

faithfulness of execution. The notion of holding subject colonies, is like the fatal entrance of the camel's nose in the fable—little recognized in its serious possibilities. Our city politics grow more distressing and more disgraceful with time and increase. The foundation principles of finance require to be taught to the voter like any other branch of necessary education to the pupil, lest we be liable always to the phantoms and alarms that have so haunted our darkness. The system of spoils in office needs to be put where piracy or embezzlement is now. Some of these ills are diffused and general; some are sharp and immediate; all are serious; all are present; all demand the care of every true American. The way lies just before.

We would be the true Americans of our time; we see the principles we have always held in honor as Americans imperiled, and we move to their rescue. All the separate courts are incidental, members of a single body, to be brought into use as occasion calls. There is no want of unity in this clear conception. If it seems beyond the compass of a single aim, we might point to one countryman of ours, already named, who has embodied everyone of these high motives in his own single person; each in its purest form and each upheld with unswerving fidelity, all in utter defiance of overbearing tumults, and who has carried them once and again to national victory. Here was no lack of concrete shape and individuality; yet it is the country rather than the man that we honor in this mention. Such an example must be more prophetic even than historic. The work of Cleveland is not done, but in every respect barely now begun. Shall we continue it, or let it fall, for others to pursue hereafter to our shame?

Observations About the Candidate.

Cleveland still lives to guide and inspire us, his name a synonym of rugged strength and moral fortitude; secure in the grateful esteem of his thoughtful fellow-citizens, though too many in the party he served are too ready to reward his adherence to his convictions and those of Jefferson and Benton and Tilden with the slanderous charge of "abandoning democratic principles";—he who held steadily to his course while other pilots were steering aimlessly or with shifting compass, who was as the Pole Star while they were jack o'lanterns, who was the only successful democratic candidate for president in nearly half a century! With such a standard bearer, how clear would be our duty, how quick would be our choice, with what joy and enthusiasm would we cast our votes!

But there is another side. Would it be proper treatment of Grover Cleveland to nominate him today for president? The people of this country owe him too

much to display him thus to public gaze and to direct upon him again the yelping of Tray, Blanche and Sweetheart, and the rest of that snarling pack. If our candidate stood a reasonable chance of election, these scruples should be waived, but we have no right to require such a sacrifice under existing circumstances. He can give earnest and efficient help to the cause without suffering the malicious criticism, or being subjected to the gross injustice that would inevitably attend his accepting the nomination.

But the country is by no means lacking in men who would do honor to our choice. For example, there is Donelson Caffery, the fearless and consistent advocate of sound money and pure politics, with whom conscience has ever been the guiding star; there is J. Sterling Morton, the tried and proved statesman, upholder of the gold standard, of civil service and tariff reform, and of arbitration; there is Reed, the doughty republican, who was driven from merited prominence into private life because he was not subservient to the scheme of grab, nicknamed "Duty and Destiny"; Ex Senator Edmunds, the renowned jurist; Everett, the Massachusetts scholar; Hancock, the sterling patriot of Pennsylvania, and a host of others.

Our eyes are turned to you, gentlemen of the convention. We, who know not what to do because any decision is likely to be wrong, now call upon you to give us a chance to vote for a noble cause with a worthy leader. In America between the Scylla of McKinleyism and the Charybdis of Bryanism it is for you to build a lighthouse and harbor of refuge;—the keeper and pilot you are now to name.

THE UNFETTERED OCTOPUS.

"There is not," shivers the Ottawa Times in a populist horror, "a law in Kansas to control railroads," which alas, alas is too true. The railroad octopus in the state is unchained; he is roaming the hills and dales of this state dragging his lariat. And the railroad octopus is a bloodthirsty old bull octopus. In 1890 and in 1892 we were told that unless he was bound in chains and thrown into a subterranean cave, unless his teeth were pulled and his claws pared, unless his eyes were put out with hot irons and his mouth gagged with stringent legislation, the old bull octopus of railroad monopoly would break out and chew up all the men, women and children in the state—blood raw without salt or pepper.

Yet here he is unhobbled.

Here he is frisking up the Neosho and down the Cottonwood, avoiding to step on as much as an humble tumble bug in his pathway.

The sun still rises in the East.

Water goes down hill.

Men love their wives and sweethearts.

Children play merrily out in the twilight without fear; and the old bull octopus harms them not.

Can it be that this folk lore of the early nineties was the figment of a dream? Can it be that the railroad octopus is no octopus at all, but only the creation of a demagogue's fancy? Can it be that a railroad is operated as a newspaper or dry goods store or farm or real estate office should be operated—on business lines—and that talk of grinding cruelty is all bosh? Can it be that railroad laws are fifth wheels to wagons and that shippers and railroads get together as the other people do—merchants and their customers, farmers and their patrons?

Is there really a natural law in the business world that operates when legislative enactment fails?

Well, well, well—!

Now what do you think of that!—Emporia Gazette.

CONSTITUTION AND RAILROADS.

In an eloquent address before the American Bar Association last week, on "The March of the Constitution," Mr. George R. Peck referred to the fourteenth amendment as "the great anchor age for the rights which essentially belong to citizenship in a free government," and continued:

The large scope of of the fourteenth amendment maintained in the dissenting opinions of justices Field, Bradley and Swayne, and concurred in by Chief Justice Chase, in the slaughter house cases, has since become the established view of the court in numerous decisions. In none of them, probably, has the doctrine now accepted by the courts been more convincingly expressed than by Mr. Justice Harlan in the great case of Smythe vs. Ames, in which the court held that a railroad corporation is a person within the meaning of the fourteenth amendment, declaring that no state shall deprive any person of property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws; that statutes arbitrarily fixing railway rates which will not admit of the carrier earning just compensation are unconstitutional; and that the validity of such statutes is ultimately a matter for judicial inquiry.

State legislatures and railroad commissions used, now and then, to be reminded that the fourteenth amendment, guaranteeing equal rights to rich and poor alike, is still in the organic law of the republic.—Railway Age.

THE LABOR TRUST. If all combinations are trusts the labor union must be a trust. Why does not Attorney-general Smyth prosecute Mr. Sovereign, the head of a labor trust, for his activity in politics as a manager of one of the departments of the populist national committee?