

REQUIEM.

Under the wide and starry sky
Dig the grave and let me lie.
Glad did I live and gladly die,
And I laid me down with a will.

This be the verse you grave for me:
Here he lies where he longed to be,
Home is the sailor, home from sea,
And the hunter home from the hill.

—ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

NEED OF GOLD STANDARD LEGISLATION.

The country at last demands from congress an explicit legislative definition of what a dollar of the United States actually is today. This demand is strong and clear, and it is the satisfactory outcome of more than ten years of public discussion of the gold standard, the silver standard and the double standard, and congress is going to heed it next winter. The people have a right to know what constitutes a dollar. Is a dollar 25 8-10 grains of gold of standard fineness, or is it 412½ grains of silver? It cannot be either or both at the option of buyer or seller, of debtor or creditor, any more than a pound of avoirdupois can be either eight ounces or sixteen ounces, as may suit the convenience of a party having wool to sell or wool to receive. The American public has at last reasoned itself out of the humbug of a double standard, and sees that such a standard is impossible and absurd. The public has also reasoned itself out of that other humbug preached by Bryan, that the value stamped on a coin at the mint determines the value of the bullion contained in the coin, and now knows that just the opposite is true, and that the value of the bullion put into a coin determines the value of the coin. It is now generally realized by all but the hopelessly ignorant that government can no more create value in coins than it can in wheat.

The present demand for definite gold standard legislation rests upon a few plain facts. The first fact is that gold is now the standard money of the whole world, with the exception of a few Spanish-American nations, where commerce is but poorly developed and where civilization has not yet reached a high plane, and of the great semi-barbarous nation of China. Even India has lately given up all hope of ever restoring silver to its old relation to gold, and thus making it again a standard money metal. No nation which still uses silver as legal tender money to an indefinite amount and admits it to the privilege of free coinage at its mints regards that condition of affairs as other than detrimental to its foreign and domestic commerce and to the welfare of its people.

The second fact is that the gold standard in the United States rests not upon law, but upon executive action, and could at any time be abandoned by a president committed to the double standard doctrine. During the long run of

the silver craze in congress both parties vied with each other in efforts to prevent the decline of the white metal, by acts and resolutions making the various forms of obligations issued by the government payable in "coin," and leaving the determination of whether the coin should be gold or silver to the secretary of the treasury. There can be no doubt as to which way the question would be settled if Bryan were president and Altgeld controlled the treasury. Those politicians and all the silver advocates believe that it would be a public blessing to have two kinds of money—cheap silver money in which debtors could pay their creditors, and dear gold money for capitalists to loan to borrowers with the assurance that they would never get it back again. The only thing clear in the muddle of indecisive monetary legislation in which congress has wallowed in recent years, is that this legislation is all permeated with the bimetallic idea and that the single gold standard rest not upon law, but executive action.

The third fact in the situation is that the republican party, which has always been a gold standard party, has at last full control of all branches of the government, and has now the power to carry its convictions into law. Congress is strongly republican enough in both branches to adopt a law next winter declaring that the dollar of the United States is a coin containing 25 8-10 grains of gold, and that all obligations of the government, whether in the form of "coin," bonds or of circulating notes, are payable in gold coin.

We wait with anxiety to learn whether the republicans in congress will do this, or whether, with the cowardice that has characterized so many of them on financial questions, they will seek to evade the issue, and thus invite defeat in the presidential campaign of 1900.—Sound Money.

IS DEMOCRACY A FAILURE?

[J. N. Larned in The October Atlantic.]

The American experiment of democratic republicanism has been tried with a fairness from circumstances that cannot be impeached, and it has gone far enough at the present day for its results to be fairly judged, says J. N. Larned in The October Atlantic. That the results are satisfying, as they now appear, is probably more than any believer in republicanism can be willing to say. That they are painfully dissatisfying is the verdict that few will hesitate to pronounce. By more than a disappointment of hopes, and by worse than a realization of fears, the outcome is troubling to thoughtful minds, because of the surprises it has brought. Threatening forces that were never suspected have been brought to light, and in-

fluences that roused no dread in early days are found to be the most sinister of all. On the other hand, it is true that some dangers which loomed large in former times have been diminished by the years, and seem to hold no serious threat. But, on the whole, it is difficult to believe that popular government in the American republic shows as favorably today, and gives a promise as fair, as it did when Washington left the presidency or when Lincoln was slain. It is more than difficult—it is impossible—not to feel that our country is farther from government by the fittest to govern than it ever was in any former time. Make all reasonable allowance for the habitual discontent of mankind with that which is, and its magnified remembrance of that which was, there remains an obstinate mass of disheartening fact. The decadence—the sickening decadence—of the senate of the United States, once the pride of the nation; increasing venality in most legislative bodies, and a puppet-dancing quality in the men who make up their majorities; deepening corruption and extravagance in municipal government; manifest deadening of opinion and spirit in politics, by methods of organization which convert parties into "machines," and the leader into a "boss;" the consequent exclusion, more and more, of superior men from public careers, and abandonment, more and more, of the political arena to self-seeking and vulgar crowds,—these are things that have come to be recognized beyond dispute. And the deplorable phenomena are no plainer than the causes that have worked to produce them.

LIFTED WATER. Not many years ago a proposition to divert some of the head-waters of the Grand River to this side of the Rocky Mountains was looked upon as visionary; now it has been realized, and it is a remarkable fact that water which flows naturally into the Gulf of California has been virtually lifted over the Rocky Mountains, and, after being used for irrigation, finds its way to the Gulf of Mexico. A number of small streams on the western side of Long's Peak which flow into Grand Lake and thence into the Colorado River have been diverted by a ditch that finds its way through a pass 10,000 feet high into the head-waters of the Poudre. Some 400 cubic feet per second has thus been diverted from the Pacific to the Atlantic slope. The success of this engineering feat leads the Denver Republican to ask for its repetition. "There is," it says, "an enormous supply of irrigation water on the Pacific slope of Colorado which would be a mine of wealth if it could be brought to the Atlantic slope. On this side of the mountains we have many times more land than water. On the other side there is many times more water than accessible irrigable land."