

## Single Standard of Morality

On another page will be found a news item which appeared in the Chicago Tribune of April 14th. The Commoner does not, as a rule, print items of this kind and only reproduces this one because it indicates the beginning of the next great moral reform. The opponents of prohibition are fond of speculating as to what is to be the next moral reform, but they are careful to avoid the one which is now beginning to force itself upon public attention, namely, the single standard of morals. The time is opportune for it because the legalized saloon, the propagator and defender of every vice, is gone, and woman, the champion of virtue, is now in politics.

Mr. Bryan, more than two years ago, brought the matter to the attention of the Constitutional Conventions of Nebraska and Illinois. Later he prepared an article for Colliers' Weekly at the invitation of that great paper. Increasing attention has been given the subject during the last year, especially by woman's clubs.

An international meeting of women in Switzerland passed a resolution on this subject and the Presbyterian General Assembly has acted along the same line.

Some of the eastern editors ridiculed the suggestion as they do every other suggestion looking to public morals, but the cause grows. The incident related in the newspaper item reproduced in this issue is exactly in point. The logic is irresistible and the sentiment will spread until everywhere, in state and nation, the same law will be applied to the sins of male and female. Man-made law has punished the woman and let the man go free. The time is not far distant when immoral men will come under the same condemnation that is visited upon immoral women—a change that will manifest itself in a higher standard of virtue.

The father of the boy in the case cited was willing to pay any sort of a fine to secure his release, but the father of the girl was right in insisting that no partiality should be shown. The parents of girls will feel safer when this rule is universally applied and the parents of boys will be more careful to instruct their sons when they know that disgrace will be added to the penalties that now attach to sin. The single standard of morality is coming.

### THE TALE OF A TOOTH

Professor Osborne, of Columbia University, is happy. Somebody has found a tooth, just one tooth. The professor has examined it and announced, according to the papers, that it is the tooth of an animal nearer to man than any of the ape-men or men-apes which scientific imagination has clothed with semi-human expression. He seems to think that he has at last found the missing link that convicts Moses of falsehood.

The professor has been in search of evidence for a long time; he has had his suspicions about Moses and the Bible, but the testimony heretofore has been so fragmentary as to leave some doubt. But he thinks that this tooth—the whole tooth and nothing but the tooth—establishes beyond a doubt man's blood connection with all the brutes of the jungle.

The tooth is interesting, not because it has any value or because it discredits the Bible, but because it shows that Darwin's hypothesis can paralyze the brain of an otherwise intelligent man. Whenever a man loses his grip on the Bible philosophy of life and drops down among the apes, he furnishes the only evidence that exists of a brute ancestry, namely, approximation to the brute in the loss of reasoning power. Instead of using the ordinary common sense that characterizes even the dumbest of human beings, he closes his mind to everything rational and chatters away as if he were a monkey in a cage. His life purpose shifts from searching for living truth to hunting for fossils and remnants of remains. Instead of being interested in the things that are noble and uplifting, he digs about in drifts of sand and mounds of gravel in the hope that he may get away from that sense of responsibility to God from which one cannot escape so long as he believes that he was made in God's image and created by special act to carry out a divine decree.

If Professor Osborne had a thousandth part as much interest in linking man's soul with God as he has in tying man's body to the brute

creation, he might be in position to render some real service to society. As it is, he prostitutes to ignoble uses the God-given intellect. His materialistic views quench whatever spiritual life he had in his youth.

W. J. BRYAN.

### DARWINISM RUN MAD

Dr. Charles R. Stockard, of Cornell University, seems to aspire to the leadership of the ultra Darwinites who defend alcohol on the ground that it kills off the degenerates. He uses guinea pigs as the basis of his experiments, assuming that anything that affects a pig will affect in the same way a man who uses alcohol. He reports that alcohol, administered to parent pigs causes havoc among the offspring for the first, second and third generations, but that, when the fourth generation is reached, the offspring are found to be above the average in strength, the argument being: "The normal litter of guinea pigs consists of more and less rugged animals. The less rugged are so weakened by their alcoholic inheritance that they cannot live. Only the guinea pigs of the stronger class can live. After all but the best or strongest have died early for three generations, the survivors are naturally those of the most robust strain." A recent article in the New York Times quotes Dr. Stockard as saying that this is "harsh individual selection" but that he, with some other scientists, believes that it represents a beneficial effect which alcohol has in the long run on the human race.

He would encourage the drunkard to believe that, while his appetite for liquor may kill off his children, grand-children and great-grand-children, it may result in strengthening the great-great-grand-children who would come from descendants strong enough to survive even alcohol.

This was Darwin's idea. He said that the savages eliminated the weak and that, therefore, the survivors are strong. This he speaks of as if it were a thing to be commended, while he charges civilized man with building hospitals and prolonging life of the weak. He adds that our sympathies will not permit us to adopt the "harsh reason" (eliminating the weak) but that, because of our sympathies the race must suffer. No wonder Darwin complained in his latter years that he had lost his love for music and poetry and that his work had benumbed his feelings. There is no poetry or music or feeling in the brute doctrine to which Darwin gave his name.

W. J. BRYAN.

### WOMAN'S WISDOM

At the recent Baltimore meeting of the League of Women Voters, Mrs. Maud Wood Park, president of the league, submitted "six points" for the guidance of women voters. They are as follows:

"First. To inform myself about public questions, the principles and policies of political parties, and the qualifications of candidates for public offices.

"Second. To vote according to my conscience in every election, primary or final, at which I am entitled to vote.

"Third. To obey the law even when I am not in sympathy with all its provisions.

"Fourth. To support by all fair means the policies that I approve of.

"Fifth. To respect the right of others to uphold convictions that may differ from my own.

"Sixth. To regard my citizenship as a public trust."

If this can be considered an expression of women's wisdom, what man will crowd more political wisdom into the same number of words?

### LAWLESSNESS BEGETS LAWLESSNESS

On another page will be found an editorial from the Chicago Tribune denouncing the action of a coroner's jury in discharging a murderer on the ground that he was drunk. The Tribune is justly indignant, but that is a logical outgrowth of the Tribune's fight on prohibition. If wet newspapers encourage lawlessness and ridicule enforcement, they must not be surprised if their readers manifest THEIR wetness by exonerating criminals who perpetrate crime under the influence of liquor. Lawlessness begets lawlessness.

Over in Iowa they have a law that permits a town to levy taxes for the support of a local band. The fact that up to date no village has availed itself of the privilege speaks well for the self-control of the Iowans.

## Educated Criminals

Dr. John H. Williamson, Law Enforcement Commissioner of Chicago, has just returned from a visit to the Illinois Penitentiary and reports that five out of six convicts have had a college training. Is it not worth while to inquire why college men become criminals? Is there anything in intelligence that necessarily diminishes virtue and honesty? Or is there something mixed with education that lowers the moral temperature?

May it not be the direct and logical effect of a brute theory that traces man's ancestry to the jungle? The sense of responsibility to God is the most potent influence that acts upon a human being. When man believes himself the special creation of the Almighty and placed on earth as a part of the divine plan, he feels that it is his first duty, as it should be his greatest pleasure, to learn God's will concerning himself and to do it. There can be but little restraining force in a sense of responsibility that has to be strained through the blood of all the lower forms of life before it reaches man. The evolutionists are hiding God behind the mist of ages, they are robbing the Bible of its authority as an inspired book and they are taking Christ out of the word Christian. They are making Him a mere man with an ape for his ancestor on his mother's side and, as most of them believe, on his father's side also. They are taking the moral rudder from the intellectual ship and starting the voyager out on a perilous journey without chart or compass—no wonder so many of them land in the penitentiary.

It would not be fair to say that evolutionists intend to turn our colleges into schools for crime, but they ought to be intelligent enough to see that they increase the tendency to crimes when they lessen the restraints that in the hours of temptation, hold men to virtue. Just as physical weakness invites all kinds of disease so the lowering of the religious pulse makes the individual an easier prey to vice and crime.

W. J. BRYAN.

### MRS. OLESEN'S CANDIDACY

Mrs. Olesen has been selected by the Democrats of Minnesota as their candidate for the United States Senate. It is a most fortunate selection for the party and for the state. She has every qualification necessary for the place and will, as a representative in the Senate, give voice to the highest aspirations, the noblest purposes, and the largest interests of the people of Minnesota.

Her ability as a public speaker is a valuable asset to any cause that she espouses. She has excellent judgment in the weighing of arguments and rare power in the presentation of them. Her speeches will be a credit to Democracy and to womanhood.

But what is more prized is her thorough grasp of the fundamental principles of Democracy, the breadth of her sympathies and her moral courage. The test of a public servant is fidelity to the masses and that fidelity rests upon an intelligent understanding of what is best for all and a conscientious devotion to their welfare at all times. She has both the understanding and the conscience, and to these is added an exceptional power of expression.

We have great problems before us and on every one of these her attitude is unassailable. No matter what issue may be paramount in the campaign, whether equity in taxation, protection from predatory wealth, enforcement of the law, or world peace, she is a champion of the plain people and they should rally to her support. Success to Mrs. Olesen—her victory will be a triumph for the producers of wealth.

W. J. BRYAN.

The government of Queensland has abolished the Senate, for the reason, as explained by Premier Theodore, that it was the home of reactionary interests, had for years thwarted the will of the people and had become a brake on democracy. As a perfect picture of what the Nebraska Senate was when the liquor interests were alive commend us to that description. Things that look alike are usually quite alike.

As we view it about the only difference of opinion between the warring factions of Republicans in congress is whether the treasury deficit should be so small that nobody will see in it any administration mismanagement or so large that everybody will throw up their hands and declare nothing can be done about it.