

A CONSERVATIVE CONTRIBUTOR.

The communications of Doctor Frank S. Billings, which have appeared from time to time in THE CONSERVATIVE, have caused much comment. They have been attractively original and obstinately independent.

The recent death of Robert C. Billings, of Grafton, Massachusetts, who was the uncle of the contributor to THE CONSERVATIVE, has been mentioned very generally by the newspapers of the United States. The generous bequests to public institutions by the decedent were as follows:

Harvard university, \$100,000; Massachusetts institution of technology, \$100,000; to Massachusetts institute of technology, to found the "Billings student fund," with the understanding that any student receiving benefit from the fund is expected to abstain from the use of alcohol or tobacco in any of their varied forms, \$50,000; to the Museum of fine arts, Boston, \$100,000; to Massachusetts general hospital, \$50,000; to New England hospital for women and children, Roxbury, \$50,000; to Massachusetts charitable eye and ear infirmary of Boston, \$50,000; to Perkins institute and Massachusetts school for the blind, \$25,000; to the kindergarten for the blind at Jamaica Plain, Boston, \$10,000; to American Unitarian association, Boston, \$25,000; to the "Grindall Reynolds" fund of the same association, \$10,000; to the Boston young men's Christian association, 18 Boylston street, Boston, \$25,000; Hampton normal and agricultural institute, Hampton, Va., \$25,000; Tuskegee normal school, Tuskegee, Ala., \$10,000; Atlanta university, Atlanta, Ga., \$10,000; Massachusetts society for aiding discharged convicts, Boston, \$10,000; Boston asylum and farm school for indigent children, Thompson's island, \$10,000; Children's mission for children of destitute parents, Tremont street, Boston, \$10,000; Boston lying-in hospital, \$10,000; Morton hospital, Taunton, \$10,000; Benevolent fraternity of churches, Boston, \$10,000; Home for the aged, Walnut avenue, Roxbury, \$10,000; Boston home for incurables, \$10,000; Washingtonian home, Waltham street, Boston, \$10,000; Massachusetts infant asylum, Jamaica Plain, \$10,000; trustees of the Eliot school, Eliot street, Jamaica Plain, \$10,000; Unitarian church, Corey street and Center street, West Roxbury, to be invested in a secure mortgage for the benefit of the church, save that the church is to care for the Eben Billings' tomb, \$10,000; Sailors snug harbor, Quincy, \$5,000; Boston pilots relief association, Boston, \$25,000; Boston dispensary, Bennet street, \$10,000; Jamaica Plain dispensary, \$25,000.

And to THE CONSERVATIVE contributor, was given \$100,000 and to his wife and daughter, about \$60,000 more. Beside that Mr. Billings made bequests ranging from \$1,000 to \$100,000 to other relatives. Two of his servants,

who were in his employ for forty years, are willed \$10,000 each.

Other bequests of the will are: Rev. Edward Everett Hale of Boston, \$5,000; to Rev. Charles L. Dole, of Jamaica Plain, \$5,000.

Thus has been distributed with great judgment and a solicitude to do good to the race a fortune of more than two millions of dollars. The friends and admirers of Dr. Frank S. Billings will be gratified to learn that in his vast gifts to the public the uncle did not forget his nephew and his family.

AN EDUCATIONAL FUND.

Very properly Coin Harvey and William Jennings Bryan have evolved and inaugurated "The World-Herald Educational Fund" and all good citizens will rejoice in the opportunity thus given for the improvement by the study of finance and government of the editorial contributors to that fallacious journal. No other in Nebraska more needs an educational fund. Depositing the dimes and dollars which are to be thus contributed for the obliteration of a dense ignorance in such a plutocratic institution as a Packers' National Bank seems hardly consistent, however, with the preachments of populism.

Are not the national banks in the awful "money trust?" Is there not danger that the cruel money-changers, who constantly count, handle and fondle filthy lucre may infect the money itself with avarice, with a wicked desire to wreak ruin upon the great and glorious cause of 16-to-1? Can cash remain in such contact and afterwards render real service towards raising the price of silver to \$1.29 an ounce?

Plan of Operation.

First—"The treasurer of the fund will be The Packers' National Bank of South Omaha, and all remittances and payments should be made directly to it.

Second—"The bank will from time to time forward its funds direct to the depository of the democratic national committee.

Third—"The bank will report to The World-Herald all subscriptions as fast as received, and The World-Herald will acknowledge receipt in its columns, giving the real name of the contributor, or his assumed name if he prefers not to be known.

Fourth—"The money will be used by the national committee in educational work for the campaign."

"The plan of operation" is taken from the columns of the anti-trust, anti-corporation, anti-gold standard, anti-contentment and anti-prosperity organ at Omaha. And the particular pleasure of contributing over an "assumed name" is no doubt one of the ecstasies in which that establishment will indulge itself. The exquisite felicity of giving over an "assumed name" will likewise be gener-

ally experienced by those "who prefer not to be known" as probable candidates before fusion conventions. But the silver smelter and refiners' syndicate can likewise contribute with meek obscurity over an "assumed name" as many hundreds of thousands of dollars as they gave in 1896 to the same cause.

The last supreme assurance that "the money will be used by the national committee in educational work for the campaign" is an appeal to young and tender credulity which the "plain people" can never resist. It is a persuasive and irresistible exhortation to put up money to pay the expenses of printing speeches and for liquidating the cost of traveling by gentlemen who wish the presidency and all other federal offices placed at their disposal for four years so that the republic may be saved!

POLITICAL.

In the opinion of the Buffalo Express (Rep.) "any amendment to the pension laws should be in the direction of retrenchment rather than extension. The excessive liberality of the past is really responsible for the discriminations and injustice which have grown up in the pension system. A thorough and equitable revision of the rolls and the laws would be in the interest not only of the public treasury, but of all veterans honestly entitled to pensions."

The Detroit Tribune (Silver Rep.) gleefully tells how the Michigan republican delegation in congress lost the opportunity to trade on the speakership. "The leaders of the delegation," it says, "entered into correspondence with the various candidates to ascertain who would trade the most jobs for twelve prime Michigan votes. A caucus was called to enable the delegation to open the bids; but before it could be held Mr. Hopkins ingloriously retired in favor of General Henderson. Before the delegation could transact business with Henderson, Massachusetts had pledged him her support and he no longer needed the votes of Michigan."

It puzzles the Boston Herald (Ind.) to know just what is meant by the reference in the Ohio republican platform to "the master guidance," under which great things have been done and are to be done by the administration. It cannot mean McKinley, it thinks, because "the president, in important matters, appears to be one of the guided rather than the guide." Neither is the supposition that God is meant "consistent with the circumstances;" and congress and the people are barred out, as the president has recently "gone ahead without much solicitation of their will." It is therefore "compelled to believe the master guidance to be that of Mark Hanna."