

SUBMISSION AND SILENCE

There is a passage in the letter of Mr. James Theobald, printed in The Independent last week, that is so fundamentally wrong and so opposed to democracy in its generic sense, that it seems worth while to call attention to it. In speaking of the discussion of economic theories and terms he says: "No one is competent to discuss them who is not thoroughly versed in history and a master of style." If that were true, the great mass of the people, the very ones who by their votes decide what economic theories shall be the policy of this government, must forever remain silent, and probably among the silent ones would be Mr. Theobald himself.

The editor of The Independent does not pretend to be "thoroughly versed in history," although he has read some hundreds of volumes on that subject, neither does he claim to be "a master of style." He, for one, objects to being assigned to the silent throngs who must not discuss political economy.

What the editor of The Independent knows of history leads him to believe that every great reform, every theory that has advanced the human race, either in philosophy, ethics, mechanics or government, since the days of the fishermen of Galilee to the present time, has originated among those "not thoroughly versed in history" and who could not claim to be "masters of style." Especially is it true that every protest against false political economy, every effort to throw off the burdens which it imposed upon the toilers, has originated among the common people, not one of whom could claim to be "a master of style," or "thoroughly versed in history." Neither Ricardo nor Mill originated anything in political economy, as every one knows who is at all acquainted with the uproar among the people of England occasioned by the distress which followed the Napoleonic wars and the doubling of the value of bonds by the shrewd manipulations of the house of Rothschilds. These things were all thrashed out by discussions among the people before either one of them ever put pen to paper. What these "masters of style" did was to take these ideas that originated among the common people and express them in good English. The "discussion" occurred among the people and among them the ideas originated.

The Independent is somewhat familiar with this claim that the common people should leave the discussion of the money question to another class of people. We were told that by all the great dailies from 1893 onward. Members of congress and senators were in the habit of rising in their places and declaring: "I don't pretend to know anything about the money question. That matter ought to be left to the financiers and those who deal in money." The absurdity of the proposition that none but "masters of style" should discuss the money question, should be apparent to every man when he reflects that those who are not "masters of style" are the ones who will, by their votes, decide what sort of a money system we will have in this country. It is the revival of the old theory that the few should rule and the mass of the people should submit and keep silent.

The Independent has several times called attention to the anarchistic and revolutionary acts of several republican legislatures. It is by no means through with the list. The Rhode Island legislature was attracting attention last week all over the eastern states. It appears that a lawyer ran for the senate of that state on the democratic ticket. As soon as that body assembled he declared himself a republican and the republicans made him their leader and gave him the chairmanship of the most important committee. It appears that this same lawyer had sneaked through a bill at

the last session which was denounced by the whole population. The house, by an unanimous vote, passed an act repealing it. When it got to the senate it was sent to this lawyer's committee and he not only refuses to report it back, but uses the most insulting and threatening language to any senator who intimates that the bill should be reported. So one man, and he a brazen-faced turncoat, is holding up the whole state of Rhode Island. The senate is a republican body and absolutely refuses to change the rules so as to force the bill back before the body or punish this threatening, shyster lawyer. Wherever the republicans are in power just such things as that constantly occur. A little more of it and we shall have anarchy, pure and simple.

"A LUCKY PROMOTER"

A paragraph in a personal letter from a gentleman in New York city, who is in excellent position to know Wall street, deserves publication. It savors of prophecy and only the flight of time will show how true it may be. He says:

"The Northern Securities decision has dealt a mortal blow to Morgan, who is no 'financier,' but simply a lucky promoter who will henceforth gradually sink into the obscurity from which he arose."

LEE AND SECESSION

Under a law of congress each state in the union has the right to erect two statues of distinguished citizens in the rotunda of the capitol at Washington. The legislature of Virginia has recently voted to erect there a statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee. When the matter comes up in congress, there is likely to be a hot debate. One side will declare that no state has the moral right to erect there a statue to a rebel. The other will claim that the secession of a state was not rebellion.

Both sides will have to acknowledge that in the case of General Lee, there were extenuating circumstances, even if secession is declared to be rebellion. General Lee was educated by the United States government at West Point. While Lee was a student there, secession was taught in the school by the authority of the government and one of the text books given to Cadet Lee and from which he recited was "Rawie's View of the Constitution." In that book are found, among other of like nature, the following passages teaching the doctrine of secession:

If a faction should attempt to subvert the government of a state for the purpose of destroying its republican form, the paternal power of the union could thus be called forth to subdue it. Yet it is not to be understood that its interposition would be justifiable if the people of a state should determine to retire from the union, whether they adopted another or retained the same form of government. (Page 289.)

The states, then, may wholly withdraw from the union; but while they continue they must retain the character of representative republics. (Page 290.)

The secession of a state from the union depends on the will of the people of such state. (Page 295.)

The people of a state may have some reasons to complain in respect to acts of the general government; they may in such cases invest some of their own officers with the power of negotiation, and may declare an absolute secession in case of their fabric. Still, however, the secession must in such case be distinctly and peremptorily declared to take place on that event; and in such case, as in the case of an unconditional secession, the previous ligament with the union would be legitimately and fairly destroyed. But in either case (conditional or unconditional secession) the people is the only moving power. (Page 296.)

When the government takes a boy and teaches him doctrines like that, he can hardly be called a rebel for putting those teachings into practice in later life.

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EVERLASTING LYING

The Associated press keeps up a never ending stream of lies. The other day it sent out from Topeka, Kas., the following:

"The bank deposits of Kansas amount to \$3,000,000 more than at any previous high water mark, according to the quarterly statement of Kansas banking institutions, issued by Bank Commissioner Allbaugh today. High water mark in the state's bank deposits heretofore was on September 30, 1901, when they aggregated \$88,181,194.14. The deposits are now more than \$90,000,000, over \$60 for every man, woman and child in the state."

Now that lie was written by an expert, not only in banking, but in the science of lying. Ninety-nine readers out of a hundred would understand from reading it that there were \$60 per capita of money in Kansas. The Independent has a hundred times, more or less, pointed out that bank deposits did not represent money nearly as much as they did credit. The man who got it up could have told as easily how much money was in the banks of Kansas, but he simply makes a statement of what the bankers owe. A man goes to a bank and gives his note for \$20,000. He is given a credit on the books of the bank for that amount and that note goes in as a deposit. Not a dollar of money up to that time has been used and probably very few will be used from that time until the account is closed and the books balanced. If Mr. Allbaugh and the Associated press had wanted to make a truthful statement, the amount of cash held by the banks would have been given and then the amount that they owed. But no such statements are ever made by the Associated press or republican newspapers. They prefer to lie and they everlastingly keep at it.

There are hundreds of men in this state so poor that they cannot give their children even a high school education, not to speak of sending them to the university, and whose condition is the result of the robberies of Rockefeller and others like unto him, who look with approval upon the gift of a few thousand dollars from his plethoric purse to the state university as a meritorious act. They are willing to be robbed of thousands of dollars if the robber bestows a few dollars of the loot upon some charity.

The people of this state are supposed to be self-supporting and independent. They are not paupers to receive charity. The reception of money, obtained as Rockefeller obtained his, is to become the receivers of stolen goods. Every honest man in the state should protest against the reception of a gift to the state university from the foul hands of John D. Rockefeller.

The mendacity of the republican press of this state is shown in the way it treats the matter of deficiencies. During the last campaign it was universally declared that the populists always had an immense amount of deficiencies, but that the republicans would have none. The godly Mickey was foremost in making these assertions. Now that the legislature has adjourned and the amount of deficiencies that had to be provided is shown by the books to be \$121,000, neither the godly Mickey nor a republican editor in the state will mention the matter. A more disreputable set of political scoundrels, to take them all around, cannot be found on the face of the earth than the republican leaders in this state.

It looks to The Independent as if the trusts were going to try to gain their point by the same methods adopted by the national bankers in 1893. They are going to threaten a panic if they are not allowed to destroy competition. Let them do it if they think that they can win by that method. The populists will like to see them do that thing. That they can produce a panic if they so desire no one doubts. But the people know more about finance and political economy now than they did in 1893 and a panic may have a different ending from what it did when they tried it before. If competition is to be destroyed, the dilemma will be presented: Socialism by the trusts or socialism by the whole people.

The anthracite coal trust announces the discovery of an immense new field of hard coal just south of Wilkesbarre on land belonging to the trust. The veins aggregate a thickness of 150 feet and the value of the coal is placed at \$1,000,000,000. Now look out for another rise in the price of hard coal. Every time a new oil field is discovered the Standard Oil trust raises the price of kerosene oil and the coal trust will likely follow that example.