

FROM THE PEOPLE

D. W. McKee, Connersville, Ind.—On page 12 of your issue of the 7th, there is an error in the article on the Solar System. The mean distance of the moon from the earth is about 239,000 miles instead of 340,000 as stated. (The article to which Mr. McKee refers was accredited to Chambers Journal.)

L. N. Davis, Troy, N. Y.—Please inform me the amount of the government debt at the close of the civil war; also at the close of Harrison's term in 1893; also at the time of Mr. McKinley's death in 1901. (The principal of the public debt on July 1, 1865 was \$2,680,647,869.74; December 1, 1892, \$1,563,612,455.63; November 1, 1901, \$2,151,585,743.89.)

John C. Bouer, Sparta, N. C.—I notice that you say in your paper on August 3, that Representative Blackburn was defeated for renomination. This is incorrect. He was nominated by acclamation on June 27. However, if there is anything in the "signs of the times" E. Spencer will be badly beaten by the Hon. R. N. Hackett on the 8th of next November. Hackett is a strong man and one of the finest campaigners in this state.

Ben A. Neal, Millersville, Ill.—I am in perfect sympathy with your efforts, and offer this suggestion: Have the democratic executive committees of the various states in which elections will be held, arrange with the Globe-Democrat of St. Louis, Mo., to send hundreds of copies of this paper into doubtful districts; I believe nothing in the way of campaign literature would get more votes for democracy than a wide circulation of this republican paper.

Dr. A. C. Matchett, Bourbon, Ind.—By what authority of the law has the secretary of the navy to take two or three of our most powerful vessels of war on a junket trip to Porto Rico at the expense of the people of several thousand dollars a day to take his family and a lot of civilian friends on a pleasure trip? (It was claimed that the voyage was necessary for the transaction of public business.)

Linn A. E. Gale, East Pharsalia, N. Y.—At a time when civic and economic issues of unparalleled importance confront our citizenship, demanding immediate and satisfactory adjustment, it is obviously incumbent on every true democrat to materially aid the party in its work for reform. Many of us are unable to render financial assistance, for the democratic party is the party of the toiling millions, rather than the protegee of the idle rich, but we all may circulate democratic literature and copies of The Commoner and other periodicals such as The Public, the Arena and the Independent, and there is no better method for reaching the intelligent and thinking classes. In the democratic party lies the hope of the masses, and as loyal citizens we are in duty bound to give it our earnest support. The republican party has proved itself the foe of the proletariat and the menace of just legislation. In its thirty-eight years of almost continuous power it has not enacted one single law, which has been a source of positive good to the real supporters of the nation's burdens, but it has forced on a wronged people hundreds of statutes that are but added links in the chain of industrial bondage. But let us not despair, for the day of victory is dawning with dazzling and resplendent glory, and even now the chariot wheels of truth and equity roll down in majestic grandeur, though the votaries of error be crushed in their mighty revolutions.

Maurice O'Connor, 1102 Elliott St., St. Louis, Mo.—I will be always ready to lend my assistance in the good work The Commoner is doing. I think that when they read The Commoner the rest is done for facts is a very hard thing to get around. The trusts and corporations of all kinds are doing just as much dirty work as they did in 1896. They realize the fact that a democratic victory will put an end to their career as law-breakers and are already using any means they come across to gain votes. I will give you an idea of some of their tricks. I was employed by the American Express company, and when I received the papers I gave one or two to some of the men I was working with and as soon as the manager found it out he came to me and asked me if I was a democrat. I told him I was. He wanted to know if I had made up my mind to vote the democrat ticket. I told him I had, and he discharged me immediately. That is the way they think they can scare their men into voting the republican ticket. I think it would be well for The Commoner to mention this one of their schemes and to put in a word of encouragement

"TRY, TRY AGAIN"

John A. McNeel, Rockbridge Baths, Rockbridge county, Virginia, writes: "In last week's issue of The Commoner which reviews John J. Ingall's poem, 'Opportunity,' you refer to the little poem known as 'Try, Try, Again,' and you ask the question, 'who can tell the author of that little verse, 'If at first you don't succeed try, try, again?'' If you will look in Dr. William McGuffey's Fourth Reader, page 28 you will see the entire poem of three verses, which is accredited to T. H. Palmer as the author. Now who T. H. Palmer was I can not tell, but I did know very well, indeed, Dr. McGuffey—certainly as well as a schoolboy ever knew a teacher. After the close of the civil war—in October, 1866—I went to the university of Virginia and was there three entire sessions as a student. Then it was I got to know Dr. McGuffey, who was the professor of moral philosophy and political economy at the university. In the year 1867-8 I attended his lectures; he often referred to his Readers that were then used in all the schools that I had attended prior to the university course. More than once have I heard Dr. McGuffey refer to the poem of 'Try, Try, Again.' Some of the text books of Dr. McGuffey's course were hard, dull stuff, especially Sir William Hamilton's lectures on Metaphysics and Logic, and 'Try, Try, Again' was the only thing that many of us young fellows of Dr. McGuffey's class could do. In conclusion I desire to say that I am an ex-confederate 60 years old, still enjoying almost perfect health and The Commoner."

Doubtless the majority of The Commoner readers remember McGuffey's Readers and in another issue of The Commoner Mr. McNeel will have something to say about his experiences as a student under Dr. McGuffey; something, also, of the characteristics of the distinguished teacher.

Perhaps some Commoner reader can give some information concerning the origin of the really famous verse called "Try, Try, Again." Perhaps some one can tell something about T. H. Palmer, to whom Mr. McNeel accredits the little verse which has been of such great service to the world. As that little verse served the children of the long ago it may be of service to the children of today, and, indeed, might well be displayed in every counting-room and work-shop as well as in every school house in the land. The boys of forty years ago will enjoy reading it again, so here it is together with Dr. McGuffey's characteristic warning on pronunciation:

TRY, TRY, AGAIN

Utter each sound distinctly. Do not say firss for first; 'pear for appear; lass for last; tass for task; youreward for your reward.

1 'Tis a lesson you should heed,
Try, try, again;
If at first you don't succeed,
Try, try, again;
Then your courage should appear,
For, if you will persevere,
You will conquer, never fear;
Try, try, again.

2 Once or twice though you should fall,
Try, try, again;
If you would at last prevail,
Try, try, again;
If we strive, 'tis no disgrace,
Though we do not win the race,
What should you do in the case?
Try, try, again.

3 If you find your task is hard,
Try, try, again;
Time will bring you your reward,
Try, try, again;
All that other folks can do,
Why, with patience, should not you?
Only keep this rule in view:
Try, try, again.

in the paper for the poor man that is in such places and has to depend on the salary he gets to keep his family. There are several men who are in that condition, but dare not stand by their principles for fear they would be discharged. I can assure you that you will find me ready at all times to give any aid I can to bring about a victory for the people this fall. Hoping to be able to send in some new subscribers soon, I remain yours truly,

OBSERVATIONS

At Memphis Secretary Shaw is reported to have said:

"I submit that there are more points of similitude between a monarchy like England and a representative government like the United States, than there are between a representative government like this and a pure democracy."

Exactly; and I submit that men like Secretary Shaw, in the republican party, today, have more sympathy for those "points of similitude" than for those that preserve our independence of all monarchical forms. And I go further, and say that the teaching of such doctrine is so near treason, that in the time of the fathers who founded this republic, such language would have won for Mr. Shaw the full and deserved title of tory. He is late, but he is loyal to that which has tainted the opposition to our government.

The secretary also said, same time and place:

"If a person become a director in even one concern, say nothing of two, with intent to monopolize a product and control the price thereof to the prejudice of others engaged in the same line of business, he violates both the civil and criminal provisions of the existing Sherman anti-trust law." (That sweet little word, "intent!")

But why had no person been apprehended by the republican party, under that law, during these many years of its violation? Secretary Shaw convicts his party of a neglect of duty, or he condemns it now for prosecuting the lawbreakers. But he is silent on that head. His party has been in absolute continuous control of all departments of the general government, and the Roosevelt administration, taking democratic suggestion, has pursued, caught and is trying to punish some of the rascals. But the evidence shows that the law has been violated for years, during republican ascendancy. Verily, Mr. Shaw is a fine man and magnificent orator, but he is short on logic. However, it takes a steady and somewhat assertive nerve to tell the people that existing laws are adequate to punish wrong doers and, at the same time, sustain a party that has for years neglected the enforcement of such laws, and also, at the same time, be a member of an administration that convicts his party of such laches. However, as I have elsewhere said, it requires no especial political belief to be a consistently loyal republican—only an abiding faith in the everlastingly almighty dollar. And on this republican icon the secretary is an authority, that advises a system: to stretch w-way out, and then snap back—commonly called the elastic system. But a tory in the year 1906!

Speaking upon the subject of injunction, the secretary said: " * * * Anglican jurisprudence is the best safeguard not only to property, but also to personal and individual rights which the race has thus far evolved." On this application I will agree with the secretary, but the Anglican system of adjudication would never admit of an injunction to forbid the violation of a law. Perhaps the secretary is not right fresh on the subject of equity jurisprudence that so much worried us years ago. An injunction, under the jurisprudence he so lauds, is issuable for three and only three causes: First, without remedy at law; second, an irreparable injury; third, prevent a wrong, for which there is no law (such as an act of bankruptcy). Now how can Secretary Shaw get a Jackson injunction against men violating the law, so that a violation of the court's order may impose a more severe penalty than is provided for a violation of the law? Or, probably, the theory of Anglican legal adjudication is not as familiar to the secretary as his words would give us to conclude. It is a great science, and the secretary's defense of the injunction, without giving one of the Anglican grounds upon which it rests, rather inclines one to the belief that this venture is one with a divine-bell so that he will be safe in his soundings even if it amount to nothing. I am beginning to think not so favorably of Secretary Shaw's ability; too often have I found him indulging in oratorical bluffs like the above. They "hear" all right, but when you read them they are not very adhesive. However, he stands for "money"—the republican party's god, so anything he may say will be as from a prophet.

Indianapolis, Ind.

W. S. RYAN.