

SHALL OUR LIBERTIES BE SOLD FOR FILTHY LUCRE

A Purchasable Electorate is Infinitely Worse Than an Established Hereditary Monarchy. God Save the Republic.

To the Editor: Going, going, gone! cried the Praetorian Auctioneer, as he knocked down the biggest lot ever brought to block before or since.

It was the Empire of the World, with all of its appurtenances and concomitants, including provinces and colonies and unrestricted power to tax; Unnumbered throngs of gold, ivory, porphyry, and precious stones; navies and invincible legions, with boundless granaries to feed both these and the insatiable Capitoine mob, besides royal baths for their scrubbing, and free theatres surpassing conception in immensity including gladiators, mimes, dancing girls and wild beasts without end, for the edification and merrymaking of the rabble-rousing, whose endless demand was: "bread and the circus." In addition to these were, imperial palaces in every large city, the forum, the Senate Chamber, the House, with its togged, truckling inmates, most lavish of all of fawn and abasement to their ever changing lord and master. The summary, incomplete as it is, ought to have sated the craving for power and lucre of the greediest glutton that ever made a mimicry of Liberty; but the aggregation of monuments was not a tithe in compass to what was knocked down to one Didius Julianus, the purchaser at public vendue of an Empire, and the mightiest of all times, for in addition to the count of good things he was given, he bought a lump of slaves, to all intents running up into hundreds and hundreds of millions of all degrees, who dared not call their souls their own, not to speak of the accumulations of avarice. The Emperor was a baseborn churl, by some alleged to have been of slavish paternity, but he had been a favored son of the State, and under her fostering care, was able to buy a world. The story would be beyond belief, were it not borne out by gravest historical facts. It is a correlative example, it would be beyond the scope of credence that this debased and degraded state had been for near a thousand years the "Great Republic" of antiquity, when to say: "I am a Roman" was an absolute safeguard in the remotest corner of her boundless domains, to her humblest citizen.

What is to prevent the "Great Modern Republic" being brought to like abasement, aye, even to the auctioneer's block in the no distant future? Take a brief retrospect, and forecast of possibility. A month ago she was on the eve of a recurring national election for a Chief, who, whilst bearing a Democratic title, rivaled the Caesar of the latter usurping days in outreach, and in claim of prerogative. The party in power claimed victory then with absolute assurance of the result and continued to claim until it was announced, basing their claim on being the party of the people and of the great wealth; to which assumption there was no gainsay, for it was asserted and believed of all men that they had millions on millions in hand, and only three or four venal states, dubbed doubtful, to buy up. 'Twas done, as was the last precedent in election. It matters naught in denial, for the winning side to play the part of "the prophet of the past," by saying there was no occasion to purchase prostituted states in the bareness of doubt, in view of the overwhelming majority of ballots cast for their candidate. The fact stands charged by one party, and virtually admitted by the other, that bribery or corruption fund, which beggars description was most bounteously used in the suspected states, and would have settled the issue in their favor, had it hinged as was believed it would on those so-called doubtful states. These got their dirty little stipend, amounting perhaps in some cases, to "Thirty Pieces of Silver," and the Constitution became by force of example, a shattered vase, a zibe of wittings, a thing of no value. God help the knaves who wrought the wrong, and be especially merciful to those who strove to avert it. Selah!

Such reputed fund was many times in excess of that for which the vile mercenary cohorts, known as Praetorian Guard, bartered away to an unworthy scullion this priceless prize, with the last vestige of liberty still remaining. Probably the entire fortune of Julianus did not reach the annual accretions of money of the on-eyed magnates of our day and country where the individual accumulations of many are already reputed to run up into the hundreds of millions, with obvious capacity for doubling every few years. When these reach the thousand million mark, as many will before babes now born, will be of age to vote for a magistrate or a Master, what is to prevent a recurrence of the historic sale here alluded to, if not by individual bid, by combination and combine of the pampered favored class to which he belongs? According to high statistical authority, a few years ago, the aggregate wealth of that colossal empire about the time that Didius the crown seller struts his ridiculous travesty for the brief space of three moons upon our mundane stage, was owned to all intents by six hundred individuals. By the same investigator of financial facts, it was proclaimed that over one half of the available assets of the great modern republic was at the time of his computation, in possession of 31,000 individuals. Conceding his figures, and a simple sum in subtraction will give the balance-sheet. See how it stands. Thirty-one thousand from eighty millions, we will say for short, leave 79,900,000, to whom the remaining half of this boundless domain is legitimately divisible. It might be termed an illustration of long and short division. How long can such unjust disproportion last and liberty and free institution continue? And when what? After me the deluge, was Louis the Fifteenth's reply, and the pampered and over-placid few echoed later on, even so.

The trend of great fortunes in the hands of the few to still further concentration, shrinkage in number of possessors, and closer cohesion amongst the survivors, is known of all men who have given the subject a thought. It will require brief space to show how the "disproportion" to be unruly to their betters."

Let those who will, flout the vision here portrayed as the idle phantasy of pessimism; the reply comes in the Israel's mournful patriot prophet never saw one in his mind's eye more palpable to him than this to me, barring Providential interposition. From boyhood upwards, Free Government has had no more devoted worshipper and history but few more assiduous followers than the writer hereof, and in the last declining years of life after the illusions of ephemeral ambition have long since been discarded, he gives as a sad conclusion of study, observation and reflection, that until men are elevated by a higher teacher than earthly school master, Liberty will continue to be as it has ever been, a plant of rapid growth in barren soil, but of short life when it's habitat is over enriched, whether by muck or golden dross. "Where wealth accumulates men decay," and so does that which MEN should prize most highly. The capitol is cut off and intimidated by parallel, the actual auction sale of the Empire or Republic, although not beyond the hope and reach of the modern Croesus; but only to point out the temptations and possibilities of soul-ruining barter. It proved a potent factor in the third century of Rome, A. D., and human nature of the baser kind at least has undergone but little modification since then. As casuists might hold, it is only a question of time on the highest scale, and as one of old who had fished a kingdom without excuse was wont to say in extenuation, "in the ordinary affairs of life let justice be done, and no relaxation to the rule except when crowns are at issue." When despotism is in reach, the Despot will not be far off nor hard to find, be he purse bearer or sword bearer, be the agency steel or gold, the two most potent levers for the free states, be it understood, for as the preference between the two, I as a member of the Electorate, if I may exercise the ballot of preference, vote for the man in steel, him on horseback, with legions of armed mercenaries at his heels, to the mere money changer, him of accounts and accountants, ensconced within his cozy counting house behind a legion of ledgers, journals, day books and, most essentially, ledgers, to cut off all destined coupons for the purpose indicated. Yes, better a Sapor, a Caesar, a Corsican to such a thing as this, or his tool or puppet either. When such as these can wield the destinies of free states, be it understood, for as the poet sings of such:

"A thousand years scarce serve to form a state;
An hour may lay in the dust."
Tyrannies are eternal and never die, for their sycophants will prate of prosperity, so called, as due to their beneficent sway, and credulous fools will believe them.

The cavalier will probably say, You tell us we are on the rocks of war, Can't you point out the means of avoidance and escape? Not I, by Jupiter, as the wise old Athenian was wont to answer his almost especially gifted pupil, when no answer could be given, by the rocks of war, not so with nations after a certain point on the "decensus Avern" has been reached and passed.

God pity the people who in insane frenzy approach the incline plane leading by the uttering certainty of political perdition, in search of the phantasma of commercial prosperity. If reached, it will probably be found at the bottom of a shaft, and amongst the debris and dejects, a member of dreamy philanthropists, and thoughtless patriots, who like their predecessors for thousands of years, presumably thought that they had discovered the "magnum arcantum" of eternal Liberty. Fools and visionaries, to hope, with American impudence, that you could reach at a vault what has baffled the wisest sages of all time. This is an optimistic view of our political future; it is beyond my reach to see it through that sort of spectacles. Lachrymose though it be, mine can at least lay claim to the merit of honest utterance. To me, under our Federal system in a virgin soil, unshackled by traditions and effects surrounding, never was the experiment of free government begun under more promising auspices or hopeful conditions.

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Have been suffering from Impure Blood for many years, having Boils and other Eruptions. Having heard of S. S. S. I decided to try it, and am glad to say that it has done me a great deal of good. I intend to continue to use it, as I believe it to be the best Blood Medicine on the market.

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GEO. G. FERRIG,
114 W. Jefferson St., Louisville, Ky.

Newark, Ohio, May 23, 1903.
From childhood I had been bothered with bad blood, skin eruptions and boils. I had boils ranging from five to twenty in number each season. The burning and accompanying the eruption was terrible. S. S. S. seemed to be just the medicine needed in my case. It drove out all impurities and bad blood, giving me permanent relief from the skin eruption and boils. This has been ten years ago, and I have never had a return of the disease.

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ditions. If one short century sets seal of failure upon it, will not the inevitable verdict be rendered and stand for all time. "Self government is a delusion and a hopeless failure." The victim under consideration died of circumscribed prosperity, or else of felonious "felo de se," and without the shadow of extenuating circumstance, the greatest national culprit and besotted ass of all recorded time. May God forbid. For if he doesn't God knows who will. Much longer. A purchasable electorate is infinitely worse than an established hereditary monarchy. Again we say impudently, and in metaphorical sack cloth and ashes, GOD SAVE THE STATE.

W. J. GRAY.
Fayetteville, N. C.

THE GREAT STRAWBERRY STATE

North Carolina Leads all Other States in Strawberry Production.

Wilmington, N. C., Nov. 25.—On the subject of strawberries and other fruits and the States leading in their respective varieties, the Carolina Fruit & Trucker's Journal of this city, will say in its issue tomorrow:

According to the latest compilation of statistics and other data North Carolina leads all other States of the Union in the growth and production of high grade strawberries for domestic and commercial purposes. She ranks third in melons and cantaloupes, first in lettuce and first in huckleberries and hoop-poles and besides is rapidly climbing to the top of the ladder as an Irish and sweet potato State. It is doubtful if there is another State in the Union that produces so many and great a variety of vegetables as the Old North State, but of this there is no record in this and other States with which to make a comparison. In a number of items, however, this State is exceeded by several others. All told there are over 3,700,000 acres in orchard fruits and no branch of agriculture has made the gains that fruit growing has in the last decade. The acreage and percentage of gain for the different varieties of deciduous fruits are: Apples, 2,000,000 and 68; peaches, 1,000,000 and 217; prunes and plums, 307,800 and 334; pears, 177,000 and 246; cherries, 119,000 and 112; apricots, 50,000 and 217. Twenty-four of the States report a fruit crop exceeding \$1,000,000 in annual value, California leading with \$21,700,000, New York is second, with \$10,500,000; Illinois fifth, with \$3,800,000, &c., &c., down the list. At the same time North Carolina's net gain in strawberry production today as compared with the year 1900 is about 55 per cent or \$2,225,000.

While California shows up with a \$21,000,000 fruit crop, New York with a \$10,500,000 fruit and Illinois with a \$3,500,000 fruit crop, North Carolina steps to the front with a \$2,225,000 strawberry crop, leading a number of other States in as many other things. In apples Missouri leads all the States with an acreage of 200,000 New York is second with 150,000 acres, and Illinois third with 134,000 acres. Several of the States show a tremendous per cent of increase, as Arkansas and Nebraska, 300 each; Washington, 900; Alabama, 250; Colorado and Wyoming, 2,500; Idaho, 1,000; Utah, 5,000; Minnesota, 500; Utah, 700, and New Mexico 1,200.

Michigan leads in peaches and is third in cherries and pears; Kansas, which is sixth in apples, leads in cherries, with Pennsylvania second. California leads in pears, with New York second. Illinois ranks nineteenth in peaches, sixth in cherries and ties with Pennsylvania for seventh place in pears. California leads in prunes and plums with 98,000 acres. Oregon is an early second. Illinois is second in the fruit crop, with California having practically a monopoly of apricots, 42,000 acres; olives, 15,000 acres, and figs, 1,900 acres. California also dwarfs its only competitors in the orange and lemon industry. The figures are 56,000 acres of orange and 15,000 acres of lemons, as against 25,000 acres of oranges in Florida and 225 acres of lemons.

California bears off the palm as a fruit producing State, leading in oranges, lemons, figs, olives, peaches, pears, prunes and plums and ranking high in peaches and apples. Its estimated orange crop for 1903-1904, for instance, is 25,000 car-loads, on which the freight alone will be something like \$9,000,000.

The fruit and trucking industry is not only revolutionizing agriculture and horticulture but is likewise doing much to solve the perplexing labor problem, since it has demonstrated that those growers who cultivate only such acres as they can take care of without the aid of outside help are the ones who make the greatest net profits in business. Those who keep an army of hands employed the year around, and at the end of each year that they have to pay out the lion's share of all they make to some one else. Thus it will be seen that the system of intensive farming yields by far the greatest amount of net results to the grower, thereby enabling him to accomplish by his own efforts and such as he can control that which would be purely problematic were he relying largely, if not wholly, upon some one else or the ordinary labor of today.

In the same connection it might be interesting to know that the strawberry growers in North Carolina alone in one day last spring paid into the coffers of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company more than \$40,553.62 in freight on the single crop of strawberries. As to the amount paid to other roads of the State for the same purpose, we have not the data at hand.

Big Yield of Cotton.

(Wilson Times.)

Mr. J. L. Yelverton, of Eureka, one of the best young farmers in Eastern Carolina, and who has made probably \$19,000 in the past three years, by intelligently tilling the earth, has four acres from which he has already picked seven 500-pound bags, and is now working on his eighth and expects to get it.

From 140 acres he has gathered 125 bales and thinks he will reach a heavy bag of cotton to every acre planted.

The place to make money these times is on a farm for everything a farmer has to sell is bringing high prices.

A Texas farmer whose cotton crop was cut short a thousand bales on account of the ravages of the boll weevil, says the pest is a blessing in disguise, because it has learned the Texas farmer to depend on something besides cotton for his living. In the light of the same reasoning, is not the Tobacco Trust a blessing in disguise to the Piedmont North Carolina farmer, who is learning that he must not depend solely on tobacco? Diversification of crops is growing in favor with our farmers.—Danbury Reporter.

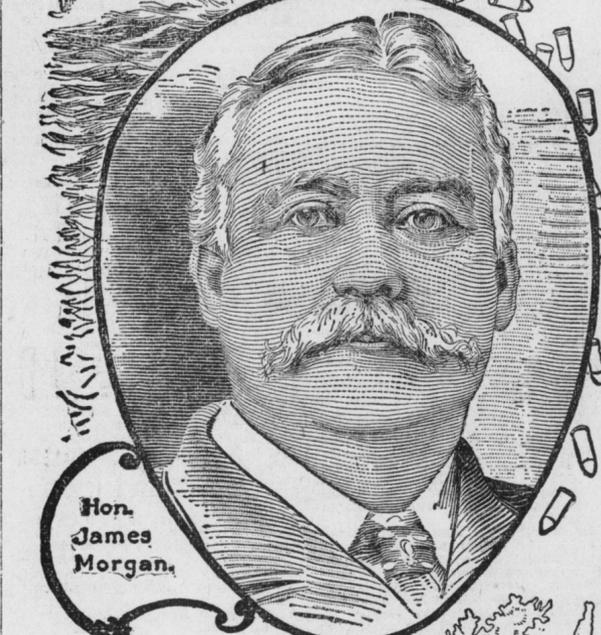
The difference in the profit makes a difference what shoe is handed by some dealers. Sosis 3.59 Shoes are sold by dealers who want to give satisfaction in shoe service.

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