

**COMMONER.** Mr. Bryan, a "farmer" of Lincoln, opened the initial number of his bucolic paper with some very gratifying information concerning the Greeks and Romans; a fact which is interesting, in that it shows that he has found time, since temporarily renouncing candidature, to apply himself to other branches of erudition than those which Mr. William Allen White observed last summer to be represented in Farmer Bryan's library. But THE CONSERVATIVE must gently remonstrate with Farmer Bryan, at the risk of seeming to ride a hobby, on his choice of foreign tongues; why does he tell us what the Greeks and Romans called people, and overlook the Germans, the Scandinavians, the Goths, the Irish, or the Pawnees, for example; peoples who, as THE CONSERVATIVE has often maintained, come much nearer home to Americans than do the nations of antiquity? Farmer Bryan could have found much philological information in this direction in the Dictionary of Mr. Noah Webster; a work to which he undoubtedly can obtain access, if he has it not upon his own shelves.

We learn further that Farmer Bryan, in selecting the title of "Commoner" for his periodical, did not mean to refer to the degree of its selectness; as that it was to be a little less choice than if he had called it "The Common," but a little more so than if he had called it "The Commonest;" he means rather to convey the impression that he belongs to what the late A. Lincoln called "the plain people;" that he is what the poet of the balmy isles of the Pacific calls "just a common low G—d d—d white man." Farmer Bryan's allusion is evidently to one William Gladstone of England, who, it is said, was called the Great Commoner, because he insisted on remaining a member of that branch of the British government known as the House of Commons, and refused absolutely to become a lord. Farmer Bryan's title would appear therefore to be taken rather from the English than from the American language; or perhaps it is more French than either, for the word *communard* seems to have a better standing in French than has "commoner" in English. It will no doubt be made clear in time, as Farmer Bryan has leisure to cover the fields of history and etymology more thoroughly, whether his allusion is after all to the French *communard*.

Another use of the word "common," which also is wholly English, is its nominative use, in which it signifies a verdant expanse attached to an English village or other town site, whereon the communal bull is wont to romp and roar and the village youth to play upset-the-sugar-bowl and other rude games. But there appears to be no connection between this matter and Farmer Bry-

an's oratory served frappe. Neither, it would seem, can he have in mind the earlier English use of the adjective "common," which in the Bible and Shakespeare, for example, is used in decidedly unsavory connections.

A curious instance occurs in the book of the New Testament called Acts, where the following injunction is found "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common." This, Farmer Bryan has apparently overlooked in his scriptural researches, or perhaps he had not gotten so far over; otherwise he is placed in the somewhat difficult position of either rejecting this divine precept, or giving countenance to an ancient taunt by denying his constituency to be effectually cleansed.

It is certainly to be hoped that the English flavor of the title which Farmer Bryan has selected may not give offense to any great part of the millions who have voted for him and who are expected to patronize his type talks. But if that should happen, he could still find names which would express his idea, as we understand it, and at the same time avoid a complimentary attitude toward the court of St. James. He might use Mr. Lincoln's word and style himself "The Plainer," which would also have a pleasantly industrial sound; or he could go back to the usage of Chaucer and Wycliffe, and call it "The Leweder."

'Too lewed to work, and ready for any kind of mischief.'—Chaucer.

Lewd meaning laical, belonging to the laity.

**COMING CAPITAL.** Capital is coming westward for investment. It is leaving New York, Chicago, and other populational centers for the purpose of establishing manufacturing plants in the valleys of the Mississippi and the Missouri. Along the western banks of the latter stream, in Nebraska, are most inviting locations for straw-board-paper manufacturing, wheat flouring mills, cereal mills, packing houses, starch factories, paving brick manufactories, and for the making of all sorts of valuable tiles and pottery from a great variety of most valuable commercial clays.

THE CONSERVATIVE invites cash, capital, men with money, men with energetic enterprise, to locate within the state of Nebraska. THE CONSERVATIVE is not afraid of millionaires or multimillionaires. On the contrary, it asks and earnestly solicits all those types of the "common people" who have carved success and fortunes for themselves out of the most humble and apparently insurmountable environments and obstacles, to make permanent homes in Nebraska. Notwithstanding the fact that Nebraska did for a few months, in

a paroxysm of populist madness, embrace and maintain the vagaries and fallacies of Bryanarchy, it ought now to be forgiven; and its cordial and hearty solicitation for the incoming of new men and new capital for the development of its untried resources ought to meet quite general and very prompt acceptance. The repeal of all the laws which demagoguery and vote-seeking have placed upon the statute books of Nebraska is demanded by sound common-sense. When this legislature adjourns, if it shall have repealed the bad laws of the state, the laws inimical to its development and advancement in manufacture and commerce, without having enacted a single new statute, it will have proved itself the best law-making body of this commonwealth since the state was admitted to the American Union in 1867.

If good citizens wish reform, they can get it by plenty of repeal. Laws extending a welcome to up-builders of the commonwealth—instead of statutes to conciliate the crank voters, the fault-finding workless, the tearing-down vagarists—are demanded by the men and women who earn honestly, and now honestly own the homes, farms, factories and work shops of Nebraska. Down with carping critics who decry all things now existing and advocate things which never can exist, except by subsidizing indolence and words, out of money unjustly taken away from industry and work.

**GROWING.** THE CONSERVATIVE is growing in public favor and now has a circulation three times as large as it had at the close of the first year of its existence. Three years from this time THE CONSERVATIVE ought to have more than thirty thousand subscribers. Meantime its patronage as to advertisements comes from among the best establishments and most reputable firms of the United States.

THE CONSERVATIVE desires the patronage of every banker and other gold-standard citizen within the American Union who desires to preserve the credit and the commercial honor and integrity of the government.

**FLASH-LIGHT EDITORIALS.** THE CONSERVATIVE notes with infinite satisfaction the Thespian element transferred from the rostrum to the press and the facility and felicity with which the posing orator, whose photographs are numerous as the pictures of Lydia Pinkham, becomes the posing pressman for a flash-light photograph. If the camera could catch a snap-shot of a logical thought among the innumerable fallacies of the new organ of populism, nothing would be commoner than the astonishment which its readers would experience.