

# The Conservative.

A Journal devoted to the discussion of political, }  
economic and sociological questions.

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Entered at the postoffice at Nebraska City, Neb., as Second Class Matter, July 29, 1898.

VOL. IV. NO. 45.

NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA, MAY 15, 1902.

SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS

As the writer has remarked before, it is not sufficient for an editor to write down his meaning so plainly that any wise man can understand it; he must make it so plain that no fool can misunderstand it.

Recent occurrences at Chicago convince us that judges, like editors, are unfortunately misunderstood and misquoted. Some time ago Judge Tuthill decided that a wife was justified in shooting her husband, should he attack her. Just why he took occasion to dwell upon a legal rule so well established, and generally understood as the law of self-defense, is difficult to understand, but he did so, closing his speech with the following:

"I wish wives would learn to appreciate their rights of self-defense and would use them, too. If they did there would be a deal less wife-beating in the world. Because a woman is married to a man, she does not forfeit her right of self-defense. I should like to impress upon all women their right in such matters as this."

Now, if all people could read and properly interpret evenly such a plainly written document as that, all would have been well, but in this case a Mrs. J. D. Kelsey, who had been neither beaten nor threatened by her husband, shot him because he "humiliated" her, and lays the blame upon Tuthill, in the following statement:

"I read what Judge Tuthill said, that women had a right to shoot husbands who wronged and maltreated them. When I read his words of advice to women I was in a state of terrible suffering over my own domestic troubles. His words preyed upon my mind, and, when I could no longer stand the humiliation I was forced to by my husband, I shot him. Judge Tuthill's words were in my mind when I did it. I tried to kill myself but they would not let me."

Now comes the judge to plead no connection with the case in the following:

"I did not at all intend to advocate as a right the seeking out of a husband by an injured wife for the purpose of revenge as Mrs. Kelsey

seems to have done. It looks to me as if the woman were trying to shift the blame of her act from her own shoulders."

This is of course perfectly sufficient, and there is no reason why he should be held morally responsible for the snuffing out of Kelsey, were it not for the fact that when he gave that "advice to wives" he was merely playing the gallant, at the expense of judicial dignity.

There were already quite enough people in the world who thought that revenging an injury was self-defense, and, by an ill-worded speech, Tuthill has added to this number an overly confiding woman, to her own personal discomfort and distress, and the utter extinguishment of her unfortunate spouse.

It is safe to predict that the next time that Judge Tuthill wishes to exhibit his sympathy with beaten and bruised femininity, he will send along with his speech (we find it impossible to refer to it as a decision or finding) a clearly drawn diagram, and a statement of the class of cases to which it applies.

## THE TABLES TURNED.

The fusionists no longer have a monopoly of the commodity which was at one time their principal stock in trade. The trust has been smashed, with no particular damage being done to the smashee, but with dire result to the smasher.

Republicans, by putting up the most gallant and persistent fight ever recorded in the annals of American politics, by continuously standing to their guns undaunted by successive defeats, succeeded in turning out the gang of political mushrooms which had sprung into prominence in a night, and stumbled into the state house scarce knowing how they got there, and having but a dim idea of what they were there for. Probably what contributed to the greatest extent to the defeat of the fusionists was their pretense of saintliness, their shallow demagogic assumption of immaculate virtue disgusting the voters extremely.

Now we find the republican press

calling for the nomination of none but perfect beings. Men who have shaken hands with railroad officials, accepted courtesies from passenger agents, scolded their wives or received scoldings from them, smoked strong cigars, drunk strong ginger ale, driven horses which looked as though they could trot, pardoned criminals, even of the most penitent and least dangerous kind, need not apply to the republicans for endorsement or promotion.

Such preternatural goodness will fade in the wash; there has been but one such Being on earth, and He was crucified.

The flimsy cloak of imitation saintliness is an armor easily pierced. Republicans should know that because they have knifed their enemies through it; must they have further proof by donning it and offering themselves as a target for the javelins of the opposing forces?

The opposition to President Roosevelt developed so far endears him to the people of the whole country. Never demagogic, he refuses to attack capitalistic combinations of a legitimate character; never truckling, he refuses to bow to the will of the enemies to the "great common people," who, by the way, are not necessarily haters of the moneyed class. Plodding sturdily down the center of the path he responds not to the advances of the two aspirants for his favor: the idolators of wealth upon one hand; the envious and irresponsible haters of successful men upon the other. What wonder then, that the "great common people," who are included in neither class, love him for the enemies he has made?

That press disconcerted patch regarding the "turning over" of a prominent Filipino by reason of his becoming better acquainted with Americans and American methods, probably refers to the native who was stood on his head in a bucket of water.