

on one side and the increasing difficulty of the many to secure for themselves the bare necessities of life on the other. Again the aping of the wealthy after aristocracy and their hunt for titles; also their desire to sojourn for many months in each year in European capitals, whose society members have nothing but contempt for the principles of a free and full democracy as advocated by Thomas Jefferson. After the late election all the leading papers of every monarchical country in the world commented on the result and rejoiced in the success of William Howard Taft and the defeat of William Jennings Bryan. This is more remarkable when we consider the more than liberal praise they gave him everywhere he went during his recent trip around the world, which would lead one to believe it was not the man, but the principles he stands for that was objectionable. How did it happen? Mark Hannaism. To him and not Theodore Roosevelt, the victory is due. In 1896 he introduced a new policy in American politics, and showed his party how to win elections. He said to the manufacturers, especially those who profited by tariff legislation, see to it that those men who work for you vote for you; those who won't, turn them adrift. And as George Ade tritely puts it, "The working man wants a master." He has one.

J. E. Lemon, Nashville, Okla.—So far as Oklahoma is concerned, it was merely a matter of stay-at-home democrats. The republican vote showed no increase in this state, but the democratic vote fell away, owing to nice weather for cotton picking in southern Oklahoma, where the democratic vote is heaviest. In my own county of Grant where the vote is always extremely close, the democratic electoral ticket carried by ninety votes, running ahead of the state ticket. As to the causes of republican victory in so many states, surely the blind can see and the merest tyro in politics can not fail to understand them. First, 90 per cent of the leading daily papers are in the hands of the enemy, and the political newspaper is the only mentor of millions of people. Second, The republican organization is the most powerful and effective political machine that has ever been known to this earth. Third, The fear of business depression in the event of a change of parties caused a half million democrats to vote the republican ticket. These three facts, taken together with the personal popularity of President Roosevelt, based upon his attempt to enforce the law against the anarchists of dishonest wealth, and which popularity he so adroitly passed on to his successor, explains "The Mystery of 1908" which is not a mystery at all, but a phenomenon whose cause is easy of perception. "May the democratic party ever hope to obtain possession of the government?" Most assuredly. There is only one thing certain in the universe and that is the inevitable triumph of right over might. "Truth, crushed to earth will rise again. The eternal years of God are her's, but error, wounded, writhes in pain and dies amid her worshippers." Let those democrats who are discouraged at our present prospects leave the party, for they are a disgrace to the party, and let those in whose hearts is the courage of honest convictions go forth to battle with renewed faith and redoubled energy. We have only one thing to fear; that is that our leaders—discouraged by repeated defeats—may abandon some of the progressive and radical principles for which our great champion has fought and suffered defeat for twelve years. Let us put none but loyal democrats in positions of party trust, and jealously guard our party councils against the deadly blight of treason. By this course only can we deserve success, and by deserving success only, can we hope to win it.

Thomas J. Wilson, Clinton, Ill.—Course for reformers in the future: Forward, march! Can democrats hope to win? "Finally Justice triumphs."

Charles L. Hyde, Pierre, S. D.—For three campaigns I have followed your reverses, although formerly always a republican. I helped nominate you at Kansas City and I am still of the opinion that some day you will be president of these United States. Among the causes that led to your defeat, I am certain, was the fear and dislike of the labor unions among the great number of business men, professional men, farmers and non-union laborers. The closed shop is un-American unbrotherly and unjust; it is selfish and cruel. The American people are more intelligent, as a mass, than we fully appreciate, and as a body they are unalterably in favor of justice and the "square deal." The labor union when it advocates the closed shop is more narrow and selfish than any religious sect who may damn all who differ in

opinion and judgment from them, for it would starve or even kill those who will not or do not join them. I give these few expressions as covering one of the causes that may not be brought out by others.

E. B. Luce, Little Valley, N. Y.—The democratic party made gains in this county (Cattaraugus) and in this election district. There were 81 votes for Parker in 1904 and 123 votes for Bryan in 1908, a gain of over 50 per cent in this district. Reformers in the future should talk prosperity more as a natural and certain sequence, should make conspicuous this idea by means of testimonials, etc., etc. Strange as it may seem, I believe the masses were frightened from voting for Bryan because of fear of business adversity. Yes, the democratic party can hope to gain control of the federal government, and I hope still that it will be under the candidacy and leadership of Mr. Bryan.

N. Nish, Waukegan, Iowa.—As a soldier from '61 to '65, I feel there is a great conflict before the American people shall realize the object of this government. I send you my answers to your questions as follows: First question, We made a small gain. Second question, To influence of the Christian character of our candidate. Third question, No course reformers can adopt will change the people. They have turned from the Bible doctrine, and believe their possessions and prosperity are the gift of the republican party. Statute law is greater than the moral. Fourth question, No, for lack of money to control the public press.

N. Colgen, St. Charles, Minn.—The course of all reformers must be substantially along same lines as we pursued this last campaign, but the people must be educated away from old traditions, and be gotten to see questions of reform from an up-to-date standpoint. Also let them know the size and source of the republican campaign fund. Can the democratic party hope ever to gain control of the federal government? Sure. Right will always prevail.

C. S. Jones, Falls River, W. Va.—Employers here coerced their men. Good solid democrats voted for Taft because they told them if Bryan was elected they would shut down. Ten democrats failed to vote while practically every republican voted. Republicans held secret meetings before the election and it is evident that money was used.

John M. Board, Corder, Mo.—Six years ago you made the statement that you would travel over this state and if necessary over the continent to help to elect ex-Governor Stone to the United States senate. On election day these remarks were printed on a card without the date as to the time when you made them and they were being circulated quite freely among Governor Folk's friends and it made them very angry, and some of them voted for Mr. Taft, but it was quickly corrected and explained to them and they accepted the explanation. Another reason I assign for it is there was too much money against you. The statement of Walter Wellman to his paper in Chicago satisfies me that this was the most potent factor used by the republicans to bring about such a tremendous result. He said for ten days before the election that money commenced flowing in one continual stream to republican headquarters. I want to relate to you that which was told me by a relative two years after your first defeat. He had just gotten back from Ohio where he had been visiting a married daughter and in conversation while there with a wealthy republican farmer, the race between you and Mr. McKinley came up. He remarked that he had always been a republican and voted for Mr. McKinley, but if you were nominated the next time he was going to vote for you as you were the best man of the two for the office. He further stated that two weeks before the election you had McKinley beaten the worst kind in his own state. When Hanna found it out he flooded the state with money and turned the tide against you. They did the same thing this time.

IS THIS A DRIFT?

The Independent, New York, in its editorial review of the result of the recent election, says:

"Connected with this is another very serious drift which the political journals do not seem to notice, but which the impartial observer discovers. The Catholic vote, and particularly the democratic Irish vote, was turned to Taft. This is not exactly in addition to the labor vote, for this Irish Catholic vote is mainly composed

of laborers. With them the two influences combined to transfer their normal ballots from Bryan to Taft. None of the Catholic journals had anything to say against Taft; they praised him. They remembered that he went to Rome to settle the Friar question; that as governor of the Philippines, and as secretary of war in control of the Philippines, of Porto Rico and Cuba, he has dealt full justice to the Catholics, while Catholic governments have been hostile. Accordingly, Archbishop Harty wrote from Manila the expression of his confidence and admiration for Mr. Taft; and after the election the pope cabled his congratulations. There are hundreds of thousands of these democratic Catholics who have voted for Taft, multitudes of whom voted for Roosevelt four years ago, and for the same reason. It is also to be observed that other causes are breaking up the clannish Irish solidarity. The younger generation mingle more freely with the native citizenship and are affected thereby. Also a multitude of them are offended by the alliance of the saloon with the democratic party. The most effective temperance societies are with Catholic churches, and the bishops and priests are very emphatic on the subject. Social relations also have their influence, and in the north social influence goes with the republican party, as in the south with the democratic. It is a very important political problem whether this detachable Catholic, and particularly Irish Catholic, vote can be kept for the republican party."

SOMETHING WRONG

To the Editor of the Philadelphia North American: The Pecksniffs, the Straddlebugs, the modern Pilates, defeated democracy. Among these I include the brilliant editor of the North American, who, in his twenty-one story building is so far removed from the ground that the despairing shriek of damned wretches in the gutter fails to reach his ear. But he will hear them before long. You were afraid that Bryan would disturb "values" should he be elected. You called him visionary and impracticable because he threatened jail for corporation and trust scoundrels. You damned him with faint praise and said he wasn't safe. He was against special privilege and you thought he might appoint supreme court judges who would give the moneyless man an equal chance with Rockefeller, for instance. You admired him, but you feared his advent might bring to fruition the idea of government ownership of railroads and thereby wreck the gamblers of Wall Street.

You realized that something was radically wrong somewhere, that a cancer is gnawing in the body politic, but you imagine that it might be driven out without cutting, that the exorcism of a monkey beating a tomtom and passing the tin cup, grinning one moment and showing his teeth the next, could be all that was necessary.

The monopoly octopuses do not care for all the tomtoms in creation, especially when all the beaters of the tomtoms are their lackeys and owe their election to the money of their masters. Carnegie said Bryan's election would be a tragedy, and it would have been to men of his stamp. "No rogues e'er felt the halter draw with good opinion of the law." No trust magnate feared Taft.

You have doubtless read Gibbons' "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," but you have evidently read it to but little purpose. Time is reaching out his hand to seize the iron pen and write another history. You hope the next president will curb the rapacity of the trusts by following in the footsteps of the present executive. You remind me of a grasshopper calling upon a bullfrog to chain the legs of a mastodon! Had Bryan been elected socialism—that nightmare of monopoly—would have been postponed fifty years. You may congratulate yourself that by electing Taft you have aided in bringing it as a reality within the next twelve years.

Now, you can throw this communication away, or should you publish it, be sure to trim "the stubborn text to ears polite, and keep damnation out of sight."

S. W. WHEELER.

Camden, Pa., November 6.