

## WORDS OF LIFE.

After a conflict with the world  
With all its weary strife,  
What rest to turn those pages o'er  
Where lie the words of life,  
To read that God's eternal love  
Holds all our souls most dear,  
E'en when mistaken paths we take  
His presence shall be near.

After the triumphs over self  
In battles sorely won,  
And after struggles when, too weak,  
We fall and sink undone,  
Despondent, with a heart o'er hung  
With failure's sad despair,  
We read that One above does know,  
For all our woe does care.

After the timid doubter's wail  
Of sad unrest and fear,  
And taunting words of unbelief  
Made harsh by sceptics' sneer,  
What sweet assurance greets the heart  
In words that none need miss,  
Till reason echoes from the past,  
No man e'er "spake like this."

Different sects may strive, perplexed,  
O'er changing human creeds—  
What matter, when we have the words  
That answer human needs,  
That tell, and tell again the truth,  
That God's commandments give,  
That, Heaven inspired to meet our search,  
Will show us how to live.

—MARY FRENCH MORTON.

**BRYAN, HIS PEDIGREE.** In his speech at  
Wichita Colonel  
Bryan treated  
things in his usual light and airy fashion, and as usual, says the San Francisco Call, assumed that everybody is waiting to hear him as the oracle of the time.

Sitting outside of himself as a part of the audience enraptured with him, he said: "The public wonders why I have dropped the silver question. New measures are resting upon us, but I shall never drop the silver question until the little coterie of English financiers cease to meet in secret and make laws for this country."

Now, there is a statement of fact. It is either true or false. What evidence has Bryan or any supporter of his that a little coterie of Englishmen meet in secret and make laws for this country? Who compose this coterie? What laws do they make? Why do they wish to make any laws for this country? The statement is a falsehood and is used merely as an appeal to prejudice.

In such appeals Bryan is a past master. He never made a logical argument in his life. He doesn't know a syllogism from a pied mule.

England has never had any interest in our adoption of the gold standard. Her interests financially have been with silver and Mr. Bryan, because that left her the leading gold standard nation of the world and made London the clearing-house of the planet. Our adoption of the gold standard threatens her financial primacy. It threatens to transfer the settlement of balances from

London to New York. If we had definitely adopted the gold standard on our resumption of specie payments in 1879, and Bryan had taken to the pulpit or the stage, by this time we would have been the leading creditor nation and New York would have been the world's clearing-house.

In the same speech Bryan threw a kiss to the populists, saying: "The East no longer regards populists as anarchists, but has come to respect them." Of course this refers to the populists who are willing to support Bryan for the presidency conditioned upon his forcing the democracy to adopt populist principles, which he has so far succeeded in doing.

But the gem of his Wichita oratory was this: "In the great contests that are fought between kingdoms and republics we know where to place the hearts of Americans. It is so today with the Boers, and I do not say that because I am against England, but I am part English myself, also part Irish and part Scotch, but above all I am an American."

No other public man, aspiring to the presidency, has ever said anything as deliciously and demagogically funny as that. He wishes to stand well with all nationalities and so pedigrees himself back to the British Isles. He is English, Irish and Scotch, and wants the vote of each nationality. His sympathies are with the Boers because their country is a republic, not because England is treating them unjustly. If England were treating a weak monarchy as badly as she is treating those weak republics, Bryan leaves it to be inferred that he would be indifferent to the issue, or would perhaps let his one-fourth British blood lead him into the support of England. His treatment of the Boer issue is characteristic of his illogical habit of thought. He has no sense of abstract justice at all. The rights of the Boers are settled, in his view, by their form of government. Republics are right always, is his ripe conclusion, and then he turns on the republic of the United States and condemns everything it has done since he was born and denounces everything it is doing now.

**CONSTITUTION AND PORTO RICO.** The first case, brought to the attention of the court, relative to the constitutional status of Porto Rico, has resulted favorably to the extension of the constitution. Judge Lochren, of the United States district court for the district of Minnesota, decided that Porto Rico, after the ratification of the treaty of peace became a part of the territory of the United States and subject to the constitution without further act of congress.

The decision was given in the case of Raphael Ortiz, a Porto Rican who is

seeking release from the state prison at Stillwater on the ground that his trial for murder by a military court was unlawful, because as an American citizen he was entitled to a trial by a jury. The decision of the court was oral. A written opinion will be prepared later.

The Chicago Times-Herald gives the following report of the decision:

"After reviewing the facts in the case and noting that the trial took place between the date of signing the treaty of peace and the exchange of ratifications the court said that according to the decisions of the supreme court of the United States a military commission was without jurisdiction to try a civilian in United States territory in the time of peace.

"He considered Porto Rico territory of the United States and subject to the constitution the minute it came under the control of this government. Unless the constitution extended to Porto Rico in advance of action by congress, congress would have no power to legislate for the island at all, because it has no authority to legislate for any except territory to which the constitution has extended."

Judge Lochren is recognized as one of the strongest constitutional lawyers in Minnesota. He is

An Able Judge. popular with all parties. During the second administration of President Cleveland he was commissioner of pensions. He was appointed by President Cleveland to his present position. The appointment was satisfactory to both political parties. At one time he was endorsed by a republican legislature for a federal position.

The case will probably be taken to the supreme court of the United States and, unless the higher court disregards precedent, the decision will be confirmed. If it is confirmed the unconstitutionality of the McKinley tariff for Porto Rico will be established and the imperialistic plans of the administration will receive a set back.

## SURVIVAL OF THE UNFIT.

Taking up again, in order to see whether or not we agree with Doctor Shaw in the matter, a recent "Review of Reviews" wherein he commented on sundry charitable institutions maintained by the state of New York for the support of certain defective and incompetent classes among its inhabitants, we notice that that able editor is entirely non-committal as to the propriety of such establishments. He says they are "noteworthy" and a "landmark"—whatever that may mean—and "well worthy of the observation of the country at large;" but we see nothing to show his opinion as to the morality of the forcible maintenance, by those who are able to win out, with a little to spare, in the struggle for existence, of those who are marked by the umpire of that struggle as unfit to survive, with the attendant