

**A CURSE OR A BLESSING**

**A Tale of how Money Destroyed a Beautiful Home—Mammon Shows No Mercy.**

The editor of The Independent has come into possession of some facts which serve to point the moral that he has been so constantly preaching concerning the making of money—the pursuit in life to which all things else must be sacrificed. Some fifteen years ago a couple with whom the editor was acquainted married and went to Colorado. They were generous-hearted and bright young people, the wife devoted to her husband and the husband adoring his wife. He prospered fairly well and a happy home was built up. Now the wife writes the following letter to a relative.

"It may seem strange to you, but to me it seems that all the joy of life has been blotted out to never return. When we first came here we boarded and as soon as we were able to save a little money we bought some furniture and began to keep house in rented rooms. But we both wanted so much a home of our own and as M—'s salary was increased we tried to save all we could to make a beginning. At last we bought a lot and built four rooms so that they could be added to when we were able. Before we built any more we bought three more lots, so we had a quarter of a block. We were so happy. M— and I would plan how we were to arrange the rooms to be added and how it should be large enough for us and the four children with a spare room for friends who should come to visit us. Then we built the rooms and planted out trees and flowers and shrubs. M— and I would sit on the porch, partly covered with climbing roses, while the children played on the lawn. I often thought that I was too happy and that something would happen to destroy it all. Then I would think that nothing can happen, unless it be sickness and death, for M— had a permanent place and was drawing a large salary and has a paid-up policy of life insurance for \$20,000. But it has come in a way that I never could have imagined.

"M— had some spare money and he grub-staked a prospector about a year ago. This man has found a great mine of gold and M— and he have been offered \$1,000,000 for it and refused to sell. The very richest ore is being taken out of the mine and M— has, I don't know how much money in the bank. I used to keep all accounts and knew every dollar that we had, but while M— asked me to take charge of it as I used to do with his salary, it was so much that I was afraid. M— wants to build a great big house in a more fashionable part of the city. Every time I think of it, it seems that my heart will break. We built this house, one might say, with our own hands. The sweetest memories cling to every brick and board and nail. I think all the time when M— and I planted that climbing rose that now nearly covers the porch and how happy we were in contemplation of seeing it grow. So it is with everything on the lawn. I feel as if it would kill me to go and live in a great big house and have a lot of servants.

"There is another thing that makes me very unhappy. I have had some very dear friends who were nice people and in circumstances like our own. Since they have begun to call M— a millionaire they are shy and the bond of freedom and friendship that has bound us together seems broken. In the old times I could run over to any one of three or four houses in a perfectly informal manner. Now they seem to want to pay some sort of deference to me—look up to me as it were—as though I belonged to a different grade of society. That is one of the very hardest things of all.

"M— is still kind to me, but it seems as if I were losing him, too. He bought me a diamond ring and a costly brooch. I tried to feel like I used to when he brought me little inexpensive presents, and with which I was always so delighted, but I could not. I just went to my room and cried until I had a raging headache.

"Still another thing is the children. Harry is twelve years old. He has heard that his father is a millionaire and he begins to be overbearing and imperious with the children of the neighborhood with whom he has always been on the best of terms, and is no longer satisfied with the pleasures of our once plain little home. I am afraid that they will all be spoiled.

"Do come and see me. I know that you will be the same to me that you always have been. You will help to keep the house clear of agents who want to sell me everything from grand pianos to ponies and carriages for the children."

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Albert J. Anable, R. F. D. 1, Naples, N. Y.: Times are hard and the people cannot take any paper at all, or if they do, the plutocratic sheets are thrust upon them at mere nothing and they get the wrong side of the question. I am in sympathy with the doctrine taught by The Independent and will do all I can to help on the cause of the plain people.

**Public Ownership**

Editor Independent: Just now is a good time for the farmers of the west to study the greatest economic problem of the age—that of transportation.

Very recently Railroad Commissioner Anderson of Kansas has uttered a howl which is deserving of attention. He declares that when the farmers of Kansas are ready to move their wheat crop to market there will be no cars to carry it. He says the result will be that there will be no way for the producer to realize upon the present high price of wheat. That this statement is true there can be no doubt, but the car famine will not come from the causes suggested by Mr. Anderson.

The railway companies are absolutely masters of transportation. They own the grain elevators, their agents are the buyers of grain in every shipping territory, they control terminals for foodstuffs; and, therefore, are in shape to blockade themselves in ten days' time, while no one can point to the exact part of the machine which fails to work properly.

The remedy for this condition is not in the building of co-operative elevators, which will only benefit those who do not join in the movement, nor is it in a central commission with power to fix interstate rates. The proof of this statement would take too much space here, but it will suggest itself to any man who has kept tab on matters relating to the marketing and transportation of grain for the last twenty years. Absolute control of railways (government ownership, if you please) is the only remedy. It is no argument against such control that the cost of operation of government roads is greater than under private corporations, because the profits, or losses, of government roads inure to the whole people and there is no class or individual robbery possible under such ownership or management.

Transportation is a public utility and should, in all its ramifications, be under the absolute control of the government. Railway rate sheets should be abolished, replaced with as simple a tariff as that which prevails in the postoffice department.

This matter is worthy of study, and there is now commencing an object lesson which will last until the supplies of foodstuff is out of the hands of the producers.

Put on your spectacles and tackle it.  
G. E. HATHAWAY.

Lincoln, Neb.

J. C. Vincent, Zion, Lane county, Ore., used up his quota of four educational cards and, needing three more, made "them by hand," saying: "I thought it wouldn't make any difference to you, so you got the subscribers." Of course it wouldn't. That is the kind of work which spreads populism.

**Doran's Views**

Editor Independent: Please find enclosed \$1 on subscription. I was very much interested in the Henry George Edition, as I am and have been a disciple of Henry George for twenty years. While I am not a member of the state or national committee of the people's party, I was one of its organizers and desire to express my views on its actions, past, present and future.

In the first place, I believe that every populist who had the advancement of our principles at heart is now convinced that fusion was a great mistake. Personally, I thought so at the time, although I voted and worked with the fusionists, since a majority of the party voted for fusion. However, I have no disposition to find fault or quarrel over the past. I am free to believe that most of those who favored fusion believed it was for the best. But that does not change the fact that the party is badly disorganized, and I doubt the wisdom of ever trying to keep it up under the present name. Of course a name cuts no figure—the principles and policies are the whole thing.

Now that the reform wing of the democratic party has swallowed us up, and in doing so has badly disrupted its own party, I believe that we should let the populist organization go and join in a body with the reform element of the democratic party, attend

their conventions, county, state and national, and endeavor to make the platform on a line with the Kansas City platform, with public ownership of monopolies added. If we fail in this, and the reorganizers get control of the party, then we could organize a reform democratic party along these lines.

One thing is certain: it is folly for people working for the same candidates to do so under different organizations. It is a waste of time and energy, and if successful it never proves satisfactory all round.

A. P. DORAN.

Jackson, Neb.

Weber & Farris offer some tempting bargains for investment in large tracts of land and ranch properties. See ad.

Paul Carpenter, Partridge, Okla.: I cannot afford to be without The Independent, because it is the best advocate of populist demands and the kind of principles leading up to and promoting all reform movements.

**After Hardy**

Editor Independent: In "Hardy's Column" recently I note the following: "There are two men living whom the millionaire trusts will do their best to defeat in nominating conventions next year. They are Bryan and Roosevelt."

It occurs to me that very many of the readers of The Independent will fail to see the connection of such an anomaly.

It leads one to inquire who H. W. Hardy is, what country does he live in, what does he stand for, and what does he know about either Mr. Bryan or Roosevelt, and finally, how such stuff as that can obtain passport to the columns of a paper like The Independent?

So far as Mr. Bryan is concerned, he has too good sense to permit his name to stand among candidates, not because of being less acceptable to genuine democrats than he ever was, but because of the eternal fitness of things. To be sure, his name, because of the magnitude of the man, will be named in the 1904 democratic convention, but it will be an event born out of peculiar and unforeseen circumstances, if Mr. Bryan allows it to stand, even for a complimentary vote, as he needs no such compliment.

But it is a riddle for the Sphinx to those conversant with American politics and with the Roosevelt administration, the coup of the Elkins bill, the "fences," and other evidences of fake strenuousness, what it is that the trust combines or money schemers are liable to want a "Mr. President" to stand "Mark Hanna" pat, on and upon which Mr. Roosevelt does not now stand, Mark Hanna pat, with a big P.

Of all the unkind, unwarrantable things that have ever found expression in the hostile press concerning Mr. Bryan, this naming of him in the same connection and to the same purpose with Roosevelt takes the cake and gives ample justification to him who prayed God that he might be delivered from his friends.

Except for the dignity it violates, this paradox might be humorous and a matter of oversight, excuse the blue pencil of The Independent, but where is there any hole for Hardy to crawl into?  
E. C. CLARK.

Syracuse, Neb.

(Mr. Clark, like many others, overlooks the fact that signed articles express the opinion of those who sign them—and not the editorial opinion of The Independent. For many years Mr. Hardy has conducted a "column" in The Independent. He writes his own opinions of things. Possibly he may be mistaken at times—doubtless is; but where is the infallible man? According to all its contributors their undoubted right to think and speak and write for themselves, without impugning their motives, The Independent declines to be questioned as to why or "how such stuff . . . can obtain passport to" its columns. In passing, it may be said that scarcely any issue of The Independent contains nothing objectionable to some of its readers. In fact, not a few of them seriously object to the "stuff" that single taxers write.—Associate Editor.)

**Starkey's Opinion**

Editor Independent: Each week I am anxious to get The Independent to read the letters concerning the people's party, and I am beginning to think there is a possibility of a return to principle and the casting away of that butterfly—fusion.

It is not because many populists are so prejudiced against voting with democrats, but the fact that the virtue has long ago gone out of that party. Its history is not a lovely record for

an honest populist to show to the voter, and though tired of the republican policy, he revolts at simply turning over the pancake, knowing well that it is only "tother" side up.

Many who believe the populist party dead will be pleased to see it take on new life and are only waiting to see those in control break loose from every ism and raise the banner of populism. This cannot be done by following the conclusion of the state committee which by its action has simply indorsed the republican administration. Their calling the state convention at the same time as that of the democrats, if carried out as they hoped, namely, a fusion, will elect the republican ticket and leave the populists weaker and with less chance to accomplish in 1904 the great desire of every true reformer.

It is my opinion that the Denver conference cannot succeed, if fusion is carried out in this year's campaign; for what can come of an effort to unite, followed by the same course that was the cause of a conference? Surely the day has come when "a wayfarer man, though a fool, need not err therein."

Hope inspires; but one more fuse and the end is despair. You will not need to worry about those regents. The populist party will never be charged with court opinions, such as reading the Bible in schools, the McClellan case and others that smack strongly of partisanship. Better clean the platter and dish up a clean bill. Those who favor fusion, say the pops can't elect without fusion. This may be true this year, because the party is so badly shattered because of its course since 1896; but as sure as defeat has met it since fusion, just so sure it will meet that stunning rebuke again.

The populists have had enough; and until the republican party turns the thumb-screws and tightens down the prosperity mill-stone so as to grind a finer grist, it is a waste of time and money to join hands with crime in order to simply get on.

Let populists stand for government ownership of all public utilities and a straight ahead course, and we will either force the old parties to take up our ideas and keep the wheel of prosperity running lightly, or give way to the true reform forces, not by electing a Cleveland democrat, but a populist.

Enclosed find \$1 on subscription, which will carry me until after election, and I sincerely hope you will not have to accuse farmers of taking the cornfields as a preference to voting a fusion ticket.

W. C. STARKEY.

Violet, Neb.

**The Philippines**

The following quotations, made from a private letter to The Independent, written by a former Nebraskan now resident in Manila, will give our readers some idea of conditions in our "colonial possessions" in the orient:

"Although I always voted the republican ticket on national affairs, yet I should be delighted to see the democrats win at this election, because I think a general overturning once in a while is a good thing; and as we must admit that there are some good democrats in the country, and that the affairs will go along just about the same, whichever party is in power, it seems to me that a clean sweep would be a good thing about now, especially in this section.

"Conditions continue to grow worse here and everything is almost at a standstill with no immediate prospect of improvement. Expensive offices continue to be created, and money spent with a lavish hand in some directions, and the country continues to grow poorer, taxes increase, rents go up, the cost of foodstuffs is exorbitant, while the land lies idle, and business grows worse. There must be an end sometime, of course, but while the end is coming, many must suffer heavy losses.

"By the way, if you have not read Bellair's book "As It Is in the Philippines" read it; there are many wholesome truths in it and I am glad to see things being made public and I hope the people of the states will wake up some day and get at the facts as they exist out here."

Any one desiring to buy land may save themselves considerable money by carefully reading the page ad. of Weber & Farris elsewhere in this issue. You should act quickly if interested, as the best bargains are being picked up rapidly.

Our friend, Bishop I. B. Keller, Belmar, N. J., renews for another year and encloses printed matter concerning the world's camp meeting he is conducting.