

soul of what was once an animal and in a certain specified existence either prepares himself for a lower or higher form of life in the next stage, by leading a vicious or virtuous life in this one.

A man who would lay an ax to the dignity and beauty of a neighborhood is reverting to some very low form of animal life. The next breath he draws will be through the black undifferentiated nostrils of an animal who has no moral instincts or reasoning power whatever. It will take him aeons to reach the comparatively distinguished pig, cow or dog form, all of whom know what a tree is and respect it. This endless punishment will but have begun in a hundred years when other trees will have taken the place of the noble beings so lately assassinated. In this thought there is a little comfort to the people living on the treeless, or at least, small-treed plains of Nebraska but for the present day toilers there is but little satisfaction in the thought of the inevitable punishment. Commandant Fowler has recklessly prepared for himself. So far, June 17th, there is no report that the Board of Public Lands and Buildings has even reprimanded his destruction of the state's property. He is himself incapable of realizing the extent of his crime. When the committee asked him why he cut down the state's delight he said he wanted more pasture for his cows. In addition to the trees he cut down, he piled up brush heaps among the young timber, set them afire and thus killed the next generation's crop.

#### Governor Theodore Roosevelt.

Practical politicians are sincerely skeptical of reform and impatient with and disgusted at mugwumps and men who scratch tickets for any reason whatever. Yet reformers reform and purifiers purify. This era is better than any other era. Examine periods five hundred years apart in the history of the world, ignoring the intermediate periods and each one of these periods, till we reach the year one of the birth of our Lord, is a distinct improvement upon the one five hundred years nearer the beginning of our era. This being so, then men have made the world better. Not the men who obeyed the party bosses, the priests or the diets, but the non-conformists who have thought for themselves, who have made new platforms and new creeds, who have ignored old words and phrases, unharassed themselves and helped those of their neighbors and brothers who wished to be free. Their words and deeds have survived and have, century by century raised the average. This result has not been accomplished without ridicule. It is recorded in Genesis that Shem and Ham were born after Noah was five hundred years old. Then the Lord directed Noah to build the ark and he was six hundred years old when the floods descended. The exact number of years is not recorded but for nearly a hundred years old man Noah was the butt of the country-side. Old men, maidens and loafers chewing the B. C. for tobacco and making their vicinity bad to smell and sickening to see, came and leaned over the fence Noah had finally been obliged to build to keep the crowd out. They laughed, swore and spat at him and his family but Noah was sure he was right and that his inspiration was sound and he finished the ark and his seed and not theirs peopled the earth.

Theodore Roosevelt has not the American fear that he will have the laugh on him. He is not a hermit,

disgruntled, sore-headed reformer. He believes in getting a certain number of men to agree with him and then in doing something to make his part of the country better. He has the indispensable characteristic of a successful reformer, he believes in himself, in the strength of his arm, and in his own ratiocination. Mr. Steffins in the June number of McClure's recognizes Governor Roosevelt's ability to get things done which is a much greater and rarer gift than the faculty of seeing that they should be done. There are plenty of the latter sort standing all day long on the corner of Tenth and O. But they are there where they are with their hands in their pockets because they have not the power of convincing any one else of either their good sense, their integrity or of their ability. "Mr. Roosevelt always has recognized that he had not only to keep clean himself, but to get things done." Mr. Steffins says:

"He hesitated once when he was an assemblyman. He became a leader in the House during his first term, and he put through several reform laws by forcing or persuading the party to take them up. In a subsequent term he was so influenced by his many Mugwump friends that he stood out alone, with a few followers to fight; just to fight. This lasted only a few weeks, however. He saw that he could accomplish nothing by personifying a universal protest; so in he went again to get things done, to put through all that it was possible to force upon his party, and his record in this legislature was a good one."

Mr. Lou Payn was Superintendent of Insurance. The Governor knew his history and conduct of the New York state business with the insurance companies. When his time expired in the middle of Mr. Roosevelt's term Payn was glad of it. He wanted an honest man's indorsement and asked the Governor to reappoint him. The Governor refused and Lou Payn said he would make him. Then he sent petitions to the Governor signed by all the presidents of insurance companies, by bankers, by life-long republicans and by Mr. Platt, for his reappointment. No use. Then he induced a majority of the republican senators to promise him they would not confirm any superintendent that the Governor should appoint. But Governor Roosevelt always has a card to play. He said he would bring charges against Payn, for instance of a large loan made by a corporation officer to the Superintendent of Insurance. He could prove the charge. Payn's conviction would embarrass other financiers and politicians and the New York senate appointed the Governor's designate.

Governor Roosevelt also believes that corporations using the public highway or any part of the public demesne should pay taxes on the most valuable part of their property which is, as everyone knows, the franchise itself. Mr. Steffins says, that "most of the corporations contribute largely to the campaign funds of both political parties in New York. Republicans never offer any anti-capital legislation; the democrats offer a great deal and intend none. The democratic position in the state is well understood. Most of the big Tammany men are interested heavily in the local corporations, and their private secretaries sometimes write the anti-trust, anti-capital planks." The corporations in the case of the Governor's franchise tax bill thought they had killed it in committee, but here again the Governor won the trick. He sent a special message to the

speaker and the franchise-tax bill was passed by both houses. It is so refreshing and so unexpected, this instance of a man in the twentieth century with Noah's persistence and faith in himself and that the last and final laugh will be his, a man that is not dismayed by the information that the thing he wants to do can't be done, or that other and smarter men than he have been governors of New York and minded Platt and winked at questionable administrations of the various state budgets. Governor Roosevelt might as well be Adam insofar as he is uncontrolled by precedent and undismayed by what other men have tried to do and failed.

#### The Thompson Matter.

If the fusion convention nominates honorable, clean candidates for the legislature their election is humanly speaking, sure unless the nominees of the republican county convention will announce their withdrawal from the position of Thompson candidates. The publication of the contract signed by Mr. D. E. Thompson, and agreeing on his part not to attend republican caucuses if the populists would vote for him for senator has made a profound impression on the republicans of the state. The members of the delegation can claim that the affidavits throw a new light upon Mr. Thompson's character; that whereas they had always supposed him unselfishly devoted to republican principles, to the flag, to all patriotic measures for the expansion of this country and the firm establishment of good government, to the gold standard and all that republicanism means, they have been shown over his own signature, sworn to since the county convention by fourteen legislators, that he holds all these articles as cheap as the price of his own elevation to the senate of the United States, that, therefore be it resolved they cannot consistently as republicans ask the republicans of this district to vote for them as senators and legislators, to vote for a sworn traitor to republicanism and all its tenets.

#### D'Annunzio's Novel.

The code of the border days would have sentenced and executed a man like D'Annunzio before the ink of his book was dry. Men of Italy may allow a man to live who has written of a woman, and that woman, Signora Eleonora Duse, their greatest actress, the world's greatest actress, as D'Annunzio has done. But in America some father or brother or honest, faithful friend would kill him before he could make any more "copy." Poor Duse who is an artist fell in love with a cad who happened also to be an artist. He grew tired of her and made a book out of their love affair in which he ridicules her "no-longer-young fondnesses." Unfortunately the Italian standard of manliness is not American and if this man is killed Duse must do it and she says she will.

The ability to write has no connection with character. Most abandoned wretches have been able to write books which critics who love literature for its technique and not for its influence upon life, have pronounced works of art. I agree fully, with that most interesting, paragrapher, Walt Mason of Beatrice, that such vicious books as "The Triumph of Death" and all of the miserable list of D'Annunzio's composition have done great harm and the author would better have died in infancy. His life has been a curse to the race, and even the Italians who have read his books have been made more cowardly and dirtier

thereby, and learned less respect for women. D'Annunzio himself is a degenerate. He would beat a woman if she annoyed him and he could find one weaker and less effeminate than himself. For Duse's sake I hope she may never meet the man who has betrayed her confidence and made copy out of her soul—his own long since having rotted.

#### A Life on the Ocean Wave.

A sailor is proverbially easy prey on land. He is an amphibious animal and his gait, speech and reckoning have been regulated by the roll of the ocean for so long that he is inclined to awkwardness and apt to make mistakes on land. Admiral Dewey guilelessly took the word of the people nearest him and supposed he had only to announce his candidacy for the presidency to have it conferred upon him by the first national convention that met after his consent had been secured. His first surprise, after he had told a World reporter that he had changed his mind about answering the call of the people to the presidency, was that the people must know immediately whether he was a democrat or a republican. He had served his country as an American. He had taken orders from the presidents of this country because they were successfully his ranking officers, and on the sea and in foreign ports nobody cared and almost no one knew whether the president was a republican or a democrat. The Admiral has travelled enough, and has represented America as a whole for so long, that he is able to take a foreigner's view of his own country. The distinction we land-lubbers make between democrats and republicans Dewey did not make when he was in the China seas. When he sent a message to Admiral Diedrich of the German fleet and advised him to keep his ships out of his way he spoke as a representative of America to a representative of Germany. To that German, Dewey was an American officer at the head of a victorious, splendidly manned fleet, an American officer representing a nation of very determined, hard-headed fighters who had just whipped one country and were ready to fight another, if necessary. Dewey has but made a sailor's mistake in thinking of America as a whole. For not knowing that we cannot understand a man who does not know that republicans are always right and democrats always wrong, or vice versa, for not knowing that in times when the nation makes choice of a president, the people whose tastes differ would sooner fraternize with a Hottentot than with each other, Dewey has been called names by democrats and republicans. He is a super-sensitive man or he would not have walked the floor when we criticised him for giving the house that was given to him, to his wife. The nomination at Kansas City was out of the question, but he has made enough mistakes while he has been swinging around the circle, and he and Mrs. Dewey have been criticised enough to give him a taste of the delights of a presidential candidate's life. Members of all parties are glad that he had sufficient prevision to retire, before, as a candidate, he got into the direct line of fire. His investigation into the preliminaries of becoming president has not encouraged him. He cannot be a simple minded, kind hearted gentleman and be a candidate. In the first place he has married a wife and that complicates things. She is ambitious and designing, first a protestant, then a catholic and again a protestant for policy, she is revengeful and willing to snub those who have offended her