

now asking for pensions aggregate more hundreds of thousands than ever enlisted in the Union army from 1861 to 1865 inclusive ought to cause deliberate patriotism to investigate and demonstrate the merit of every pensioner added to the roll.

Old soldiers who rightfully and honorably get pensions should protest against padding the rolls with the unworthy and the fraudulent.

Nothing could better illustrate the difference between the simulated democrats who are chained to the vices and vagaries of populism, and the real, genuine, gold-standard democrats than the difference between oleomargarine and real cream-evolved butter. The populists are pinchbeck statesmen, and the alleged democrats who follow them are oleomargarine democrats. They are as different from the full-weight-and-fineness democrats of the gold stamp, as tallow and lard are from genuine Jersey butter. But oleomargarine, according to Holcomb's administration, is good enough for invalids who are the wards of the state; and oleomargarine democracy is good enough to furnish votes that secure all the offices to the populists. The sick will thrive on bread spread with oleomargarine just as satisfactorily as democracy thrives when veneered with free coinage of silver at sixteen to one, and other financial and economic fallacies. Oleomargarine statesmanship is as good for the state of Nebraska as an oleomargarine diet is for the insane and other wards in the public institutions of this commonwealth.

WORDS IN HARD LUCK.

Just as the rising tide of business in a growing town drives the residences before it, so that the fashionable houses of a few years ago are left forlorn amid the noise of traffic; while on the other hand the open fields are taken possession of and made to bear the homes of the well-to-do; so in the shifting of men's ideas gradual changes are brought about in the meaning of words. Once-respectable terms fall into evil ways, so that they are no longer fit to appear in polite society, and, conversely, words of ill repute are brought up into the light and air and formally adopted by the wise and good. Sometimes there are signs of method in this process, but often it appears to be governed only by the freakish spirit of language.

Who, for instance, can explain why the good and bad words for boy and girl have been reversed in position in the last 500 years? When Wycliffe translated the Bible into English, "knave" and "wench" were the proper words. He made Saint Paul proclaim himself "the knave of Jesus Christ," and told the story about the ruler of the synagogue thus: "And he holding the hond of the

wenche, seith to her, Wenche, to thee I seie, rise thou. And anon the wenche roos, and walkide." Our word girl, on the other hand, had a rather unsavory flavor at that time; and the old Teutonic word for a lad, or young man, has been advanced to "knight" in English, while, oddly enough, it has been degraded in German to mean a stable-boy.

It is remarkable how fate has persecuted nearly all words applying to the plain people. A large proportion of our most unpleasant terms were at one time perfectly respectable words, and meant no more than that the bearer was engaged in manual labor, or in agriculture. They were no doubt started on the downward path by the idle upper class, who were displeased with such people because they wore old clothes and smelled sweaty. "Vulgar" and "lewd" are such words; they come respectively from the Latin and German words for the common people. "Vulgar" brought its supercilious sneer into English with it; "lewd" has come down in comparatively recent times. In the Cook's Tale we read:

"Ther was no lewede man that in the halle stood,
That wolde do Gamelyn eny thing but good."

Here it signifies merely the men-servants, or farm-hands. In the King James' translation of the Bible, the apostle Paul is made to characterize a mob that broke up one of his meetings as "certain lewd fellows of the baser sort." Here it is used in a directly disparaging way, but it is still far from its present meaning.

"Common" itself, though it really applies only to such things as we share with others, has come to be used in an uncomplimentary way.

A "villain" is such a person as a Roman gentleman came in contact with when he visited his villa or country-house. A "scamp" would seem also to be one who has relations with the camp or fields. A "blackguard" is one of the company that appeared from a rich man's kitchen when he mustered his entire household.

It was in much this same spirit that an Eastern agent, not long ago, being disappointed as to something he had hoped to obtain from the Nebraska City council, sought to wound that respectable body by calling its members "a set of farmers." "What does the man mean?" asked one of the councilmen. "He can't hurt my feelings a bit by saying that I own a farm in Otoe county. I'd just as soon own three or four."

Sometimes the change in the force of a word tells a story of development of society. "Pecuniary" and "fee," which both have reference today to money, began, as everybody knows, as the Latin and German words respectively for cattle. This goes back a long way. It was by reason of a mistrans-

lation of this Latin word, no doubt, and not because cattle were still the chief form of portable property, that an old English Bible speaks of a "womman which hadde spendid al hir catel in to lechis;" that is, for the doctors.

We speak with equanimity of our children having the measles; but that is the old name for no less a disease than leprosy. "Manye meselis weren in Israel" says Wycliffe, and again "Crokide men gon, meselis ben maad clene." We have a savor of this in the common phrase "measly pork," for meat infected with trichina.

SWITCHED OFF.

Silver at sixteen to one in unlimited quantities, and without cost of coinage to the owners of the bullion, is no longer the slogan of the populists and other disturbers of the public credit. The "white metal" and "the crime of seventy-three" are not now in evidence when the orators of fusion pour out the torrents or their verbosity. But the McCleary bill, so called, and the proposed legislation which is still in the hands of the congressional committee on currency and banking are the objects of their holy indignation and patriotic wrath. And from the general trend of the fusion discussions of finance it is only fair to conclude that from Allen to Billgreene, the leaders will all finally land upon the shoals of John Lawism.

They will all favor a paper currency, that shall be irredeemable, to be issued by the government itself. The descent from a dollar which is *forty* per cent fiat to a dollar that is *wholly fiat* is facile and swift. The error of banking by governments is as obvious as experiences and disasters, which history has recorded, can make it.

There is no reason why the government should furnish the currency for the American people any more than it should provide them pork out of a government packing house or flour out of a government mill. Banking should be left to bankers and milling to millers.

The sole and only purpose of the department of the treasury should be, as it was intended to be, the faithful collection of the revenues of the United States and their honest and discreet disbursement for the liquidation of the expenses of the government. The simple monetary governmental function is the minting of bullion into discs and certifying the fineness and weight of each coin. No legal-tender quality should be given to any kind of currency whether made of paper or metal. Without legal-tender the United States may coin silver and gold in unlimited quantities and the relation of the supply of silver dollars to the demand for silver dollars would fix their value. And the gold dollars would be valued by the same inexorable and forever operating law.