

British premier says it has, and if the statement is a "falsehood," as the Chicago clergyman says it is, then republican form of government is a failure; then the men who builded this nation were mere theorists and liberty is a thing to be reserved for a few men ordained of God to enjoy the best of life.

The statement, "all men are created equal," was well described by Mr. Lincoln in his speech delivered at Alton, in which he said: "I think the authors of that notable instrument intended to include all men, but they did not mean to declare all men equal in all respects. They did not mean to say that all men were equal in color, size, intellect, moral development or social capacity. They defined with tolerable distinctness in what they did consider all men created equal—equal in certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This they said and this they meant. They did not mean to assert the obvious untruth, that all were then actually enjoying that equality, or yet, that they were about to confer it immediately upon them. In fact they had no power to confer such a boon. They meant simply to declare the right so that the enforcement of it might follow as fast as circumstances should permit. They meant to set up a standard maxim for free society which should be familiar to all; constantly looked to, constantly labored for, and even, though never perfectly attained, constantly approximated, and thereby constantly spreading and deepening its influence and augmenting the happiness and value of life to all people of all colors, everywhere."

In his speech delivered at Springfield, Mr. Lincoln said: "The assertion that 'all men are created equal' was of no practical use in effecting our separation from Great Britain; and it was placed in the Declaration, not for that, but for future use. Its authors meant it to be—as, thank God, it is now proving itself, a stumbling-block to those who in after times might seek to turn a free people back into the hateful paths of despotism. They knew the proneness of prosperity to breed tyrants and they meant, when such should reappear in this fair land and commence their vocation, they should find left for them, at least, one hard nut to crack."

The Influences Behind Parker.

John Brisbane Walker, editor and proprietor of The Cosmopolitan, recently hired a hall in New York and made a speech in which he discussed democratic principles, policies and candidates. In the course of his remarks he paid his respects to the Parker boom, saying:

"I have it on good authority that seven months ago, in London, the friends of Mr. Pierpont Morgan were announcing confidently that a man had been found who would beat Theodore Roosevelt—a man by the name of Parker, a protege and friend of David B. Hill—and that sufficient money would be spent to corrupt the democratic politicians and control the democratic convention. I heard of this almost at the time, but like many another at sea, looking at the sky and beholding this tiny cloud, no greater than a man's hand in the political skies, I could not believe that it meant more than an idle boast given forth by the disgruntled merged organizer. If I had reflected on the power of money, if I had reflected upon the vast organization which Wall street has throughout the United States, if I had reflected upon the unscrupulous determination which these men showed in the campaigns of 1896 and 1900, if I had reflected upon the endless ramifications through which money can exercise an influence, if I had reflected upon the unstinted liberality permitted to those who gobble their tens of millions through government privilege, I could have predicted with certainty just what has come to pass.

"But I could not believe that the effrontery of these men would be so great; that they could regard the American people as so asinine; that they could hope to stand up and simply by asseverating through their powerful press connection that white is black and black is white, and white is black and black is white, repeated ad innitum, they could hope to make the American people color-blind. But it is one of the peculiarities of the sharp politician, the greedy politician, the unscrupulous politician, the astute politician—to sum up in English as it is spoken in New York, the "peanut politician"—that his views can never in the nature of things extend very far beyond his nose. He has no idea of the breadth of the American continent, he has an utter contempt for the intelligence of the American people, and he

thinks that cunning and manipulation can do it all.

"And so we have come to have the newspapers discussing as a matter, almost, of certainty that the man will be nominated on the democratic ticket who was announced six months ago in London as Mr. Morgan's candidate to beat Roosevelt, that republican who, though pretty certain, is not always to be relied upon by Mr. Morgan when it comes to transactions with the government, as was Mr. Cleveland in his famous bond deals.

"So far as the public has been able to tell, this gentleman is absolutely the creature of four men—Mr. David B. Hill, Mr. August Belmont, Mr. Patrick McCarren, and Mr. Francis Lynde Stetson, the well-known lawyer of Mr. Pierpont Morgan who was the intermediary between Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Morgan in those same bond deals."

The editor of The Commoner learned months before that Judge Parker was Mr. Morgan's candidate. Before the papers began to boom him it was known that he was being discussed in financial circles, and eighteen months ago Mr. Morgan was reported to have declared him a safe and suitable man before the papers began to discuss the possibility of his candidacy. We have had one J. Pierpont Morgan president, and he did the democratic party more harm than all the republican presidents since the war. When the republicans elect a Wall street man, the democrats can denounce him and gain recruits by so doing. When the democrats are unfortunate enough to have a Wall street president, they have to either denounce him or apologize for him, and no matter which they do, they have to bear the odium of his administration. No wonder Mr. Cleveland speaks highly of Judge Parker. He is on the inside, and knows that Mr. Parker is satisfactory to Morgan and Belmont and the other financial magnates who ran the Cleveland administration, and yet while it is as plain as day that the Parker boom finds its source in Wall street, there are many democrats who are trying to argue themselves into believing that Judge Parker would be a good man to harmonize on. He has the same environment that Mr. Cleveland had, and it can be set down as a certainty that Wall street always finds out a man's views before it supports him, however much those views may be concealed from the public generally.

Not at all Strange.

The New York World asks: "Is it not strange that the managers of our great corporations have not yet learned the utter folly of attempting to manipulate the making of the laws, of seeking to affect the execution of those laws after they are made? Do not these great aggregations of capital, more even than the humblest citizen, need the law's protection in their daily undertakings? Is it not folly's crowning act for them to set themselves up to evade and combat the people's will, which is the source of all law?"

Why does the World think this strange? It is true that so far as final results are concerned it is folly; and yet it is not at all strange that these men who have so thoroughly succeeded in manipulating legislation and avoiding the execution of laws that are distasteful to them have not yet learned that their policy is a bad one.

Do we not know that in nearly every town in the country municipal government is controlled by the corporations and municipal policies framed to suit the wishes of corporation managers?

Do we not see in many of the states legislatures dominated by corporation lobbies, men who have been chosen by the corporations elected to the United States senate and legislation generally framed along corporation lines?

Do we not see the power wielded by corporation managers in the halls of congress and the influence exercised by these same men in the executive branch of the federal government?

On the other hand, do we not find in many instances newspapers like the New York World that, while protesting generally against the machinations of these corporation leaders are frequently found ardently supporting the plans agreed upon by these men?

If the press of the country would, in consideration of the program adopted by the corporation managers in particular cases, practice what it preaches on general lines, marked improvement would be immediately noticeable. But it is a lamentable fact that while the metropolitan editors would become highly indignant if it were charged that they were in league with the special

interests, metropolitan newspapers are very generally engaged in supporting corporation managers in their effort to dominate public affairs.

So long as the metropolitan newspapers assail men who protest against corporation encroachment and lend their influence to corporation schemes, it may be depended upon that the corporation managers will not change their tactics.

Until these great newspapers get in line with public interests, not by writing profound essays upon general subjects, but in making vigorous and plain-spoken protest against the efforts of corporation lobbies to control political conventions and to elect their pets to office, the managers of our great corporations will not learn the "utter folly of attempting to manipulate the making of the laws and seeking to affect the execution of those laws after they are made."

"There are Others."

Referring to the selection by H. C. Frick, the steel trust magnate, of Mr. Knox to be United States senator, the New York World says: "Is it not a colossal outrage that three or four men who are republicans in republican states, democrats in democratic states and corporation men always and everywhere should have the power to select in the inner office of a railway company the man who in the name of a great historic party shall represent the second state of the Union as a member of the most august deliberate assembly on earth?"

It will be admitted that that is something of an "outrage."

There is just now an effort made to persuade the democratic convention to nominate for the presidency a man who is the pet candidate of corporation men.

August Belmont, the financier whose methods have been roundly denounced by the New York World, is the leader of the coterie of corporation men who have undertaken to push this particular candidacy to the front.

Is it any more offensive that the trust magnates should select the man who in the name of the republican party "shall represent the second state of the Union as a member of the most august deliberate assembly on earth," than that the same influences should select a man who in the name of the democratic party is to represent all of the states and all of the people in the highest political office in the world?

And yet, while the New York World condemns the selection of Knox by Frick, it gives its cordial support to Parker, the protegee of Belmont.

Special Offer.

Attention is again called to The Commoner's special subscription offer.

According to the terms of this offer, cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner, will be furnished in lots of five at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Any one ordering the cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the effort to widen The Commoner's sphere of influence.

These cards may be paid for when ordered or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold.

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