

amounting to a passion, was the chief justice of the United States, John Marshall. While he was on the bench, no case could come before him, in which power was claimed for the United States to issue bills of credit; because at that day he and everybody else well understood and willingly acknowledged that the power to emit bills of credit was withheld from the United States, was forbidden by not being granted. But his opinion of the illegality of the issue of bills of credit by the states gave him the opportunity to declare in terms of universal application that the greatest violation of justice was committed when paper money was made a legal tender in payment of debts.† But the opportunity to express his opinion, which was never offered to him as a judge, he found as a historian in his life of Washington. He claimed for himself and those with whom he acted, an "unabated zeal for the exact observance of public and private engagements." He rightly insisted that the only ways of relief for pecuniary "distresses" were "industry and frugality;" he condemned "all the wild projects of the moment;" he rejected as a delusion every attempt at relief from pecuniary distresses "by the emission of paper money;" or by "a depreciated medium of commerce." These were his opinions through life. He gave them to the public in 1807, and twenty-four years later in a revised edition of his Life of Washington he confirmed his early convictions by the authority of his maturest life.*

IX.

Opinion of Thomas Jefferson.

"The federal government—I deny their power to make paper money a legal tender."†

FARMERS WILL FARM. The Farmers' Institute of Chilton County, Ohio,

has determined to turn over a new leaf. For twelve years the members have been passing resolutions for the regulation of nearly everything, and having observed that they have not changed the courses of the seasons, have determined to eschew politics, except as their individual conscience may dictate, and devote their energies to raising the largest crops possible on their farms at the minimum cost, and to selling them at the highest prices possible. It is feared that these farmers, being Ohioans, will be unable to eliminate themselves from politics, but their determination is a wise one, and it may be extended so as to impress profitably several thousand farmers in all parts of the country.—Southern Farm Magazine.

† 4 Peters, 425-465.

* Marshall's Life of Washington, 1st ed. V. 85, 86; ed. of 1831, 103, 104.

† Jefferson's Works, IV. 260.

GOOD CITIZENSHIP CONVENTION.

To Be Held at Cincinnati, Ohio, May 2, 3, and 4, 1899.

The third annual convention of the National Good Citizenship League will be held at Cincinnati, May 2, 3 and 4, 1899. The proceedings, general discussion, and program of addresses from well-known and representative speakers, will be in accordance with the aims and objects of this movement, which briefly stated are as follows:

1. Unification of reform forces.
2. Promotion of the study and practice of good citizenship.
3. Eclecticism at the primary, caucus and convention—selection of the best and most competent in nominating candidates for public office.
4. Direct legislation through the initiative and referendum.
5. Proportional representation.
6. The imperative mandate.

A large majority of the American people are in favor of various important reforms, some of which, under existing conditions, could never be obtained, while others would require several decades for their consummation. The only remedy in sight is a salutary change in these adverse conditions, a removal of the barriers that block the way of progress and reform. History and experience teach us that in union there is strength—united we succeed, divided we fail. What we need, and what we must have, if we hope for success, is unity of purpose and concert of action. For these ends and along these lines, that the nation may be saved from peril, our homes be rescued, our sons and daughters saved to all that is best in the republic, and that there may be a realization of the hopes and desires of those who have ideals of truth, freedom and justice, it is highly essential that a standard be raised to which "the wise and the honest can repair," absolutely necessary that factional strife should cease and that there should be a speedy and permanent fusion of all the forces of reform, such a union as would be the perfect embodiment of democracy, republican and populism in the true sense of these misused words.

The vast majority of the republican party are earnest, honest men. They realize at last that plutocracy dominates the councils of their party, but look with suspicion on a so-called democracy in which the absolute party control is vested in the irresponsible hands of a small company of professional party bosses. The rank and file of the democratic party are eager for real reform, but they are disfranchised as far as the management of their party is concerned. They are powerless to dictate platforms or to name candidates. Rival factions and contending partisan committees fill the air with appeals for the people to abandon all alliances and acknowledge their

leadership and authority. None of them suggests that the people should be consulted in these matters. Unless some method is devised by which the intelligent people of all parties can unite and frame a modern political platform, the future holds promise of nothing but overwhelming defeat or barren victory. If the people want a government in which they can rule, they must first have a party in which they do rule.

It is time for the good citizens of America to break the shackles of a slavish partisanship—then, and not until then, will they see the dawn of a better day growing into a noontide prosperity that will be enduring. It is time for action, and the great impediment to action is not discussion, but the want of that knowledge which is gained by discussion. Then let the people from every section attend this convention, to consider and discuss these vital issues of the hour, to promote all wise measures of reform and to devise some means for a speedy and perfect realization of the aims and objects of this movement.

All organizations pledging co-operation shall be members of this league, and are entitled to representation in its annual conventions, as follows: Ten delegates from each national body, five delegates from each state organization, and two delegates from every other co-operating organization.

To all genuine reformers, all advocates of civic and economic rightness, all friends of humanity in the struggle for life, liberty and happiness, a cordial invitation is extended to attend this convention, which will be in the nature of a general conference composed of delegates from co-operating organizations, and volunteer representatives of all parties, the only credentials required being the possession of a desire to see honor and purity, virtue and justice, the Golden Rule and the majority rule applied to politics—the politics which our leading lexicographer defines as, the science of government, that part of ethics which has to do with the regulation and government of a nation or state, the preservation of its safety, peace and prosperity, the defence of its existence and rights against foreign control or conquest, the augmentation of its strength and resources and the protection of its citizens in their rights with the preservation and improvement of their morals.

In addition to addresses, to be announced by program, a few hours of the convention will be left open for short speeches and general discussion.

Newspapers, religious and secular, throughout the United States, are requested to publish this call, and to call attention to the same editorially. By order of the executive committee.

S. T. NICHOLSON,
Secretary and treasurer National Good Citizenship League (until May 4, 1899), Cincinnati, O. (After May 4, 1899), Washington, D. C.