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TWELVE PAGES.

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1899.

THE PEOPLE NEED NO PROXIES, THANK YOU.

An ardent bear-hunter out west got upon Bruin's trail, and followed it with great pluck and energy for some miles through a tangled wilderness. At length the signs of the proximity of the animal grew numerous and warm; but as the track grew warmer, the ardor of the hunter grew cooler; the chase began to tell upon him, and that tired feeling which so easily persuades a man that he has done enough for duty, and that it is time to be getting toward home to relieve the anxiety of his wife, children and friends, caused his legs to ache and stumble. Finally, the trail became so hot that the hunter concluded that that was not a good day for bears, anyhow; and he turned in his tracks and left the bear for another day.

One is reminded very vividly of this old story by the course pursued by certain gentlemen in the pursuit of Senatorial reform. "The people! Yes; the people! Reform is there, and to the people we must go. Who's afraid of the people? Come on!" But these gentlemen suddenly pause and turn their backs upon the people, as they near that sovereign body. "Yes; the people!" they continue to shout, as they turn from the people. "They must elect the Senator; but we will nominate him! See! We will relieve the people of the labor and difficulty of choosing the man, being delegated and empowered thereto by them, but they shall have the honor, power and glory of electing him!"

Ah, gentlemen, we, too, are in favor of going to the people indeed and truly; and not only in this matter, but in others. But, dear friends of the people, why worry the people at all in this matter, if you, or other "middlemen," are at last to be the result of this labor of the mountains? Why talk of a constitutional amendment to give the "choice" of U. S. Senator to a convention, when that is certainly no more the people than their legislature? And what matters it who do the electing, if you, or other "representatives, are to nominate or "choose" the Senator? As far as any practical change is or can be effected by this proposed reform, it is in taking the "choice" from the legislative caucus and placing it in the caucus, or clique, or steering committee of the party convention. Precedents do not alter the fact; they too often show us how and where we, or somebody, blundered. That is all. Better keep quiet about them, or the people may rise to inquire why they should not nominate, in all cases, as well as elect; or do both in one motion.

Certainly, in this case, where the appeal is directly to the people, and the movement begun, we must decline to be side-tracked and send on a delegation or committee. We insist on going all the way. The shadow for us, the substance for you; for you the kernel, for us the hull; these are pretty forms and ingenious devices, but as we are called to take this matter in our own hands, we shall do so.

GOOD ADVICE.

Where the Washington Post is not especially and strongly interested, it has a level head, and its views are of worth and weight. The Post is content with the existing law under which U. S. Senators are chosen, but it has not taken an extreme position in opposition to reform and constitutional amendment in regard to choosing Senators. In fact, it is rather in the attitude of an impartial observer, and

not as a partizan of either side, that our Washington contemporary regards the whole matter. It is therefore well to hear it on the recent Senatorial conference at Richmond and the doings of that body. It says:

The request to be laid before the State Committee for the holding of a State convention cannot, in our opinion, be granted. It is plainly out of the province of the committee, under the Democratic plan of organization, to recognize a mass meeting, especially when the participants therein propose to repudiate the action of a regularly constituted State convention. A convention called by the committee under the circumstances which now exist would be neither legal nor binding. If the request should be granted, a very dangerous precedent would be established. Within the next few months, for instance, other agitators might assemble and demand a State convention to determine any question which troubled their uncertain minds, and their appeal would be as worthy of attention as the one which is presently to be submitted to the State Committee. The moment the well established and time-tried rules of party organization are broken through irregular and spasmodic action, that moment a Pandora's box is opened and disorganization is certain.

It would be particularly unwise, also, for a State convention to be called, because the remedy for existing conditions, if remedy be needed, is in the hands of the people. The conference recognized this when it appealed to the voters to send no man to the Legislature who is not unequivocally committed to the principal of popular election of Senators.

Except that the Post does not go into the dangers of the convention itself, it seems to be well in accord with the views uniformly expressed by THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT, and we trust that the Democratic State Committee may feel that it is just at this crisis in State and National politics that its duty is to ally and compose all dissensions, and not afford opportunities for local differences that may well wait.

THE MAIN ISSUE.

To be dominated by one idea to the exclusion of every other; to value nothing, consider nothing, remember nothing but one thing, when there are others, or another, far more important; this is very dangerous to any man and especially so to the young man who has a public career before him, and hopes to succeed;—for this domination in such a man, at such a time, is his subjection to an issue, and that a side one, instead of advancing and rising to that leadership which nothing should obscure, unless it be some grand end worthy of every sacrifice.

Let the Democratic patriot remember the duty and opportunity that now occupy the hour as they should occupy his heart and soul—paramount, engrossing and as difficult as they are worthy of every energy. Here is the post and test of honor, faith, and devotion. It is the joint call of liberty and country; the adjuration of patriotism and humanity. To be deaf now is imbecility; to not take heed is perdition.

The main issue, to the true vision, is the rising sun, before which all smaller things fall back, out of sight. While it is called to-day, it is supreme, the guiding star, the light of head and foot, the centre to which all things converge, the crown of glory and the mead of dauntless fidelity.

The Washington Post, comparing McKinley and Aguinaldo with each other, says that "it is Aguinaldo, not President McKinley nor General Otis, who is trying to forge the chains of slavery for the Filipinos." What a wonderful and terrible fellow this Aguinaldo is? A mere adventurer and self-seeking barbarian, he has raised an army of Filipinos, without law, authority, government, or revenue, and is inspiring them to fight like tigers every step the Americans are making in the islands. These Filipinos madly revolt from the mild, lawful and elevating sway of McKinley, the Deliverer, and rush into treason, hardship, slavery and death for a turbulent rascal, of "no homing, nor likelihood," and are helping with steadfast courage, devotion and enthusiasm "to forge the chains of slavery" for themselves and their country!

Mr. McKinley, on the other hand, is full master of the situation on the American side, with power to end the war any moment, send army and navy home, proclaim peace, liberty and independence and allow the Filipinos "to have their own again." They are seeking no more.

The revolt of Rev. Dr. Briggs from the Presbyterian creed, and his reception in the Episcopal Church as an ordained priest, have caused much discussion, not only of the creeds particularly involved, but of the whole Christian faith; but it all happily ended last Sunday by the ceremonial ordination of Dr. Briggs by Bishop Potter in New York. There was much feeling for and against the doctor in both churches, and it was feared that some unseemly wrangling or protesting, if not worse, would occur on his ordination; but all passed quietly, and Dr. Briggs will now take a trip to Europe. On his return, he will labor among the poor of the East Side of New York, as a missionary of Christ and the Gospel.

God forbid that any of our evangelical churches shall be rent by strife. If Dr. Briggs be right on the main question of faith, may God bless him, say we most devoutly.

The great heart of the people—not the little organ of a mob or faction—understands and appreciates William J. Bryan, estimates him at his true value, and yields him gladly his devotion, trust and fidelity. How can politicians, office-seekers and all the tribe of selfish aspirants for wealth, power, or fame comprehend a man so different from themselves,—so unselfish, so dedicated by his nature to right, truth

and liberty, so modest, so unassuming, and so utterly without the "airs" that common men "put on" to hide their deficiencies and their aims? They can only look on, wonder, and misrepresent, as the uninformed iron contentms and fears, wonders at and despises, the magnet whose spirit so attracts and so truly points the one way that brings order out of chaos and makes a straight path through all the maze of things.

The railroad massacre at Exeter was a trifling affair; only twenty passengers, or excursionists, murdered or massacred and about thirty, more or less, wounded. The only loss of any account is the damage to the cars, and possible damages the Company may be forced to pay for dead and wounded. Nobody responsible for one train putting itself in position to be crushed, nor for the other coming on, just in the nick of time, to knock out a long string. What is the prize to be awarded the Company killing and wounding the most people, with least damage (to itself), is not yet disclosed. Probably somebody has kept count, and can tell us which of the competitors is ahead so far.

As we said yesterday, the thing to do is to regulate these trusts by law, to make them the servants of the people, to prevent them from injuring the people or trespassing upon anybody's personal rights, to force them to do the work of a good and efficient servant.—Richmond Times.

As far as words go, nobody should ask more, and we thank our contemporary for its concessions to common sense and common right. But a trust may grow so great and strong as to defy law and government, and we challenge the Times to cite an instance in the modern history of Europe where any such organization or combination has been found compatible with government, or private right, no matter what its professed objects—charitable or religious.

A contemporary suggests that pantaloons are indelicate, if not indecent and immoral, and that it is unjust to make a modest man wear such garments, when he would prefer a gown. This seems a novel complaint, as the usual thing is to hear that women are too much given to wearing the breeches, in spite of law. Our contemporary, too, forgets that if breeches were not compulsory, many a male human animal would assume the female garb to the disgrace of both sexes, whereas in breeches he is a disgrace only to his own sex, and can be more easily identified and kicked.

To some simple good people, it is incredible and foolish that human liberty can be destroyed in this Republic. To them it is predicting ice in the torrid zones, or painting a picture of the South pole all in flowers. They do not know the law of the pendulum, as applied to opinions and morals, nor that of the meeting of extremes in conviction and sentiment; yet it is in accord with well ascertained principles and established precedents, that this very day, in this country, the most ultra advocates of tyranny—ay, of absolutism—are numerous and rampant.

The high-handed proceedings of Gen. Merriam in Idaho, under Federal authority, in ordering the disbandment of the Labor Unions of Idaho, have created great excitement in that State and throughout the labor organizations of the whole country. The President and his administration and party are generally held responsible for Gen. Merriam's course, and the affair tends to strengthen the rising tide against Hanna imperialism in all sections of the Union, and in the Republican party as well. All things seem to be working together for a grand Democratic victory for liberty and the people in 1900.

The greatest enemy any party, or movement can have is the obstinate and self-opinionated gentleman who never fails to make his multiplying foes its foes by holding himself and his views of far more importance than their wisdom, or the success of the party or movement. Pig-headedness of this acute type is always caused, or accompanied, by less brains than in any other cerebral disorder. In fact, post-mortem examination reveals the presence of no grey matter to the closest scrutiny.

It is a common, but curious mistake, to suppose that Jones doesn't know that he is taller than Smith or stronger than Brown. Yet it is a mistake often made—none oftener. You may be sure, too, that Jones knows he can't sing, nor play the fiddle, nor euchre, just as well as you know it, if not better. A few men have what is called "a blind side;" but they are usually fools.

It is a great pity that so many of our strongest, best and most expressive words are outlawed by social convention. It is significant of the fact, however, that much truth is banished from good society with the words that can alone express it.

"Come to dinner!" cries New York to Admiral Dewey. "Pray excuse me," responds Dewey. "Will not another of my Manila captains do? I can neither dance nor sing, nor tell stories out of school; nor am I accustomed to your dinner-hours."

Taking towns from the Filipinos does not seem to be a very difficult matter, but holding them afterward is calculated to make the McKinley administration tired.

Conscience makes cowards of all men.—Exchange.

What a pity it can't make all men honest.

VIRGINIAN-PILOT'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE.

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DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON.

SUBJECTS OF STUDY IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WILL BE PUBLISHED.

- EVERY SUNDAY—History—Popular Studies in European History. EVERY TUESDAY—Geography—The World's Great Commercial Products. EVERY WEDNESDAY—Governments of the World of To-day. EVERY THURSDAY AND FRIDAY—Literature—Popular Studies in Literature. EVERY SATURDAY—Art—The World's Great Artists.

These courses will continue until June 26th. Examinations conducted by mail, will be held at their close as a basis for the granting of Certificates.

POPULAR STUDIES IN LITERATURE.

XIII.—LITERARY CLUBS OF LONDON.

BY JOHN EBENEZER BRYANT, M. A.

When the literary clubs of London are mentioned, the first one that comes to mind, almost the only one, is that famous club of which Johnson was the founder and for many years the leading spirit. Clubs in the last century were different affairs from the clubs—the great communal restaurants—that are so popular to-day. Johnson defined the club as being "an assembly of good fellows, meeting under certain

but a pleasure. He loved, as he said, to fold his legs and have his talk out. He was ready to bestow the overflowings of his full mind on anybody who would start a subject, on a fellow-passenger in a stage coach, or on the person who sat at the same table with him in an eating house. But his conversation was nowhere so brilliant and striking as when he was surrounded by a few friends, whose abilities and knowledge enabled them, as he once expressed it, to send him back every ball he threw. Some of these, in 1764, formed themselves into a club, which gradually became a formidable power in the commonwealth of letters. The verdicts pronounced by this conclave on new books



Samuel Johnson.

FROM THE PORTRAIT BY REYNOLDS IN THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

conditions." The "conditions" that Johnson most regarded were those that lent themselves easily to genial conversation. These were found to be the gathering of the "good fellows" together at stated times, generally at night, and the enjoyment in common of a supper or dinner. Membership was a matter that in Johnson's opinion could not be too scrupulously guarded. When once it was reported to him, not long after the institution of the "Literary club," that Garrick proposed to join it—that he had said "I like it much; I think I'll be of you," Johnson was furious. "He'll be of us!" he growled. "How does he know we'll permit him? The first duke in England

were speedily known all over London and were sufficient to sell off a whole edition in a day or to condemn the sheets in the service of the trunk-maker and the pastry cook. Nor shall we think this strange when we consider what great and various talents and acquisitions met in the little fraternity. Goldsmith was the representative of poetry and light literature, Reynolds of the arts, Burke of political eloquence and political philosophy. There, too, were Gibbon, the greatest historian, and Jones, the greatest linguist of the age. Garrick brought to the meetings his inexhaustible pleasantry, his incomparable mimicry and his consummate knowledge of stage effect. Among the most constant attendants

We the undersigned, having read with great pleasure an excellent Epitaph for the Monument of Dr. Johnson, and considering that it is a noble and masterly work in every respect worthy of the pen of its author, are of opinion that the Character of the Deceased as a Poet, particularly as a Poet, is perhaps not delineated with all the accuracy which Dr. Johnson is capable of giving it; therefore with deference to his superior judgment, humbly request that he would at least take the trouble of reviewing it, and if making such additions and alterations as he shall think proper upon a further perusal. And if we might venture to express our wishes, they would lead us to request that he would write the Epitaph in English rather than in Latin, as we think that the Memory of so eminent an English Writer, ought to be perpetuated in the Language to which his Works are chiefly known, so as to be a monument which we also have in honor from the opinion of the late Doctor himself.

ROUND ROBIN ADDRESSED TO SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL. D., WITH FACSIMILE OF SIGNATURE.

has no right to hold such language." The reputation that the Literary club enjoyed in its early days arose partly from Johnson's own reputation as the "dictator" of literature, and partly from the reputation of Johnson, Burke, Reynolds and other members of the club as talkers. No club, and indeed no unofficial association of any sort, has ever entered into literature and become, as it were, a part of the common literary inheritance of the world as this famous "Literary club" has done.

Here is Macaulay's well known portrait of the club in its years of greatest fame: "To discuss questions of taste, of learning, of casuistry, in language so exact and so forcible that it might have been printed without the alteration of a word, was to Johnson no exertion,

The institution of the Literary club was due to Sir Joshua Reynolds. Reynolds was himself a hospitable entertainer. "For above thirty years," says Malone, his biographer, "there was scarce a person in the three kingdoms distinguished in literature, art, law, politics or war who did not occasionally appear at his tables." His dinners were famous. This was not because of the material pleasure they afforded, for generally more guests were invited than there were seats for, and "as for waiting," we are told, "it was every man for himself." It was because of "the feast of reason and the flow of soul" which invariably accompanied the dinners. The enjoyment which these promiscuous gatherings gave suggested to Reynolds the idea that a definite association should be formed by which "good fellows" of kindred spirit could regularly assemble for mutual delectation. Johnson fell in with the idea and at once set about carrying it out. He had established such an association some fourteen years before, and the memories of its meetings were very dear to him. So upon the model of Johnson's Ivy Lane club of 1750 the Literary club of 1764 was auspiciously formed. The original members were nine. Six of them were among those described by Macaulay in the passage above quoted—Reynolds and Johnson, Goldsmith and Burke, Langton and Beauclerk. Garrick was not admitted until 1773. Jones was admitted the same year. Gibbon was a later acquisition.

At first the club met weekly on Monday evenings at 7. In 1773 the day of meeting was changed to Friday. In 1775 it was decided that the club should dine together once in every fortnight during the sessions of parliament. The historians Macaulay and Hallam were, in their time, constant attendants at these fortnightly seasonal dinners. The club began with a membership fixed at nine. This was soon enlarged to twelve. Several enlargements were subsequently made, but in 1780 the number was definitely fixed at forty. The original place of meeting was at a coffee house called the Turk's Head, in Gerrard street, and this is the place of meeting most famous in the history of the club.

"I believe Mr. Fox will allow me to say," remarked the Bishop of St. Asaph on the night of his election, "that the honor of being elected into the Turk's Head club is not inferior to that of being the representative of Westminister or Surrey." The point of this remark lies in the fact that Fox, after one of the fiercest fights known in parliamentary history, of the whole strength of the court and government being directed against him, had just been elected member of parliament for Westminister.

One of the original members of the club was a Sir John Hawkins, a "pompous, conceited, parsimonious" attorney, who afterwards became biographer of Johnson. Hawkins had been a member of the earlier Ivy Lane club, and for that reason Johnson, in whom tenacity of friendship was the strongest characteristic, had proposed him as a member of the club in 1764. But Hawkins became so unpopular in the new club that even Johnson was forced to admit that he was "a very unamiable man" and out of place there. Finally, because of his rudeness to Burke, he was "elbowed out." Hawkins had objected to Goldsmith's being a member, alleging that Goldsmith was "a mere literary drudge, equal to the task of compiling and translating, but little capable of original and still less of poetic composition." And yet Goldsmith had already written "The Vision of Wakefield," and in a year or two more was to be recognized as the first poet of his age.

Hawkins, however, favored Garrick's pretensions to membership. Johnson, with obstinate inconsistency, objected to Garrick. "He will disturb us by his buffoonery," he said. To his friend, Thrale, he declared that if Garrick applied he "would blackball him." "What sir," exclaimed Thrale, "Mr. Garrick—your friend, your companion—would you blackball him?" "Why, sir," replied Johnson, "I love my little David dearly—better than all or any of his flatterers do. But surely one ought to sit in a society like ours unbowed by gamester, pimp or player." Subsequently Goldsmith took up Garrick's case. "It would give an agreeable variety to our meetings to have an increase of membership. We have traveled over each other's minds," he said. "There can be nothing new among us." Johnson relented, and once having relented, he cordially approved. Garrick, though not much given to clubs, became a valued member. When he died (1779) Johnson declared the club "should go into widowhood for a year," and accordingly no new members were permitted to be elected during the year. Johnson's magnificent tribute will occur to every one. In his "Lives of the Poets," speaking of Garrick's death, he said, in words that seem destined to be immortal: "It had enlivened the gaiety of nations and diminished the stock of barlams' pleasures."

Note.—This study will be continued to-morrow.

EXAMINATIONS AND CERTIFICATES.

At the end of the term of seventeen weeks, a series of questions on each course, prepared by Professor Seymour Eaton, will be published in the Virginian-Pilot, and blanks containing the questions will be furnished every subscriber making application for same. Two weeks will be allowed after the courses close, for the receipt of examination papers containing answers. These papers will be referred to a Board of Examiners, who will assist Professor Eaton, and as soon as the work of examination is complete, the result will be reported, and certificates issued to the students entitled to them.

336. L. H. WHITEHURST,

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