

inconvenient laws, and an innate thinness of profit to dwell therein, one might better in many cases turn from the trade of stocks to that of the pick purse; for with morals the same the padder at least escapes the Wall street vice of an inevitable treachery to his friends. Long ago, the homestead—as our records disclose—of Captain Kidd occupied the present site of the stock exchange. Is there no suggestion here?"

Every district attorney and other officer of the law whose duty it is, is constantly engaged in an effort to suppress gambling, and the pulpits of every church in the land, earnest appeals are constantly being sent up to the throne of God for aid in the destruction of their great evil, that is said to be corrupting the morals of the young manhood of the land, but these efforts seem to be directed along against the faro dens, pick purses, crap and other games, and have no relation whatever to the greater gambling that includes among its votaries, it is said by Mr. Lawson in "Frenzied Finance," even senators and representatives in the United States congress. The important fact that I referred to above, was, that as long as the government allowed the gamblers of Wall street to manipulate the finances of the country through the gambling devices used therein, there could be no change whatever in present conditions of a permanent character, for whatever methods producers and their friends may adopt for their protection, the gamblers in futures can always, by playing with backed cards, skin any sucker who thinks his "system" can beat the game. Temporary relief is not what is wanted, but a large dose of your "Uncle Samuel" directed straight at the heart of Wall street gamblers, is what is needed as a permanent remedy.

TAYLOR McRAE.

Dallas, Texas.

**Defense of Socialism**

Editor Independent: It seems to me that your editorial concerning economic determination in a recent issue of your paper was unfair—that you attribute to W. J. Ghent sentiments not expressed in the quotation you made.

I have never read his book from which you quote, but fail to find the lack of moral force in his words you have set forth and entitled "repulsive doctrine." Mr. Ghent has indeed made repulsive statements but are not these repulsive statements true?

You repudiate the following quotation:

"Whatever may be our vague inclinations, our nebulous aspirations toward a universal moral law, the stern necessity imposed by the economic process determines and fixes our practical ethics and controls our actions. The prevailing mode of production and exchange is the closely enveloping medium which conditions all activity, bodily and mentally. The American revolution was prompted in the main by economic motives," etc.

Is it possible you deny these statements, Mr. Editor? Why, they read like populist doctrine. They read like your many editorials.

Do not populists declare that our economic conditions result in debasing slavery, want and crime and press down so heavily upon the many wealth producers that the majority are too ignorant to vote for their own best interest?

As a general proposition, what is there false in the statement that "economic process determines and fixes our practical ethics and controls our actions?" Is it not true that our industrial conditions constitute a heavy layer of clay compressing the real within only waiting opportunity for a development of moral force? I fail to discover that Mr. Ghent denies this latent moral force.

You complain of his doctrine being selfish. Self-preservation, the first law of nature, is all selfishness and the majority of men are struggling for self-preservation. A man will steal before he will starve and to such there is no "ought" nor "ought not."

I find nowhere in your quotation a denial of your statement that moral force "is an essential part of man's nature." Neither does your author fly in the face of evolution by proclaiming the retrogression of even the lowest.

According to my mind, Mr. Editor,

The Independent and Kansas City Weekly Star, both one year for \$1.10.

**Burlington Bulletin.**

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Mr. Ghent simply states facts as they exist today and because they exist the people's party was born.

You say "that in discussing this question of graft, the author indulges in a thousand contradictions of his theory of economic determinism." Now may not the trouble lie in your interpretation of economic determinism instead?

MRS. MARION TODD.

(Mrs. Todd and all others can rest assured that the quotations in The Independent are reliable. Mr. Ghent

states the true socialist idea. Anything aside from that is not socialism at all and parade itself under false colors. The proposition that economic force determines our ethics and controls "all" our actions bodily and mentally, is disproved by the history of all mankind. Did the economic, closely enveloping medium, lead the Man named Jesus Christ to submit himself to persecution and death. Did an economic force lead thousands of others since his day to abandon every selfish interest and lay down their lives for

the advancement of the human race? Self-preservation is not the first law of nature, if by "nature" we mean all the works of God. Self-preservation is the first law of brutes and not of the ethical man. Cast an eye over Manchuria and then answer if "self-preservation" is the first law governing the hundreds of thousands of men in the trenches. Populists have never adopted this damnable doctrine. They have never gone before the people and declared that their economic environment produced their morals.)