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REPUBLICAN SHEPHERDS.

The upturned eyes and the sanctimonious facial contortions of some republican editors in Nebraska upon hearing that a republican governor had pardoned a republican ex-state treasurer out of prison recalls the reflections upon shepherds by the Elder Weller when talking to his son Samivel:

"The worst of these here shepherds is, my boy, that they reg'larly turns the heads of all the young people about here. Lord bless their little hearts, they thinks it's all right, and don't know better; but they are the wictims of gammon, Samivel, they're the wictims o' gammon."

The Pecksnifs and Chadbands of the partisan press in Nebraska have lifted up their voices in wailing and drained their eyes of tears because Joe Bartley has been emancipated by Governor Savage. They forget that Joe Bartley received as cash all the accumulated bad paper of his predecessors. They forget that not a single one of their State Treasurers in thirty years had turned over coin or currency of any kind to his successor for the full sum of his liability to the state. They forget that by a precise and strict application of the letter of the law that hardly one of all their State Treasurers upon the expiration of his term of office could have escaped incarceration. And worst of all forgetfulness—among the hypocrites who sob over the pardon of Bartley—they never dwell upon extravagance in office, they never denounce the self-adjusting conscience of a partisan state

treasurer who puts state cash in partisan banks or loans state cash to partisan leaders or subalterns. All such delicious derelictions they rather enjoy and commend, and the wrong and wickedness of misappropriating for political purposes the school funds or any other funds of the commonwealth they never mention. But to loan to party banks, and party bankers and party bummers and not get caught is an exalted virtue.

Will the republican newspapers of Nebraska go to the records in Lincoln and transcribe therefrom—and publish to the world—all the loans and other unlawful transactions ever made by the republican predecessors of Bartley?

Will they tell the truth and let all the voters of Nebraska know that their denunciatory rhetoric as to the pardon of Bartley is based solely upon the fear that the pardon aforesaid may injure their party?

In all their hypocritical lamentations, the methods and morals of Bartley are unmentioned except as to their bearing upon the fortunes of republicanism in Nebraska elections.

Mr. Bartley followed the methods and morals of his own party in handling state money. His own party damns a republican governor for having pardoned him because it is afraid the pardon may hurt republicanism in this state and for no other declared reason.

Bartley is a vicarious victim. He is punished and reviled because, in doing just what his predecessors did, he was smitten by a financial panic that exposed and ruined him.

Governor Savage is under a solemn oath to fearlessly, and by his own conscience, discharge his duties as the executive of this state. His mistake in listening to a State Republican Convention which—under populist teachings—became the referendum and asked him to violate his agreement with Bartley for a sixty days' parole was grievous and inexcusable. He as governor had given the prisoner that parole, and it was for sixty days. As to that act, for that purpose, Gov. Savage was *functus officio*—dead in office. He had no right in law or in morals to cancel his contract with Bartley—a contract made by the State—which gave him sixty days of liberty. The revocation of that parole was a mistake.

The pardon was an executive act. It needed no reasoning for its vindication and Gov. Savage made another mistake

in trying to tell why he pardoned Bartley.

The Governor had a lawful and a moral right to pardon. He did pardon. He did not need to give nor does the law require him to give any reasons for signing a pardon any more than for signing a requisition.

Bartley followed republican precedents. He dealt with republicans altogether in handling state funds. He owes it now to himself and to his family and to the State to give up the names of his advisers and beneficiaries. Let Joe Bartley turn on the light. Let the people know the whole sad story of his temptation and his fall. Expose all men who were interested, and all banks, and let Truth out to air itself.

The Omaha Bee
IS IT POSSIBLE? of January 17th, 1902, tartly reviews a very interesting and able paper which was prepared for and read before the Nebraska State Historical Society on Jan. 15th, 1902, by J. H. Ager, Esq.

If, as the Bee remarks, "this genial gentleman has done more to degrade and debauch Nebraska politics" than all other men and all other influences combined, does the Bee mean that its political partisan and its political party are corrupt?

The Republican party for more than thirty years has formulated and enacted the railroad laws and all other laws for Nebraska, and if they are bad if they have been born of corruption, the Bee and its fellow-partisans must be responsible for them, must they not? And if the present State Treasurer is morally, according to the Bee, as putrescent as the Bee declares his predecessor to have been; and if Ager, a republican, has been always employed to influence and direct railroad legislation in Legislatures always republican, and the Bee has always been cognizant of this alleged infamy, why has the Bee failed to lift up its voice against both the influencer and the influencees? Why this intermittent political chastity on the part of the Bee? Why not become a case of chronic political honesty and stand up for the right like a patriot instead of acting like a mere partisan?

If the Bee believes that legislators have been bribed, why spare them because they are republicans? Why not tell when and where a legislator has been bribed or unduly influenced by Ager or anybody else?

If debauched morals and reeking rot-