

**THE REAL SOCIALISM**

Mrs. Avery, in a recent speech in Springfield, Mass., declared that the socialists' platform did not contain the essence of their principles and that the leaders really sought other ends than those indicated in the published declarations. She claimed that after having discovered these things she was forced to leave the party as she could not give her assent to the real objects of the socialistic propaganda. The Independent has long known that to be the fact and has often said that the logical result of socialist theories must be the destruction of the family. Now the socialists are publicly proclaiming the fact. From The Agitator of September, 1903, a New York city socialist publication, the following extracts are taken. These are not charges made by The Independent, as the reader will please notice, but the statement of socialist principles by the advocates of the co-operative commonwealth, themselves. On page 26 of The Agitator, September, 1903, is this statement:

"Marriage must go. It is continually being weighed in the balance and found wanting. It is not conducive to an improving birth-supply and a free, rational development of the young."

Then on page 29 will be found the following:

"Here, then, is my arraignment of marriage, modern marriage with its concomitant divorce courts, its unspeakable, but inevitable prostitution; with its impossible and unnatural ideals of virtue and its hypocritical disregard for them; this thing of shreds and patches permeated by an atmosphere of falsehood and concealment. This is the full flower of our present economic system."

On the same page and the one following this appears:

"Socialism will give the opportunity. No true and worthy relation of the sexes, no adequate solution of the problem of the birth-supply can be attained until men and women stand on equal footing economically. The co-operative commonwealth will supply these conditions and the intelligence of society must reconstruct its marriage traditions. Part and parcel of our archaic property system, they must go."

Years ago when the editor of The Independent first began to hunt for relief from the economic ills that afflict the common people, he thought he might find it in socialism. He therefore went to the authorities on that subject without prejudice and earnestly sought it there. He was irresistibly driven to the conclusion that the fundamental principles laid down by its greatest writers must of necessity destroy the family relation as we have known it and which gives about all in life that is worth living for. Being an earnest student, he was often admitted to the inner circles and there he found men advocating what he conceived to be the necessary result of the system, although it was never openly advocated. Mrs. Avery seems to have had the same experience.

The editor knows that there are socialists and socialists, many of whom are pure and high-minded men advocating the collective ownership of all property, but who fail to see that such a condition would make the existence of the family as we now know it an absolute impossibility. But the real leaders understand it well enough.

**LET THE CHURCH FEAR**

Mammon and Moloch! They reign together. Out of obscure seats in dark corners of station waiting rooms, out of dark doorways in city streets, and even from the garbage boxes in the alleys, comes Chicago's harvest of foundlings. Mothers made desperate by starvation and poverty become lower than the animals and abandon their young. Millions upon millions, far beyond the power to use them or even to give them away, are piled up in the hands of a few by a political party that gives countless special privileges

to a few and on the other hand frail mothers abandon their offspring in the hope that some one will have pity, or haggard parents, with breaking hearts giving them over to hospitals. But what does it matter as long as there is a surplus in the government treasury that can be given to the banks, and while the railroads have more traffic than they can handle? Socialist and republican leaders alike join in the creed that in business there is no right and no wrong, there is no "ought" and no "ought not." We, who have contended for the oppressed, whose hearts have sympathized with the toiling masses, can only stand aloof for a while and watch the Juggernaut of money and greed grind weeping women and helpless children beneath its wheels.

But there will be a revulsion. There is a greater power in the world than the power of money. It has trampled armies and money under its feet often times in the past. It is righteousness. Churches may become corrupt, they may accept bribes from the robber and extortioner and keep silence, but righteousness will in the end prevail. The progress of man is onward and upward. The time will come when the acceptance of bribes from the financial pirates will be looked upon with as much contempt as the former selling of indulgences. There is only one thing that will stand the test of the ages. It is righteousness. For unrighteousness the punishment in all ages has been terrible. There never has been and never will be a way of escape. It is not men like the correspondent from South Omaha, whose communication is printed in another column, who should fear. Let the leaders of the church fear. Their congregations will soon be made up of those who enjoy special privileges and no others. Then there will arise other Wesleys and Savonarolas.

**A DECEIVED PEOPLE**

How a whole nation can be led to believe a lie is shown in the history of the last few years. The "stand-patters" have led the people to believe that the present extortionate tariff has produced all the prosperity we have enjoyed and refer to lower tariffs or free trade as the most awful thing that could happen to a nation. Recently a book has been published entitled "A Political History of Slavery," by William Henry Smith. Mr. Smith, now deceased, was well known by all newspaper men. He was the editor of a bitterly partisan republican paper and for a long time was manager of the Associated press. In this book appears (Mr. Smith writing as a historian) the following:

"The ten years following the enactment of the Walker revenue tariff of 1846 opened a wide field of controversy between the political economists of the free trade and protection schools. Many years afterward the author of the tariff of 1846 reviewed its workings, and declared that its benefits had exceeded the most sanguine expectations; and that none of the evils—destruction of manufactures, discouragement of agriculture and increase of frauds on the revenue—predicted of it had been realized. He gave to his tariff the whole credit for the great increase of wealth from 1850 to 1860, which was in excess of 126 per cent—nearly double that of the preceding decade."

The whole country looked upon the results of this tariff in the same light. It came the nearest to being free trade of any law ever enacted. Now when it is to the interest of the tariff grafters to declare that low tariffs and "ramp houses" always go together, the whole country seems to believe the lie. That is simply because the whole press is practically in the hands of the tariff grafters and plutocracy.

The democratic bourbons never fail to make asses of themselves whenever an opportunity offers. They did it when they nominated Sewall, when they turned down Towne, and they now see a chance to repeat the per-

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formance at Washington. There is not the slightest chance that they will fail to make use of the opportunity. The attempt to make Panama the great issue in the next presidential campaign instead of the all-important economic and sociological questions that press for settlement is in line with their work for the last thirty years.

**BARBAROUS TRAITS OF CHARACTER**

Years ago when The Independent began to warn the people concerning what the result would be of the deification of wealth, it was like the voice "of one crying in the wilderness," where no one would hear. The whole literary world seemed to go mad, and not an article appeared anywhere in defense of the old ideals. There was nothing in life but the accumulation of money. The reply to any protest was: "What does he know? He has lived forty or fifty years and never accumulated any money." If a man had not accumulated money, that settled it. His opinions were worthless. Metaphorically, the God of our fathers was dethroned and Mammon was worshipped in his stead.

The Independent has lately drawn attention to the fact that a revulsion has begun against this sort of degradation. It is seen in many of the magazines that three or four years ago had nothing but derision, scorn and contempt for those who did not think that such men as Rockefeller, Carnegie, Morgan and Schwab were the highest types of American manhood. Leslie's Magazine attacked that sort of people along one line this month and The Reader attacks them along another. Even some of the great dailies have lately admitted articles to their columns, although they put them off in inconspicuous columns, that they refused two and three years ago. Bliss Carman, in discussing in The Reader the moral degeneration resulting from the worship of money, says:

"Anglo-Saxon civilization, to speak of no other, has become a humiliating and unscrupulous game. Our fathers and grandfathers cared for many ideals, for honor, for honesty, for patriotism, for culture, for high breeding, for nobility of character, and unselfishness of purpose. We care only for wealth, and respect only those relentless and barbarous traits of character by which it is attained."

The Independent is not so much

alone as it was a few years ago. There are others now beginning to voice the same sentiments and are defending the same principles. We bid them welcome. The guard post, so far in the front, has often been a very lone station.

**THE FARM MICROBE**

The chemists and bacteriologists are constantly making astonishing discoveries. There used to be a theory that the world must of necessity at some time become uninhabitable. All the coal would be consumed, the soil would be exhausted of its fertility and the globe remain an uninhabited waste. But the discovery of radium and the work of the bacteriologists have given that theory a hard knock. The farmer for thousands of years has known that certain kinds of beans would grow on soil too poor to produce anything else, though the beans produced food of the highest utility. A bacteriologist in his researches has discovered that the beans were populated with numerous colonies of germs that, coming into activity when the beans were planted, multiplied by the millions and extracted nitrogen from the air which served to enrich the soil. So this scientist went to work to propagate that kind of germs. He found that they could be preserved in a dry condition in cotton and this cotton, planted in the poorest soils, soon was found to be alive with them. Drawing immense quantities of nitrogen from the air, they soon transformed the poorest soil into a condition to raise immense crops. The most valuable constituent of commercial manures consists of nitrogen and this farmer microbe when properly set to work will soon produce more nitrogen than ever came from the guano deposits of Peru and Chili. The experiments made show that the fertility of land in which the microbes were set to work was increased from 100 to 1,000 per cent. Hurrah for the farm microbe!

Some men have accumulated fortunes greater than the world ever saw before. They are not the result of labor. They are not the result of capital. They are in every case the result of special privileges.

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