They, and not the rich, are our dependence for continued freedom."

Only four years before his death he said: "Independence can be trusted nowhere but with the people in mass. They are inherently independent of all but moral law." At another time he said: "No other depositaries of power than the people themselves have ever been found, which did not end in converting to their own profit the earnings of those committed to their charge."

And, to add still another extract from his writings: "The people are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty."

He not only believed in the people, but he understood the people and recognized the distinctions which everywhere exist, however much concealed or denied. Read the analysis which he gave of parties and see how completely it has been born out by the history of the last hundred years:

Men, by their constitutions, are naturally divided into two parties: 1. Those who fear and distrust the people, and wish to draw all powers from them into the hands of the higher classes. 2. Those who identify themselves with the people, have confidence in them, cherish them and consider them as the most honest and safe, although not the most wise depositary of the public interest. In every country these two parties exist, and in every one where they are free to think, speak and write, they will declare themselves. Call them, therefore, liberals and serviles, Jacobins and ultras, whigs and Tories, republicans and federalists, aristocrats and democrats, or by whatever name you please, they are the same parties still, and pursue the same object. The last appellation of aristocrats and democrats is the true one expressing the essence of all.

Jefferson not only announced great fundamental principles, but he applied them to so many different questions that he can be read as an authority on all questions of today. He was opposed to imperialism and believed in self-government; he was for a republic composed of equal and self-governing states and entirely opposed to the colonial idea.

He was opposed to a large army and believed that a government was stronger when resting upon the love of the people than when tolerated only because of fear.

He was so opposed to the principle of monopoly that he only excepted copy rights and patents. Here is the amendment which he suggested to the Constitution: "Monopolies may be allowed to persons for their own productions in literature, and their own inventions in the arts, for a term not exceeding — years, but for no longer term, and for no other purpose." At another time he suggested fourteen years as the limit for patents.

His hostility to monopoly was exemplified in 1787, in a communication to John Jay, in which

he said: "A company had silently and by unfair means obtained a monopoly for the making and selling of spermaceti candles (in France). As soon as we (Lafayette assisted him) discovered it we solicited its suppression which is effected by a clause in the Arret."

He denounced as a fatal fallacy the doctrine that a national debt is a blessing.

He was the relentless enemy of banks of issue. At one time he declared that banks of issue were more dangerous than standing armies. At another time he said: "I hope we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations, which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength, and bid defiance to the laws of our country."

In 1819 he said, "Interdict forever to both the state and national government the power of establishing any paper bank; for without this interdiction we shall have the same ebbs and flows of medium, and the same revolution of property to go through every twenty or thirty years."

He was a believer in bimetallism, and no one who understands his principles can for a moment conceive of him yielding to the financial influences which controlled Mr. Cleveland's administration and the republican administrations which preceded and followed it.

He warned his countrymen against the dangers of an appointive judiciary holding office for life.

Of the freedom of speech he said: "The liberty of speaking and writing guards our other liberties."

Of the freedom of the press he wrote, "Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press and that cannot be limited without being lost."

He was the author of the statute of Virginia guaranteeing religious liberty and was also the father of the University of Virginia. He favored a free school system which would bring to every child an opportunity to secure an education.

He was an advocate of the jury system; and he argued in favor of freeing the slaves three-quarters of a century before Lincoln issued his emancipation proclamation.

His writings fill many volumes and cover almost every conceivable subject, but through all that he said there runs the evidence of a great heart as well as a great intellect.

There is need today of a revival of Jeffersonian principles. He was not an enemy of honestly acquired wealth, but he believed that the government had no right to exaggerate by favoritism the differences between individuals. He believed that all should stand equal before the law and that every department of government, executive, legislative and judicial, should recognize and protect the rights of the humblest citizen as carefully as it would the rights of the greatest and most influential.

Jefferson's principles, applied to the problems of the twentieth century, would restore the republic to its old foundations and make it the supreme moral factor in the world's progress. The application of his principles today would restore industrial independence and annihilate trusts. The application of his principles today would drive the money changers out of the temple, insure to the people a stable currency and harmonize labor and capital by compelling justice to both.

Society today has its aristocratic and its dem-

ocratic elements; whether Jefferson's principles are applied depends upon which element controls the government.

Scant Honor to Harrison.

The Boston Globe calls attention to a fact which would indicate that some of the citizens of the "Hub" have more interest in things happening abroad than they have in similar events in the United States. It says:

When Queen Victoria died Bostonians were very prompt in displaying their flags at half mast to do honor to her memory. It was quite noticeable yesterday to many people that the national colors were hung out very scantily, considering that an American ex-president had just died. Is an English monarch more worthy the homage of the flag than an American president who helped to defend it? Is sentiment fading out in this mammon-hunting country, or shall we confess that republics are becoming more and more ungrateful with the growth of material allurements?

No wonder the anti-imperialists of Massachusetts are in earnest. They evidently see that European ideas are being transplanted upon American soil as well as in the Philippines.

Lincoln and the Silver Republicans.

The San Francisco Call, speaking of the action of Senator Dubois and other silver republicans in joining the democratic party, takes occasion to misrepresent the position of Abraham Lincoln on the silver question. It says: "The messages and writings of Mr. Lincoln prove him to have been the predecessor of Mr. Cleveland in declaring the principles of sound money, which Mr. Cleveland made the pole star of his administration. Both Lincoln and Cleveland stood exactly in line with Jefferson and Jackson on the issue of sound money."

It also denies the right of the silver republican to claim any kinship with Lincoln or his principles. It is not strange that the gold standard papers attempt to distort history, for they are compelled to do so in order to find any support for their financial theories.

Jefferson believed that the money unit should rest on the two metals, gold and silver; while Mr. Cleveland believes that the money unit should rest on one metal, gold. Jackson affixed his signature to the bill which provided for the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the legal ratio of sixteen to one, without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation, and in changing the ratio from fifteen to one, to sixteen to one he reduced the size of the gold dollar. Mr. Cleveland is the leader of those democrats who are opposed to the coinage of silver into legal tender money at any ratio or under any circumstances.

Raymond's Life of Lincoln, published soon after the death of President Lincoln and before the republican party began its crusade against silver, reproduces a message which Lincoln sent to the miners of the west. The following is an extract from it:

Mr. Colfax, I want you to take a message from me to the miners whom you visit. I have very large ideas of the mineral wealth of our nation. I believe it practically inexhaustible. It abounds all over the western country, from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific, and its development has scarcely commenced. During the war, when we were adding a couple