

to see to it that an agitation is begun for the taking over of all municipal franchises in their respective towns. There is no possible excuse for private water works or lighting plants, and the sentiment in favor of the municipal ownership of the street railways is a growing one. It is impossible to have private ownership of municipal franchises without corruption as well as extortion—the two go together. The managers of such plants, in order to make dividends upon fictitious capital, must subsidize the city officials. The first step toward purifying city government is to put the city in charge of all natural monopolies within its borders.

**Booker Washington's Advice**

Professor Booker T. Washington in an address at Birmingham, Alabama, on November 13, gave some excellent advice to the people of his race. He said:

Not a few have predicted that on account of the recent election many members of our race would lose their heads, would become unduly pompous, self-assertive and generally offensive. With all the earnestness that I can command I want to urge our people in every part of the country to disappoint those who have made such predictions by leading a life of increased usefulness, soberness and simplicity, remembering that in the long run it is to certain fundamental ideas of growth in property, intelligence and high Christian character, of the cultivation of friendly relations with our neighbors of all races that we must look for our ultimate success.

The masses of our people are to dwell for all time here in the south and here it is that our destiny must be worked out and we can only succeed when we have the confidence and co-operation of those about us.

The advice is timely, and coming from so high a source it ought to make an impression upon the more thoughtful members of the colored race. It is greatly to Professor Washington's credit that he should take an early occasion to thus warn his people against rash and foolish action. The race issue having been brought into the campaign by President Roosevelt, some of the colored men might thoughtlessly construe the election as a triumph for the doctrine of social equality. To do so would not only be a great mistake, but it would be a real injustice to the colored man.

Professor Washington, without saying anything to offend the feelings of his people, points out the necessity of confidence and co-operation between the two races in the south and confidence and co-operation are impossible if the question of social equality is raised.

**Douglas' Great Victory**

The victory of Mr. W. L. Douglas, the democratic candidate for governor in Massachusetts, is one of the most remarkable incidents of the late campaign. While Massachusetts went republican by some 85,000, Mr. Douglas was elected by about 35,000. The Boston Post attributes Douglas' success in part, at least, to the fact that he stood for reciprocal trade with Canada. The Springfield Republican attributes it to his popularity among the laboring men.

Mr. Douglas began life a poor boy and has, through his industry and business ability, acquired a commanding position in the manufacturing world, but it seems that his sympathies have not been weaned from the people among whom he made his start. He has maintained close and intimate relations with his employes and with the laboring people generally. His election, therefore, may be considered as a tribute paid by the laboring men to one who has earned their confidence. If, as seems likely, his administration proves to be a successful one, he will become a national figure and be in a position to aid his party in the union. Success to Governor Douglas!

**The Popular Election of Judges**

On another page will be found an article written by Judge Walter Clark, chief justice of the North Carolina supreme court, for the Arena. It presents a strong plea for the popular election of United States judges. This is one of the reforms to which The Commoner is committed. The subject is a new one and has not yet received much attention from the public, but, as is said by Judge

Thompson (whom Judge Clark quotes), "nothing can stay the growth of the sentiment when the people come to consider the principles involved." Judge Clark's article is commended to the readers of The Commoner. No one will answer the arguments presented by the distinguished jurist.

**A Lesson to Rulers**

Lord Macaulay, in his history of England, describes the growth of trusts and monopolies three hundred years ago. He tells how the people at last arose and demanded redress and how the queen seeing that she could no longer resist public opinion, gracefully yielded. The historian points to her example as a lesson to rulers. In the hope that the lesson may not be lost upon those now in power, the description is reproduced:

"It was in the parliament of 1601 that the opposition which had, during the forty years been silently gathering and husbanding strength fought its first battle and won its first victory. The ground was well chosen. The English sovereigns had always been entrusted with the supreme direction of commercial policies. It was their undoubted prerogative to regulate coin weights and measures, and to appoint fairs, markets and ports. The line which bounded their authority over trade had, as usual been but loosely drawn. They, therefore, as usual, encroached upon the province which rightfully belonged to the legislature. The encroachment was, as usual, patiently borne, till it became serious. But at length the queen took upon herself to grant patents of monopoly by scores. There was scarcely a family in the realm which did not feel itself aggrieved by the oppression and extortion which this abuse naturally caused. Iron, oil, vinegar, coal, saltpetre, lead, starch, yarn, skins, leather, glass, could be bought only at exorbitant prices. The house of commons met in an angry and determined mood. It was in vain that a courtly minority blamed the speaker for suffering acts of the queen's highness to be called in question. The language of the discontented party was high and menacing and was echoed by the voice of the whole nation. The coach of the chief minister of the crown was surrounded by an indignant populace who cursed the monopolies and exclaimed that the prerogative should not be suffered to touch the old liberties of England. There seemed for a moment to be some danger that the long and glorious reign of Elizabeth would have a shameful and disastrous end. She however, with admirable judgment and temper, declined the contest, put herself at the head of the reforming party, redressed the grievance, thanked the commons in touching and dignified language for their tender care of the general weal, brought back to herself the hearts of the people and left to her successors a memorable example of the way in which it behooves a ruler to deal with public movements which he has not the means of resisting."

**Children's Ideals**

The November number of the London National Review contains an article on children's essays, illustrated by a number of original productions. The practice of writing of essays is of great value to the child. It is much more difficult for a child to express itself on paper than to express itself by word of mouth, and the use of the composition in the elementary grades is a distinct step in advance in the matter of education.

Below will be found four essays. They are presented not so much to show the intellectual progress which the writers have made, but rather to show the difference in the ideals of children. While an essay measures the proficiency of the child it still more clearly pictures the child's environment. The child gets its ideals very largely from the home and from the conversation of the family. There is a wide difference between the selfish ideals and the unselfish ideals presented in these two groups of essays.

The subject suggested by the teacher was: "Pretend I am a fairy and have lifted my wand to make you all rich men and women. What are you going to do with your time and your money?"

The following answers are selected as illustrations:

(Number 1.)

Plymouth Grove, Municipal School, Manchester.—Dear Madam: If I had a lot of money, I should spend it in a decent way. I should

not spend it in toffee all the time, I should buy a few games to play with, such as the football, and a cricket bat. I would go to nice seaside places, such as Blackpool, Southport and St. Annes, I would go to the football matches. I would buy a nice jewellery shop. I would buy some good pigeons, and I would buy a nice pony and trap. If I had all those things, and went to all those places, nobody could enjoy themselves better than me. I remain, your respectfully,

ARTHUR BELSHAW.

(Number 2.)

Headington Quarry, Feb'y 24, 1904.—Dear Miss: I am writing to you to tell you what I should like to be. I have often wished I could be a rich lady and live in a palace, and have plenty of money, no children, and live happy together. As I grow and get older I shall earn and save my money and see what I can be. I am, yours truly,

ELLEN PARSONS.

(Number 3.)

Webster St., Greenheys, Apr. 29, 04.—Dear "Madam:" If I came into a fortune these are the uses I should put it to: First I should put some in the bank for I may have need for it some day. Second, I would insure my father and two brothers. Third, I would have a nice grave stone over my mother's grave at Weaste, and one over my stepmother's at Southern, and after that I would buy a shop for my father to live in now he is getting old. I should then buy a bicycle for myself and when I am 21 I would get married and buy a house of furniture and a farm to live on. I remain, your's truly,

H. F. ROBERTS.

(Number 4.)

St. Stephen's Girls, March 23rd, 1904.—Dear Miss Bathurst: If such a thing did happen, that I should become suddenly rich, I would do many things with it. Of course it is a very difficult thing to be rich, and many different ideas might come into my mind. My idea now is to try and do good with my money, by giving it to charities, or giving money to support missionary societies, or helping some one poorer than my self. If I should be blest with money, I would like to live in the country, and have a small farm, or a nice garden to attend to. Trusting this letter will please you, Miss Bathurst, I will conclude. I remain, your truly,

SARAH BRADSHAW.

**Will You Help?**

Attention is again directed 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.

Anyone ordering these cards may sell them for \$1.00 each, thus earning a commission of \$2.00 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 educational campaign.

These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold. A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in this effort to increase The Commoner's circulation.

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