

An agglomeration of politics for offices only is an abomination in the sight of patriotism. The welding together of the fragmentary odds and ends of discontent, and calling them "the people's party" or the fusion party, is an ancient practice. There are statesmen who seek offices only, who have no views, policies or principles which they can not smother in their ambition for place and plunder, or hide under a party name! The state of Nebraska has an annual crop of that sort which drouth, grasshoppers and heat can not diminish or destroy.

There are many people who make the mistake of thinking they think when they merely dream. These theorists, as to thoughts, believe that nearly all the ills of life and all the inequalities of its social and legal features can be remedied by legislation.

Because men with better brains, better opportunity, and better application to sound methods of business, get rich quicker, or attain social, political, or literary heights sooner than those with poorer brains, poorer opportunities, and less power of persistent effort, dreamers propose legislation to level down the discriminations which natural laws have established.

The common wagon roads of Nebraska need revision and overhauling generally. Roads 33-feet-in-width will be kept in good order with greater ease and at less expense than the present 66-feet-in-width-gardens-for-weeds, which we call roads.

By narrowing the roads of Nebraska one-half, there can be put into cultivation, nearly, or quite, 500,000 acres more fertile lands in this commonwealth. Even put into trees that area would be a vast blessing to the whole people. There is no argument in favor of sixty six-foot-in-width highways for Nebraska that cannot be overthrown.

We wish the newspapers in each county would find out and publish the number of acres now in roadways within its limits. It may be that there are more than 500,000 acres now propagating weeds in this State, which might be turned to good account if the roads were reduced to one-half their present breadth

No tax should be levied except for the purpose of getting money into a public treasury with which to pay the public debt, provide for the common defence and to promote the general welfare. Therefore, all taxes for subsidizing steam-ships, railroads and other private enterprises, ought to be declared unconstitutional, and then utterly

abolished and imperatively forbidden.

The editor of THE CONSERVATIVE has steadfastly held to these views for more than forty-five years. Therefore, he never advocated and never voted for the issuance of county, city or precinct bonds to any railroad or other private enterprise.

Recently, however, Mr. Edgar Howard—a former candidate for congress in the Omaha district—published: "I have often heard Mr. Morton in the days when he was preaching pure democratic gospel, warn the people against the evils of bond voting, but somehow I could never harmonize his good talk on the stump with his bad movements at the time the railroad bonds were first voted in Nebraska."

Does Mr. Howard mean that Morton ever advocated or voted bonds to railroads? Why innuendo? Why not a straight statement of the truth or the untruth?

The life-possibilities for the American can young man of temperance, ability and industry were discussed in THE CONSERVATIVE recently by gentlemen who—without inherited wealth—had under "the competitive system" worked their own way from obscurity and poverty to prominence and affluence. Not a man of them who has not made his own fortune and fame unaided by the state and unhelped except by his own brains and brawn. And this is the Christian gentleness in which a Beatrice periodical speaks of them:

"The symposium of The Conservative, selected from the ranks of the hirelings of plutocracy, without a discordant note sounds the praises of the present monopolistic control for private profit, of all the avenues of business, as ideal for success to the rising generation.

And through the whole opera 'success' has but the brutal meaning of getting gold.

The pictures drawn are the pictures of men devoid of souls, mere automatons, with the spirit of abject slaves, ready to bow the knee to the priests of Mammon, to gain Mammon's reward.

It is heart-breaking to read that mass of groveling, selfish, egotistic laudation of a transitory and evil condition, which has come upon men as the necessary outcome of a competitive system based upon a selfish theory of exclusive individual ownership, so fundamentally at variance with human nature, that its breakdown is inevitable."—Ashby's Crucible.

PRAYER.

As a portion of the universe, the United States for instance, is controlled by an intelligent being or beings, and as the laws of nature are universal, we conclude that the universe is governed by a general intelligence or intelligences.

If the humblest person were to write

to William McKinley and convince him that it would be better to change his administration in a certain part where it is causing suffering, no doubt the desired change would be made.

We have a very limited knowledge of the Supreme Intelligence. We suppose it is somewhat like our own, only reaching perfection. As the ocean is father to the clouds and the rain, so is the Supreme Intelligence father to Our Intelligence.

Would McKinley have stopped the Spanish war at the request of some one whose son was in the army and liable to be killed? Does God (Good) answer prayer? Is God merciful, in the way some people take it? Think of the earthquake at Lisbon, when his people were ardently worshiping according to their best intelligence. Whole families, innocent children who knew no evil, ingulfed in utter destruction.

History and observation teach that every being, man or beast, is punished for wrong-doing, whether the individual know it to be wrong or not. The people of Galveston did wrong not to flee to the main land ere the storm came. They did not know the storm was coming. They were punished, notwithstanding.

There are a great many truths in the bible. The Golden Rule is good. Religion plays its part in the development of man. Gradually, it will be stripped of superstition as people become more intelligent.

Formerly, people believed the sun moved around the earth. Astronomy was just as correct then as now, but the people did not understand it. The trouble with the preachers, they do not leave their first works and go on to perfection. They hold on to the superstitions until the truths drop out and are picked up by the people outside. And when the people outside present the stray truths, they denounce them as heresy.

God is not above nature. God is in nature. A theory contrary to nature is false. Jesus is represented as saying: "Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life." "The letter killeth." Too much "letter" in modern Christianity. "Give us this day our daily bread." A person might utter this prayer continually and starve to death. If he act the prayer, i. e., plant corn, and if nature furnishes no rain, irrigate it, the prayer will be answered.

There will soon be a prayer by the people of the semi-arid regions. It will bring forests in the sand-hills and shrubbery on the divides. It will fill our cribs with corn. It will be the effectual fervent prayer, with pick and shovel, with plough and scraper.

By all means, pray for rain, and every other good thing, using the talents and strength bestowed to the end sought.

JOSEPH MAKINSON.

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