

Judge Fitzgerald

Editor Independent: We can not read all of the books and this is well, for many are worthless, but there are many that we should read, but, for multiple reasons are unable to do so, which is regrettable. The work entitled, "The Thirty Years' War against Silver," by Judge Fitzgerald, is undoubtedly one of the latter kind and The Independent is to be thanked for giving its readers even a brief review of the salient points covered in the work which may serve to put "laymen," i. e., the ordinary man, upon inquiry and take some of the conceit out of professional money scientists, especially those whose clamor has been for "free silver" bi-metallists, gold standard votaries, fiat money deprecators, etc. Those who are denounced as "visionaries," have long been telling the people who are clamoring for a reform which they seemingly do not want, that all real money is fiat money and that the word "fiat" means the decree of a law making body, or of one clothed with sovereign authority. Although Nevada is a silver producing state and also the home of Judge Fitzgerald, the prospectus of the judge's book is largely handicapped from the fact that there don't seem to be any "graft" provided for in it and, strange as it may seem, very many of our "reformers" are covertly looking for some kind of graft. Not so, however, with such reformers as Flavius J. Van Vorhis, who gave us the able article a few weeks since, or Thomas Hunt of Kennedy, O., in his Philosophy of Freedom talk to readers of The Independent in the last issue as well as the rest of the Philosophy of Freedom logic that The Independent is giving its readers. The sidelights given us of Judge Fitzgerald's book, together with the beacon lights always seen on page 6 of The Independent, should serve to remove the barnacles from the hides of "bi-metallists," "free silverites," "gold standard," people and decorticate the moss from the backs of those reformers who propose to fool the people a little while longer with an "income tax," the benefits of which no one, not even in the late campaign where so much was supposed to be at stake, had the temerity to "rise and explain" its merits. But the world does move and evolution insists that "single tax" on land values go along with it. The contributions of such men as Mr. Delmar, Fitzgerald, Van Vorhis, etc., never forgetting the mention of the greatest of economic philosophers, Henry George, have started the wheels of progress with new impetus and it is now to be hoped that all those really honest reformers who have hastily remarked that "the horse was seventeen feet high," will be candid enough to admit their haste, recognize their error and say that it should read "hands" instead of "feet."

Under the maxim, "humanum est errare," not even Judge Fitzgerald need blush at error and to hasty conclusions often, nay, even so commonly found in the closing paragraphs expressive of advance thought in economic and other science; so, without the courtesy of a "big pardon," we suggest that the judge is mistaken when he says (if The Independent quotes him rightly) that "if anything beside silver and gold coin is made a legal tender, the constitution must be changed." The United States constitution provides that "Congress shall have power to coin money and regulate the value thereof and of weights and measures." Judge Tiffany, on constitutional law, says: "there is really no such thing as gold and silver money. Money is the sovereign authority impressed on that which is capable of taking and receiving the impression. That upon which the stamp is placed is called coin; the coin may be metal, parchment or paper." In this connection the United States supreme court says, 12 Wallace, page 552: "here we might stop, but will briefly notice an argument presented in support of the position that the unit of money value must possess intrinsic value. The argument is derived from assimilating the constitutional provisions respecting a standard of weights and measures to that conferring the power to coin money and regulate its value." Idem, page 553 states, "It is said that there can be no uniform standard of weights without weight, or of measure without length or space, and we are asked how anything can be a standard of value which has itself no value. . . . It is hardly correct to speak of a standard of value." This language reveals the fact that the court saw the inconsistency of attempting to authorize congress to "fix the value" of money, which they can no more do than they could fix the course of the wind. The framers of that clause of the constitution seemed to think that to fix the volume of money issued would also fix its value, but the volume of money of whatever ma-

terial it is composed is not all that is necessary to determine, even for a limited period of time, the exchange value of money.

So, in conclusion, I submit to Judge Fitzgerald that the congress of the United States is the sole arbiter of what material shall be coined into money, or rather, upon what material the money fiat shall be impressed coined or stamped, whether it be paper, tin, leather or what else. There is no need to change the constitution, as Judge Fitzgerald hastily assumes; all we need to do to correct the seeming crudity or congressional nescience, is to get rid of the brazen-faced rascality that now and for years back, has stalked with unmasked effrontery, the halls of congress, trampling with mallet heel the confidence of an outraged people under their feet.

E. C. CLARKE.

Syracuse, Neb.

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Our Old Lover

Editor Independent: The persistent devotion of the American people to their political parties is in pitiful contrast with the very uncertain devotion of the political parties to the people.

True the expressions of devotion to people which are annually made by the two dominant political parties are in manner as flattering and obsequious as was "Fagius" devotion to "my dear boys" in Dicken's Story of Oliver Twist. And in their persistent party loyalty, the dear people themselves have—by means of tariff schedules and by special legislation of their party representatives in government—picked pockets, to enrich favorite clients of the political parties, as nimbly as Fagius "Artful Dodger," and have, as did Oliver Twist, under leadership of Fagin, burglarized the premises and violated the personal rights of the American citizen.

With the threat to reduce wages—and even a threat of the loss of opportunity to work (for the masters) the people have been frightened, repeatedly, into doing things they knew to be wrong; and they have been, by misrepresentations, buncoed into doing great wrongs which they believed, to be right.

In platforms, campaign speeches and through their subsidized newspapers, the politicians, political parties and self-constituted patriots, continuously proclaim their love for the people.

The republican party is going to punish the trusts, the criminal trusts!"

The democratic party just longs for an opportunity to get at the trusts, and to put a stop to the "crimes of predatory wealth." Is anxious to set August Belmont at the work of annihilating the trusts and monopolies.

The socialist party also "loves the people," and innocently but frankly proclaim their purpose to surrender our old idea of "personal liberty" and to completely centralize the government, and thus to "pool" all individual energy with the hateful powers of oppression in a sort of "merger," called "co-operative commonwealth."

The past conduct and present attitude of "the political parties" invites the suspicion that these old rival lovers of the people are insincere. And some substantial proof is required that these old parties love the people disinterestedly and better than they love their party, their party bosses and their selfish interests.

As to the two chief rivals—the two "grand old parties" their conduct, has been such as to fill the people with alarm for the safety of "Miss Liberty," their conduct has been salacious and nasty. Insinuatingly obsequious in her presence, but prompt to defame in an aside. Why, these two old rival lovers of the people, at the simple mention of the name of a people's party have fallen into hysterical fits of denunciation and abuse, have roared a very tempest of misrepresentation, and succeeded astonishingly well in making the people's party contemptuous in the minds of partisans (most of us are partisans) and have declared authoritatively that "populism" and "the pops" are in principle and in person beneath the notice of either republicans or democrats.

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Confronted with this contradiction of conduct, this loving abuse, this confusion of preach and practice, we are led to inquire how and when does the "sovereign American citizen" come into his royal significance? Their conduct has made the American sovereign look more "like thirty cents" than a sovereign. They would make "foreign agreement" necessary to determine the status of the American sovereign. Alas who will appear now to "speak up" for the little spectacled scare-eyed fellow whom Mr. Opper pictures as "The Common People?" Who is he anyway, that he should expect to be considered; that even under the name of a people's party, he should ask to be heard, amid all this lovemaking by the two old rivals, amid this clamorous claim of desire to better the condition of the common people?

Repeatedly, here and there, groups of the people have united in effort to accomplish some much needed reform in government, and they were promptly railed at and maligned as cranks by both the old parties; unless one of the parties cunningly chose to annex the citizens, in a single campaign to defeat the other old party and then having squeezed the citizen's lemon dry, and promptly threw it into the garbage, with a laugh of derision. "Citizen's union! Bah!" Ah, how earnestly, how sincerely and unselfishly these two old political rivals do love the people?
STILLMAN DOUBLEDAY.
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J. W. MILLER.
Venango, Neb., Box 182.

The chairman and secretary of the people's party national committee say of "The Hocus Pocus Money Book." "As we believe its circulation will greatly help our cause, we trust all friends of monetary reform will procure copies for themselves, and call the attention of others to it." end to Albert Griffin, Topeka, Kan., 25c for 1 copy, or \$1 for 5.

NOTICE OF ATTACHMENT PROCEEDINGS
M. A. McLaughlin, will take notice, that on November 30th, 1904, in an action then pending before him wherein one William W. Hendry was plaintiff and the said M. A. McLaughlin was defendant, W. T. Stevens a justice of the peace in and for the city of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, issued an order of attachment against said defendant for the sum of fifteen (15.00) dollars, and costs of action, and that property of said defendant consisting of merchandise in the possession of and under the control of the Adams Express Co. a corporation has been attached under said order. That said cause was by said justice continued to January 14th, 1905 at the hour of nine o'clock A. M. of said day.
WILLIAM W. HENDRY, Plaintiff
Dated December 8th, 1904.

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