

## The Commoner.

and one-half in which to show the American people his conception of official duty. Will he be content to devote himself unselfishly to the public good as he sees it, or will he begin to plan for the capture of the next republican convention? Will he decide all controversies with an eye single to the nation's welfare, or will the advancement of his own political fortune be uppermost in his mind? When Mr. Cleveland accepted the Democratic nomination in 1884, he said:

"When an election to office shall be the selection by the voters of one of their number to assume for a time a public trust instead of his dedication to the profession of politics; when the holders of the ballot, quickened by a sense of duty, shall avenge truth betrayed and pledges broken, and when the suffrage shall be altogether free and uncorrupted, the full realization of a government by the people will be at hand. And of the means to this end, not one would, in my judgment, be more effective than an amendment to the constitution disqualifying the president from re-election.

"When we consider the patronage of this great office, the allurements of power, the temptation to retain public office once gained, and, more than all, the availability a party finds in an incumbent whom a horde of office-holders, with zeal born of benefits received and fostered by the hope of favors yet to come, stand ready to aid with money and trained political service, we recognize in the eligibility of a president for re-election a most serious danger to that calm, deliberate and intelligent political action which must characterize a government by the people."

Mr. Cleveland would have stood better in history and his party would have been benefitted if he had followed his own advice and declined a second term, but his acceptance of a renomination only proved the strength of the influences against which he warned his countrymen.

If Mr. Roosevelt desires republican authority on this subject, he can find it in the letter of acceptance of Mr. Hayes in 1876. He said:

"The declaration of principles by the Cincinnati convention makes no announcement in favor of a single presidential term. I do not assume to add to that declaration, but believing that the restoration of the civil service to the system established by Washington and followed by the early presidents can be best accomplished by an executive officer who is under no temptation to use the patronage of his office to promote his own re-election, I desire to perform what I regard as a duty in stating now my inflexible purpose, if elected, not to be a candidate for election to a second term."

President Hayes adhered to his determination and his party was stronger in 1880 than it was in 1876.

Mr. Roosevelt will find that there are many things that "can be best accomplished by an executive officer who is under no temptation to use the patronage of his office to promote his own re-election." If he will announce his determination not to be a candidate for renomination, he will be relieved of a great deal of embarrassment and anxiety, and he will find sufficient "strenuous life" in an effort to make his administration conspicuous for its honesty and efficiency. If he intends to appear before the next republican convention as a candidate he must prepare to fight the bosses of his party or to surrender to them. He is aware of the fact that the republican organization did not look with favor upon his candidacy; he was

thought too independent. If he is independent and does his own thinking he will alienate those gentlemen (it is not necessary to name them) who insist upon controlling political affairs in their various sections. There is one question which President Roosevelt will have to meet upon which his course is likely to be determined by his ambition. If he is going to seek another term, he will find it difficult to antagonize the great corporations which are rapidly securing a monopoly of the nation's industries, for the trust magnates are influential in republican conventions and their contributions are helpful during campaigns. The financiers will insist upon controlling the financial policy of his administration and their threats will be potent if he must pass through a republican convention before he can get to the people for an endorsement, but their fury will be of no avail if he is content with the record made during the present term.

Scarcely a day will pass but that he will have to decide between himself and the people. What will his decision be? Three years and a half of work as a conscientious, earnest and brave defender of the interests of the people would win for him more real glory than seven years and a half devoted to the advancement of his own interests—the first half spent in contracting obligation with influential men and corporations and the second half spent in discharging the obligations at the expense of the people.

President Roosevelt has reached the parting of the ways; which road will he take?

### Much Ado About Nothing.

A young woman living in an interior town in Illinois wrote recently to President Harper of the University of Chicago informing him that she intended to attend that school and would arrive on a certain day, and asking the good doctor to meet her at the depot.

Evidently Dr. Harper regarded this request in the nature of lese majeste, for it appears that he gave this letter to the newspapers, and these disseminators of fact and fiction have made a vast amount of noise concerning this simple request.

It would seem that President Harper was greatly shocked because this prospective student asked so eminent a man to meet her at the depot and assist her in reaching the college. All of the Chicago papers of September 12 devoted considerable space to the publication of this girl's letter. To be sure, the girl's name is not given, but it will unquestionably be humiliating to her to have her very simple request posted so conspicuously before the world.

If this Illinois girl was guilty of a great offense in making such a request, it would seem that so eminent a man as the president of the University of Chicago could afford to overlook the enormous wrong; at least he need not have offered a rebuke in the form of publication.

It would have been vastly more to Dr. Harper's credit had he simply detailed one of the subordinates, with whom he is plentifully supplied, to comply with this girl's request, or

if that was not possible he might have so notified his correspondent.

It is not strange that a young girl from an interior town, intending to visit a strange city of Chicago's size, should desire to avoid any of the inconveniences or embarrassments frequently attending a young girl's first visit to a great town. It is strange, however, that the president of a college would seek to humiliate a prospective student, or, for that matter, seek to humiliate any other person who happened to make of him a very simple request, by giving publicity to the simplicity and making sport of her ignorance of the importance of a great and eminent man like the President of Mr. Rockefeller's university.

### Riches Well Employed.

The story of the will of Alfred B. Nobel, reported to have been the richest man in Sweden, is told in the Chicago Record-Herald by William E. Curtis. Nobel died in December, 1896. He left a will providing for the establishment of five institutes representing as many different fields of activity, physical science, chemistry, medicine, literature and humanity, or the cause of peace. Each of these institutes is to be permanent and receive its proportionate share of the revenue from the Nobel estate. The headquarters of all are to be in Stockholm. Mr. Curtis tells the details thus:

"The king of Sweden is to have general supervision and appoint a general inspector or president of the joint committee or executive board. He has already selected Dr. Bostrom, who for sixteen years was prime minister of Sweden, but was compelled to resign last summer. Each institute is to have its own building, library and apparatus, and its affairs are to be governed by a faculty of specialists. The members of these faculties may be Swedes or foreigners, but they must be scientists of unquestioned reputation in their respective fields of inquiry and devote their entire time to the duties of their position, which are to develop and extend the usefulness of the discoveries or inventions for which prizes are awarded. They are to have the title of professor and must reside in Stockholm.

"Each year a prize is to be awarded to that person who in the judgment of the committee has made the most important discovery in the field of science or written the most valuable literary work, or performed the most useful service in promoting peace among his fellow men. Candidates for these prizes must be named by learned bodies. Personal applications will not be received. Professors in certain universities, both Swedish and foreign, distinguished scientists and scholars, especially invited by the Swedish Academy of Sciences, and former prize winners may make nominations. The provisions are complete and are printed in great detail in a code of statutes, which has the approval of the king.

"The money value of the prizes will depend upon the income of the fund. This year the first prizes to be awarded under the will have the value of 150,000 kroner each, or a little more than \$40,000 in American money.

"The prizes for the most important discoveries or inventions in physical science and chemistry will be awarded by the Swedish Academy of Sciences; that in medicine by the Carolina Medical Institute of Stockholm; the prize for literature by the Swedish Academy, and the prize for peace by a committee of five persons to be elected by the Norwegian parliament."

It is pointed out as a singular fact that