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Some of the doctors have discovered the microbe of bliss and say that it is conveyed in the rapturous kiss.

Tom Johnson believes in arguments of force as well as in forcible arguments. He slapped a fellow's face who called him a liar.

When the corporations want to elect a disreputable scoundrel to office they advertise him as a man of unimpeachable integrity and every mullet head believes the statement.

Sarah Bernhardt has at last forgiven Germany for annexing Alsace and Lorraine and done what she declared she never would do, appeared in a play in Berlin. Kaiser William can now reduce his army one-half without danger.

A federal court in making a decision in favor of the Western Union said it would establish a precedent, for no case like it had ever been adjudicated before and then it called news "pre-communicativeness." That settles it.

One driver of a devil wagon in New York has had justice done him. He was sent to the penitentiary for six months. The automobilist amused himself by running back and forth across the track in front of a trolley car. The result was that 22 persons were seriously injured.

Large business failures are occurring with astonishing frequency for an era of prosperity. The report from the commercial agencies for last week was as follows: "Business failures in the United States for the week ending Thursday, October 30, number 194, as against 194 last week, 172 in this week last year, 165 in 1900, 174 in 1899 and 153 in 1898." The next day after this report was made up there were a very large number of very heavy failures in lumber and other lines.

The platform of the liberal democratic party of New York would receive the unanimous vote of any populist convention ever held in Nebraska. We don't care anything for names, but if the leaders of that party keep up its organization and come to the next populist national convention presenting those principles as their political belief, they will be admitted with a whoop and hurrah equal to that which followed the adoption of the first populist platform at Omaha.

The fact that the ship builders have orders for ships that will keep them busy for more than two years ahead and that some of them are refusing orders shows most convincingly that that Mark Hanna-Frye ship subsidy was one of the rankest attempts to fleece the public for the benefit of a few millionaires that devotees of special privileges ever attempted in the American congress and there have been some things of that character put through that made the world wonder.

AMERICAN MILLIONAIRES.

The essential vulgarity of the American millionaires has often been described in The Independent. Now the literary people of England and the continent are giving their opinion of them and it coincides with that so often expressed in these columns. A little while ago, Ouida told the public what she thought about them and now Marie Corelli has written a long magazine article in which she gives a full expression of her views concerning these creatures. She calls Morgan a greedy octopus, stretching out his hands to grab everything on earth. She says:

"The masses hear of Carnegie strewing free libraries all over the surface of the country as if they were so many lollipops thrown out of a schoolboy's satchel; they follow the accounts of his doings with mingled wonder and derision.

"With many of the more independently thinking classes the millionaire Carnegie's money, pitched at the public, savors of a patronage which they resent and of an ostentation which they curtly call swagger."

Of the general mass of American millionaires she speaks as follows:

"Wealth in excess, wealth in chunks, wealth in great, awkward, unbecoming dabs, is plastered as it were by the merest haphazard toss of fortune's dice on the backs of uncultured and illiterate Americans, who, bowed down like asses beneath their golden burden, are asininely ignorant. In very few cases does immense wealth go hand in hand with refinement, reserve or dignity. Millionaires are for the most part ill-mannered, illiterate and singularly uninteresting in conversation."

If there is one thing more than all others that the editor of The Independent despises, it is the common run of millionaires. In years past he has met a few of them in a social way and if there was anything that they could talk about except how they "ruined" some man or some clique on the stock exchange, or in the manipulation of some railroad or other corporation, he could never get them to discuss the subject. Intellectually and morally, they are the lowest grade of the population of this country aside from the newly imported common laborers. They have gathered their millions by bribing legislatures, manipulating congressmen and courts, securing special privileges, purchasing elections and deceiving and robbing their competitors on change. Such a life as that could end in nothing but a sordid, besotted character, which in social intercourse cannot be hidden. Carnegie is no better than the rest of them. From unrequited toil and the blood of Homestead he gathered his millions.

It is impossible that men, the energies of whose souls are all expended in getting dollars in such uncounted numbers that they cannot even expend or give away their incomes, should be anything else than the sordid creatures that they are.

And these men run the government of the United States.

THE HARVESTER TRUST.

When this trust was organizing under the plea that it was philanthropic in its purposes and would reduce the cost of machinery to the farmers, The Independent called attention to articles to that effect that were being printed in the plutocratic, trust-advocating republican papers. The Philadelphia Record now announces that "harvester trust prices are to be advanced 25 per cent, so that farmers who have hitherto paid \$100 for a machine must hereafter pay \$125. At the same time, the managing force of the trust is to be so reduced and reorganized that not less than \$500,000 a year will be saved by this process alone. By such simple devices this new industrial combination expects to obtain huge dividends on its \$65,000,000 of liberally watered capital stock."

This large increase in the already exorbitant prices that the firms work-

ing in unison have been able to charge the farmer will be a severe tax upon them. Thousands of them vote the republican ticket while the administration does nothing to enforce the law. The combination of the different firms in restraint of trade and for the purpose of controlling prices was open and notorious, and a more flagrant violation of existing law than Hill's merger or the beef trust. Yet the administration has done nothing and will do nothing, as long as the mullet heads walk up to the polls and vote the republican ticket, for that is simply a request to "please rob us some more." The trusts are not so much to blame in this matter as the voters, and men would spend their breath to better advantage in denouncing the fool voters than in denouncing the trusts.

UP AGAINST A WALL

Frank C. Vandelp, vice president of Rockefeller's National City bank of New York, made a speech the other night before about 200 financiers in which he talked in the same vein that The Independent has been talking for several months about the inflation of credits and watering stocks. Of course he did not use the plain English that The Independent does, but it amounted to the same thing. The fact is that they have got the last foot of gas into the balloon that Shaw and all the rest of them could manufacture and they all know it. The only hope is now to let the thing down easy. The way he put it was thus:

"We have the choice of one of two things: Either to practice wise discretion or to go on borrowing of the future until we are brought up against a wall."

He also repeated what Bryan has often called attention to, namely, we have had a series of good crops while there have been great deficiencies abroad. He even hinted that that was the cause of better times instead of the simple reason that the republican party was in power. That was rank treason to Mark Hanna and he ought to be hung for it, when we consider the great favors that have been conferred upon his bank, such as in the sale of the old New York custom house, millions of deposits from the government and in other ways by Mark Hanna and his party. But perhaps Mr. Vandelp thinks those things were paid for in contributions to Mark's corruption fund and all that is a closed incident.

Mr. Vandelp went from a position in the treasury department straight to a place in Rockefeller's big bank. He followed the precedents of the last twenty years. First a place in the treasury department and after serving Wall street there, then on to New York to a place in some bank or trust company.

Mrs. George Vanderbilt has issued orders that all of her male servants shall lift their hats when they come into the presence of her one year old child. What sort of American citizens do the menials make who submit to and obey such orders as that? They all have votes.

The principle of the referendum is a part of every free government and none ever did or can exist without it. The capitalistic class has always feared the people, and men like Hamilton threw every obstruction in the way of exercising that right that they possibly could, but they did not even attempt to abolish it. The veto power of executives and the difficulties thrown around the amendment of constitutions, were the plans that they adopted to prevent the desires of the people being made effective. Another plan, and most disastrous of all, were life terms for judges. Yet back of it all lies the power of the people at last, for the constitution can be amended, though what was thought were almost insurmountable difficulties were thrown in the way. All the states recognized the right of referendum in a more direct way and while the people have been slow to exercise it, it is there.

BACK TO JEFFERSON.

The politicians may drive the people for awhile away from the principles of Jefferson, but in the end, when they find disaster impending, they come back to them. The party that Jefferson founded was led farther and farther away, until in the time of Lincoln, in his letter to Mayor Prince, he declared that it had fought itself into the clothes of the other party. Lincoln brought his followers back to the Declaration of Independence and other Jeffersonian doctrines and actually adopted the first name of Jefferson's party, that of republican. Now again there are thousands of men in the republican party, after it has wandered far and wide from Lincoln and Jeffersonian principles, demanding that it shall come back to Jefferson again.

Jefferson was the father of the principle of reciprocity, and in this age when men are looking for relief in every direction from the exactions of tariff-protected trusts they once more go back to Jefferson and find in his teachings the way of relief. No one ever more explicitly enunciated it than did the author of the Declaration of Independence. These are his words:

"Some nations, not yet ripe for free commerce, in all its extent, might still be willing to modify its restrictions and regulations for us in proportion to the advantages which an intercourse with us might offer. Particularly, they may concur with us in reciprocating the duties to be levied on each side, or in compensating any excess of duty by equivalent advantages of another nature."

There you have the doctrine of reciprocity as advocated by the two last republican presidents and some thousands of the rank and file of the republican party. Necessity has driven them to the doctrines of Jefferson for relief. But these two presidents and their following make up but a small part of that party. The men who control the purse strings are all against them. There is no hope of the mass or any great part of the leadership of the party ever going back to Jefferson. The tariff grafters, the trusts and the privileged corporations will continue to control the republican party for years to come.

Jeffersonian democracy, Lincoln republicanism and populism are all one and the same thing and when these different organizations all join together and vote the same ticket we shall have Jeffersonian government again.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

The editor of The Independent received a letter just before the election inviting him to come to New York and "give the assistance of his pen and voice to the upbuilding of the liberal democratic party" of that state. The editor replied that he was as "liberal" as any man ought to be and as "democratic" as Thomas Jefferson, but as populism was simply Jeffersonian democracy, he was eminently satisfied with his present party relations. However, if there was anything that he could do to help the liberal democratic party of New York to down the Hill gang of reorganizers, he would be only too glad to do it. The organization of what is called the "liberal democratic party in New York, is exactly the same sort of a movement as the formation of the farmers' alliance which finally resulted in the formation of the people's independent party. At that time in the west we always said that the two old parties were as alike as two peas in a pod and that no reform legislation could be got from either of them. So we organized a new party just as they have under the same circumstances done in New York. In the west, however, the new party was composed for the most part of republicans, while in New York they seem to be democrats.

The Independent extends greeting to the liberal democrats of New York and advises them by all means, even now that the election is over, to strengthen and maintain their organization. Without an organization their protest will have no force whatever.