The Commoner.

wictims, but now men and women daily read the political death roll of men who were once mighty and the list of those slaughtered is appalling.

"The reactionaries in Wisconsin pass away, At first thought it is surprising in Wisconsin, for it is a state filled with conservative Germans, but even the German revolutionist is conservative. Schurz and Engel and all those who took part in the revolution of '48 in Germany were conservative men. They were fighting against the anarchy of absolutism.

"LaFollette, who looks like a picture show announcer, but who has a big head full of brains, who was three years ago held to be a

fakir, is the idol of Wisconsin.

"Julius Caesar Burrows of Michigan believed that the ways of Aldrich and Cannon and others were the ways of righteousness. He was most faithful to the creed that they promulgated. He expected to die in the United States senate. He was turned out this week to graze upon dog fennel. Aldrich, more far-seeing than Burrows, grasped the situation and rather than stand and fight and lose, elected to run away and, maybe, fight another day.

"Roosevelt in Chicago refused to sit down at dinner with a senator whose office came to him through purchased votes. When Matt Quay and Mark Hanna and Clarke and those western state miners and ex-gamblers and ex-saloon keepers, who became millionaires paid the market price of senatorships, numbers of that body were held to be worthy to sit with a king. It is the day when high place does not cover

rascality.

"Mr. Bryan is over in Arkansas preaching for the initiative and the referendum. Some of the people of Arkansas say that it is a radical departure, but Arkansas is merely behind the times. In Memphis we have a charter providing for the recall and the referendum. Memphis is a progressive city. If Atlanta had this recall and referendum in its charter Atlantians would immediately have a recall and referendum congress and invite delegates from all the states of the union, and Hoke Smith, Clark Howell, John Temple Graves would open their geysers of eloquence and flood the country with oratory.

'Editor Watterson has come in from his farm and taken up his pen. In the Courier-Journal of September 8 he gives two columns of most picturesque preachments. We take from a careful reading of this splendid picture done in double-leaded minion that Colonel Watterson is not entirely pleased with everything.

"Among other things the colonel says: "There is in all parts a wonderful resemblance between Roosevelt and Bryan. That is why the Courier-Journal loves them both. Close in age, southern blood, but western bred, one tracing back to Virginia, the other to Georgia, voluminous of speech, fearless of consequences; born preachers, moral philosophers, humanitarians. To hell with political economy—every man his cwn political economist! To hell with the constitution and the courts of law-he is no leader of men and worthy of the confidence of plain people who can not show them a livelier thing or two, in government irradiated by the ethics of the new nationalism and inspired by the statesmanship of righteousness!'

"This follows some remarks made for the special benefit of several New York editors (few of whom, however, ever write), and the Mexicanizing of the republic. Colonel Roosevelt took a wallop at the supreme court of the United States. Of course, this is not unusual. We did a good deal of walloping in this state recently ourselves and we walloped each other across

the backs of our supreme court.

"Several months ago the supreme court of Tennessee rendered a decision in the night rider cases. This paper had considerable to say in the way of objection, and, without violating a confidence, we may say we were aided and abetted in this cussin' of the supreme court by a number of eminent lawyers of this city and west Tennessee, who later tore their hair in a frenzy when it was asserted that Governor Patterson had attempted to coerce that same court.

"However, that is neither here nor there, for he is a poor politician these days who does not get on both sides of a question once a year. Versatility—that is what makes the successful politician. But, coming back to the constitution, we believe that the colonel had a constitutional right to criticise the supreme court for

the two decisions he mentioned.

"In New York City the bake shop employes work under the most horrible conditions. They get from \$7 to \$12.50 per week. They work at night in cellars, filthy and hot, in dirty air and in steam. They are poisoned by the filth of their surroundings, and they themselves communicate some of this poison to the stuff

they make. The legislature of New York passed a bill regulating the hours of work in these shops. The supreme court of the state of New York said that the bill was unconstitutional, and an appeal was made to the United States supreme court, and that court held that the law was unconstitutional because it took away from the individual 'the right of contract.' The supreme court said that if a woman drudge, about to bear a child, wanted to work twelve hours a day every day in the week in a bake shop, that was her right. These poor devils had no right of contract. They were industrial slaves, and the legislature of New York, in its police power and in regard for health, was simply trying to render their slavedom lighter. "We take it that all of the eighteen articles

suggested by Mr. Roosevelt are constitutional. "All would have been declared unconstitutional twenty-five years ago, but that was before Preacher Bryan got on the field. Bryan has not succeeded well in politics. He is a splendid failure as a victory-winner, but Mr. Bryan was the first man, a candidate for president, who preached for those things that Colonel Roosevelt is now advocating, that Mr. LaFollette cries for and that the insurgents demand and that the plain people say should be put into the

law books.

"Mr. Bryan advocated the income tax. Mr. Bryan wanted an inheritance tax. Mr. Bryan wanted to take away from the money powers its czardom, and make them subject to the law. His method was through free silver. His method may have been wrong, but through other means and by other remedies Roosevelt and LaFollette are trying to do exactly what Mr. Bryan sought to do.

"It is probably true that Roosevelt is trying

to Bryanize the republican party.

"It is true that Roosevelt several years ago did take Bryan's clothes, but let's give Mr. Bryan credit for making those clothes. Bryan made them without a pattern. He wore them first. The colonel appropriated them and has kept them ever since. We doubt that Theodore Roosevelt or W. J. Bryan has advocated any principle in the matter of government in the last twenty years that would be declared unconstitutional in a court made up of men with the thought of Jefferson, Jackson, Grover Cleveland, Abraham Lincoln, David Turple and Samuel J. Tilden.

"It is one of the strange things in contemporary politics that the doctrines of a man beaten thrice for the presidency have been taken up by the ex-president of the republic, a member of an opposing party, and are being grafted on to that opposing party and will become a part of its own rottenness before the grafted shoots, by their added vigor, can charge the old trunk with enough vitality to keep it alive.

"The doctrine of new nationalism is good because of its democracy. The federal government has been in the hands of a few. It has existed for these few. Colonel Roosevelt would build upon the foundations constructed by Colonel Bryan, and make this federal government the government of all the people, in the management of which all the people have an equal chance and in the control of which all the people have an equal share.

"The Roosevelt-Bryan philosophy of government is sound democracy and in accord with the letter of the spirit of the constitution as it was

framed."

THE TWO MEN

Under the headline "The Two Men," the Kentucky State Journal, published at Frankfort and edited by former Governor Beckham

"While in many instances advocating the same political and economic issues, there is a striking dissimilarity in the methods and characteristics of the two men-Mr. Bryan and Mr. Roosevelt.

"The one has never failed to declare his position upon any question, even when it was unpopular; the other always waits until an issue becomes popular and then with ardor and emphasis declares for it as if he was the original discoverer. The one, in dignified language and exercising the inherent right of an American citizen, criticised the decision of the supreme court upon the income tax case and the De Lima case, at a time when he was denounced as an anarchist for doing so-probably in effect, if not in terms, by Mr. Roosevelt himself; the other only a few days ago, before the legislature of Colorado, criticised the same high court for two other decisions, in far more vigorous and disrespectful language, and the populace applauds. The one has always taken his position upon a public question according to his view of whether or not it was right, the other invariably waits to see whether or not it is popular.

"Who can imagine Mr. Bryan waiting so long, under similar circumstances, like Mr. Roosevelt, to declare his attitude upon the tariff question, the most important and imminent issue now before the American people? Who denounced Mr. Bryan more severely for his advocacy of the principles in the 1896 platform than did Mr. Roosevelt, and what is there left in that platform not taken up and advocated in recent years by the same Mr. Roosevelt? No one knows better than does this accomplished weather gauge, that the 'anarchy' of 1896 has become the popular political fashion of the present.

"And yet many journals and people now praise him for his advocacy of those principles, while at the same time, they exult and gloat over what they are pleased to consider the political downfall of Mr. Bryan in the recent democratic state convention of Nebraska, controlled by the

brewers and liquor dealers.

"Mr. Roosevelt first applied the phrase of 'the square deal,' and proudly boasts that he is the original apostle of its use, and yet for fifteen years Mr. Bryan, with the earnestness and fidelity of a crusader, with eloquence and ability unsurpassed, in defeat and in darkness, has been making the greatest fight for a 'square deal' for the people ever made in this country since the days of Andrew Jackson, when he drove the minions of the United States bank from the seats of power.

"It is not our purpose to disparage or discredit the work of Mr. Roosevelt so far as it may aid in advancing the cause of the people. We welcome and wish to encourage him. We hope that he is sincere and that after securing the confidence of the progressive element of his party, he will not go over and trade that confidence for political advantage, to the Aldrichs and Cannons and other enemies of the people. We wish him well and recognize the great op-

portunity he has for doing good.

"But we do object to seeing the many organs of his servile flatterers praising him as the pioneer in the promulgation of principles, for which Mr. Bryan so long and so valiantly fought, and for which he three times sacrificed the presidency of the United States, and those same organs delighting in what they seem to believe Mr. Bryan's political overthrow."

"BRYANIZING" THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Henry Watterson in Courier-Journal.

In point of fact, the real, vital question before us is no longer the Mexicanizing of the republic and the Diazification of Theodore, but this-get from under Nelson, of Kansas City, and stand by Hemphill, of Richmond on the Jeems!-Shall Roosevelt Bryanize the republican party?

The country has not wholly forgotten the cartoons of a few years ago, which represented the president that was and the president that would like to be as the Two Dromios; nor yet the epigram of the man from Nebraska that the man from Oyster Bay had stolen his clothes whilst he was in swimming. Many a truth is spoken in jest, dear old Mother Goose assures us. If we carefully examine and closely analyze the Osawatomie manifesto we shall find that most of it is as good Bryan gospel as the Com-

moner could himself expound.

There is in all points a wondrous resemblance between Roosevelt and Bryan. That is why the Courier-Journal loves them so. Close of an age. Southern blood but western bred, one tracing back to Virginia, the other to Georgia. Voluminous of speech, fearless of consequences; born preachers; moral philosophers; humanitarians. To hell with political economy-every man his own political economist! To hell with the constitution and the courts of law—he is no leader of men, nor worthy the confidence of the plain people who can not show them a livelier thing, or two, in government irradiated by the ethics of the new nationalism and inspired by the statesmanship of righteousness! "Be virtuous and you will be happy," wrote Vance of Colorado, "but you will not have any fun!" Vance was away off. "We," exclaim the Slamese twins of the modern tent-show, "are both virtuous and happy, and, behold, we have lots of fun!"

But a truce to badinage. The course of events forecast in these columns unfolds apace. The events unfold, and none the less surely because not at all slowly, a vista of possibilities yet more fantastic than was originally outlined, though even thus far upon the journey there has been no lack of the spectacular.

The colonel is as open as the day. He leaves