

**DISCUSSION OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY.**

A gentleman of high character and well-known in Boston for his business ability and integrity writes as follows:

BOSTON, Dec. 3, 1898.

EDITOR OF THE CONSERVATIVE,  
Nebraska City, Neb.

Dear Sir: I note with much interest the suggestion contained in your issue of recent date concerning the need of a new conservative political party in the United States. A suggestion of this kind emanating from so responsible an authority should lead to careful discussion, possibly with a view to organizing such a party.

It certainly is true that there is today a large body of intelligent, independent voters whose affiliations with present parties are not of a strong character and who feel, to an ever increasing degree, that neither the republican nor the democratic party is entitled to their complete respect and sympathy, either in the general principles which they advocate or in the practical way in which they attempt to carry out the wishes of the voters. There are, too, thousands of men of high character who hold themselves entirely aloof from present parties, some identifying themselves with independent movements which in the main appear to be futile, while others shift their votes from party to party according to circumstances.

There is a reasonable doubt as to whether a third party would improve the general situation, but it is possible that a new party consisting of the best element in existing parties would form the nucleus of a movement which would in time supersede one of the old parties. We are constantly told that it is the duty of the citizen to identify himself with one or the other great political organizations; that if he desires to bring about better conditions and a higher type of statesmanship he should apply his efforts for reform within that particular party. I do not wish to deny that this is a true method of reform and yet there are many difficulties in the way, because the constant and almost irresistible tendency of independent voters is to segregate themselves from present political organizations.

If a new party could be organized which would hold and concentrate the allegiance of this large class of voters, giving us a fresh movement based upon this growing desire for purer and better politics, a large and powerful organization might be built up which in time would entirely supercede one or both of the present parties. It seems quite conceivable that both the republican and democratic parties, as a whole, have through corruption, mismanagement, boss rule and incapacity to evolve vitalizing and purifying issues, reached a stage where the process of disintegration has begun or will soon begin.

If this be true, I for one would like to see the possibilities of the new party well

discussed. I should like to see in this country a party which would truly represent the honest and intelligent voter, a party where the sole test imposed upon candidates would be their honesty and intelligence and not the particular opinions they may hold upon current problems.

It has been somewhat disappointing to observe a disposition among those who have been looked upon as independent leaders of political thought, to impose upon candidates arbitrary conditions as to the opinions they must hold, irrespective of their personal integrity and intellectual capacity, which it seems to me should be the first and only requisite. I should like to see a party where candidates were not catechized as to their particular beliefs. What you designate as the conservative party should also be liberal. It should be conservative in that it would stand as a bulwark against ignorance, demagoguery and corruption, but liberal in that within the lines of honesty and intelligence entire freedom of opinion would prevail.

We need unfettered thought. If the men who exercise freedom of thought and independence of action can control any strong, progressive, dominating party, they can save the country. It seems almost impossible for men of this character, except in isolated cases, to exert the force and influence they should through any of the parties now seeking popular support. If the party you suggest can give us what we want let us have it!

Very truly yours,  
HENRY H. PUTNAM.

**DISTINCTION.** The distinction of becoming a senator from Nebraska to represent the commonwealth in the upper house of the national legislature is desirable to only such men as may faithfully, zealously and intelligently discharge all the duties of the place with a sense of the obligation of the oath of office and a courage which consults only duty and defies clamor.

Sometimes the election to the senate is the commencement and the end of distinction. Sometimes it is extinction.

The state of Nebraska was admitted and Senators Thayer and Tipton took their seats in the senate of the United States in March, 1867.

Since the expirations of their terms Saunders, Hitchcock, Paddock, Van Wyck, Manderson, Paddock, Thurston and Allen have been senators from Nebraska.

Among them were efficient workers for the material welfare of the state. Notably successful in this line were Hitchcock, Paddock and Manderson; the latter having been, no doubt, the most popular and effective senator ever sent from this state.

But the state was never by any senator brought really into incandescent

notoriety until the U. S. senate was awakened to the efficacy of Nebraska ozone as a lung tonic and vocal invigorator through a fourteen hours' speech of the Honorable William Vincent Allen. That effort, which hurled words at the senate, the galleries and the world with catapultic endurance for more than a whole legislative day, brought the cyclonic energies of Nebraska oratory into universal notice.

But the colleague of Mr. Allen is no mute.

Senator Thurston is an orator with bagpipe and brass band attachment, self-adjusting and self-applauding. His speeches for free silver and for free Cuba have been saturated with tears and his sonorous sobs in behalf of the victim of the crime of 1873 and of sympathy for the victims of Spanish tyranny have penetrated every ear and moistened every eye between two oceans.

At times the continent has been convulsed, contorted, griped, as it were, by the oratory of Senator Thurston and many immediate auditors are reported to have evinced all the symptoms of a boy full of green apples and pain. There is nothing more excruciating than wind colic.

The mythological music and the hypnotism of Pan, who charmed all the gods and whose melody excelled that of the mocking bird "which among the leaves of the flowery spring laments, pouring forth her moan, a sweet sounding lay," are mere untutored noises compared to the saccharine euphony and vocal confections of Senator Thurston, of whom it is related, with candid credulity, that speaking in an autumn afternoon, in the county of Buffalo, near a field of corn and potatoes, he so charmed both crops that every ear of corn leaned towards and listened to the speaker, while enormous potatoes crept out of their alluvial beds, climbed upon the tops of their hills and winked and blinked with moistened eyes when the senatorial spectacles and sonorousness glanced full upon them.

For such a speaker, leader, philosopher and distiller of soft-summer-drink eloquence what distinction is there in a senatorial toga? How can the fizz and fizzle, the spark and sparkle, the flash and dash and slash of impetuous and eructatory oratory be enhanced by the mere presence of a senate? Is Niagara bigger, its thunder louder when spectators gaze upon its glory?

Perhaps Charles Dickens had in mind a modern statesman of the Thurston type of thunderers when in *Dombey & Son* he wrote:

"He is, if I may say so, the slave of his own greatness, and goes yoked to his own triumphal car like a beast of burden, with no idea on earth but that it is behind him and is to be drawn on, over everything and through everything."