

**DEMOCRACY  
RAMPANT.**

The democrats of Nebraska who were "benevolently assimilated" some years since by the populists who were, at the time of the swallowing of the aforementioned democrats, merely the unappeased and extruded appetite for offices which the republican party in this state had been unable to satiate, are now triumphant and rampant! Their exuberance and hilarity are based upon the election, to the supreme bench, of Holcomb, and the appointment of W. V. Allen to the United States senate.

Could there be greater cause for ecstatic rejoicings? On the cross of constant candidature they enjoy the exquisite martyrdom of crucifixion and serenely smile while crowns of the thorns of defeat are pressed down upon their bland and childlike brows. It is sweet to die for Bryan's sake.

**PANIC PROOF.**

The stocks and bonds of over-capitalized corporations have warped and shriveled in Wall Street and "the money power," about which our fusion friends rave, has been wounded among its friends. But beef, pork and cereals in the hands of the down-trodden farmers of Nebraska have not been lessened in value by the Wall Street mob. The staple products of the farm are panic proof. No one ever saw them without any market value whatever, though the common stocks of some trusts have been marked down below zero. The money power seems bent upon wounding itself and its lamentations fill the jungles of plutocracy with hideously mournful music. The octopus howleth in anguish and no populist nimrod shooteth the beast.

**ONLY PROTECTION.**

The tariff-trust letter which we print today is by Mr. Bolton Hall, a prominent lawyer, writer and economist of New York. It contains interesting information concerning the iron ore trust which has just doubled the prices of ore and which, for years, has been arbitrarily fixing prices and restricting production to limit supply to demand at the artificial prices.

Mr. Hall explains the power of these ore producers to fix prices. He does not think that all, or even most of it comes from the duty on imported ore, but he is certain that a part of this monopoly power results from tariff duties. How ineffective are anti-trust laws to reach and to suppress trusts is shown by the fact that these ore producers are apparently disregarding the decision of the United States supreme court on December 4th which declared that a similar combination of pipe manufacturers was a trust and was therefore illegal. Nearly all previous national and state court decisions have been

adverse to such combinations and yet trusts now flourish as never before. Mr. Hall is right in saying that a remedy for the evil of trusts does not lie in laws and courts, but rather in the repeal of laws which grant special privileges—the foremost of which is our tariff law.

**INSTINCTIVE  
RESEARCH.**

Many times during forty odd years experience with orchards, at Arbor Lodge, we have bound brown paper strips around the trunks of apple trees and tacked them together upon the upper edge at point of contact by driving a small nail into the bark. The codling moth cocoon would be deposited under the paper, here and there and everywhere, throughout the orchard.

Then came the investigating committees of birds. The woodpecker, the sap-sucker and the bluebird each began looking at and into the brown paper belly-bands. Instinctively they would, with unerring judgment, strike their bills into and through the paper at precisely the spot where a codling moth had deposited its eggs and the grub had been formed. They never made any mistakes. But the most learned and astute statesman can not tell where—under the slight veneering of fusion and fustian, which encompasses the trunk of populism and communism—there can be found a democrat either adult or in embryo.

**A TRUE ISSUE.**

The burning question before the people is the constitutionality of war. This question includes the control of the government over the lives and property of the people for war purposes. On that issue the constitution but speaks the language of Nature—war for the common defense is constitutional. No others. Common defense does not mean wars of aggression, for humanity or any other purpose. The fact is that our present war began as a hypocritical aggression. It never was for humanity any more than it is now. It was for political purposes. Nothing else. The trouble with the anti-imperialists is that they are emotional humanitarians and have taken the president (and his party) at his word. The trouble with the people is that they do not believe either. As a body the people do not care an iota what becomes of or what we do with the Filipinos. National vanity blinds a few, personal indifference the many, to the true question. That question is not what becomes of the Filipinos, but what it costs to kill, conquer and hold them in subjection? If the people would wake up to the true issue there would be no question as to the burial of McKinleyism at the next election.

FRANK S. BILLINGS.

Sharon, Mass.

DECEMBER, 1799. One hundred years ago the American newspapers were discussing the beginning and ending of centuries just as they are today.

The Norfolk (Virginia) Herald of that month and year contains the following from a person peculiarly interested in knowing when the nineteenth century will begin, together with an answer by Mr. William Cobbett, the author of the then famous "Porcupine Papers." THE CONSERVATIVE again reproduces them as germane to present debate as to when the nineteenth century will end and the twentieth begin.

"In the Norfolk (Virginia) Herald appears the following advertisement, by a person, who pretends to be really interested in the decision of the question, and who therefore merits my attention.

PRINCESS ANNE, Dec. 18, 1798.

MESS. WILLETT & O'CONNOR,

Sirs: I am a poor widow woman, whose great uncle by her father's son died lately, and by his will he hath left me a legacy of £100, to be paid me in the 19th century; that is, he says: "Item, I give to my niece, Deborah Violet, £100, to be paid to her in the 19th century." Now, sirs, as I am a poor woman, and I am told you have a great many law gentlemen in Norfolk, you will render a great service if you will get their opinion when, and at what time, I have really a right to demand the same. In so doing you will oblige,

Yours at command,

DEBORAH VIOLET.

P. PORCUPINE TO MRS. VIOLET.

Dear Madam: Having a singular affection for widows of the Violet race (especially those who are in full bloom) and observing you in some little distress for advice, you will not be surprised, that, without further ceremony, I proceed to offer you the best, which it is in my power to bestow.

And, first, my sweet Violet, I think you have applied to the wrong source; for one principal part of a lawyer's professional skill consists in knowing how to procure delay; and, I assure you, that all the gentlemen of the bench and the bar, whose opinions I have heard on the subject, have decided the point against you. I resided, some time ago, near a small village, which was honored by being the summer's retreat of a lawyer and a judge. The former of these might not, indeed, have been much accustomed to the Christian calendar; but be that as it may, they both said (and I believe they swore) that the eighteenth century should not end 'till 1801. Preposterous as this assertion certainly is, you may be assured, that they were prepared to maintain it, even against one who should have risen from the dead to convince them of the contrary.

You may look upon it as a settled point, that whoever has got your £100 will keep it as long as they can. You