

WHAT MAY HAPPEN.

(Continued from page 1)

scores of hero-worshipped names to conjure with. Democracy has none to compete with McKinley, Reed or Lincoln. A national campaign is largely a matter of shouting, hurrah and manufactured enthusiasm over the personnel of the presidential candidate. In this line republicanism is opulent, and democracy is poverty stricken. True, there are conspicuous and admired leaders in the democratic party, but the sectional line and the Tammany tiger cut into the unanimity of sentiment necessary to harmonize hurrahing. It follows, then, as the night the day, that the republican party will be the machine which the gold bugs will aid in the next presidential campaign. It will be the chosen instrumentality of capitalism and monopoly for the next presidential term. It is, however, by no means written in the book of fate or told by the stars that either of the old parties will win in 1896. The people may take a hand in the game and checkmate goldbuggery and bring its manipulations to naught. The democratic party is doomed. The republican party has all the vantage ground above pointed out, but it is also happily true that its one issue, "protection," is daily and hourly getting fuller of holes through which the people see its frauds, its shams, and its hypocrisy. It is not at all impossible that before the vote of 1896 is taken, education and events will have combined to rouse the people to assert their power and demand the restoration of their rights and of the conditions of prosperity.

Let it not be lost sight of that the present administration is far from being the chief enemy to be fought. We should keep it before the people that even though the panic and the heart rending distress of the country occurred during the democratic administration, yet it was all brought about by instrumentalities which were the work of its republican predecessors, and that not one line or letter of republican made laws were repealed before the worst had come. The dangerous system which made the hard times possible was the creature of republican legislation, and was and is sustained and upheld by democrats and republicans alike.

Another matter it is wise to constantly bear in mind. That is the fact that the rank and file of voters in the two old parties are not in the least responsible for the national policy or the national legislation of the parties whose names they own and cherish. The rank and file were not consulted as to party issues, or informed beforehand as to congressional legislation, hence they should not be arraigned as guilty of the impoverishment of the masses and the enrichment of the classes. Bearing this constantly in mind will lessen the asperity of discussion between neighbor and neighbor, and greatly accelerate the education upon which we must rely for success. National, not local or state legislation, has wrought the downfall of prosperity, and national legislation can alone restore it, hence no local heat or recrimination should be indulged in.

Fredrick Douglas delivered a powerful and eloquent address to an immense and enthusiastic audience in this city last week, in which he said: "When the moral sense of a nation begins to decline and the wheels of progress to roll backward, there is no telling how low the one may fall or where the other will stop. This downward tendency has already swept away the important safeguards. It has invaded the supreme court. It has destroyed the civil rights bill and converted the republican party

into a party of money rather than a party of morals; a party of the past rather than a party of progress; a party of material interests rather than a party of humanity and justice."

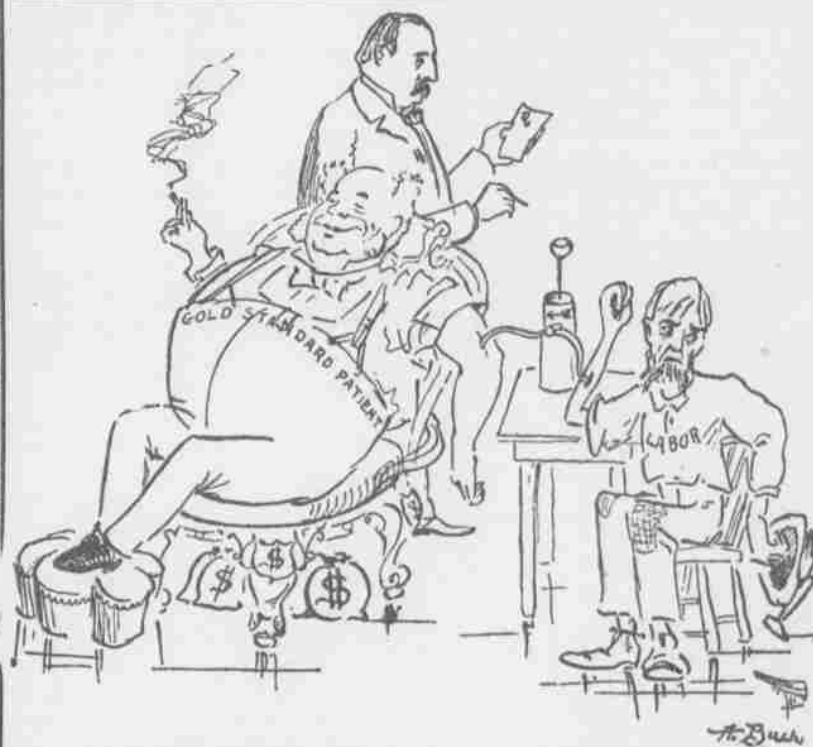
This utter loss of confidence in republicanism which Fredrick Douglas voices is shared by increasing thousands of the best men in that once grand old party. It is gloriously hopeful for the new party of the people that so great a leader as Mr. Douglas should at length open his eyes to the utter uselessness of looking to the republican party for any service to the people.

Should there be among the Populist readers of this letter any who are temporarily disheartened by the disturbance and mischief making which is at work inside the party in Kansas, let them turn from the close view and be cheered by the swift grand march of our reform ideas throughout the country. And let them further take heart considering the splendid representation which we have in congress. Four men, strong, great and true in the senate—Puffer, Kyle, Allen and Stewart. Eleven men alert and competent and constantly on guard in the house. These fifteen representatives of the people from their

while so many people are out of employment and so many others are deprived of their usual incomes. Persons skilled in political economy will argue that the more society entertains the better it will be for all classes, on the principle that money will thereby be put in circulation. This probably is the correct way to view the matter, but, on the other hand, there is a strong tendency at the present time to regard the rich man with disfavor.

"There are some so ignorant and envious as to consider every manifestation of wealth a personal affront to themselves. It was this spirit which induced a crazy man not long ago to hurl a rock through Delmonico's window because some well-dressed gentlemen were seated there, and it was this spirit which impelled another crazy man to throw a bomb at some neat-appearing persons in a theatre in Spain. Such unfortunate persons are the most malignant enemies of society, and it is generally thought that they are very few in number. The truth of the matter is, however, that they are very numerous, and at this present moment are apt to assert themselves.

"If we were all philosophers we would



DR. GROVER—The patient is getting on finely and seems to have absorbed about as much blood as the subject can afford to lose, but I think I'll just prescribe a little of Dr. Carlisle's fifty million bond issue tonic.

vantage ground in congress wield enormous influence. Their speeches are read throughout the nation and carry the weight of conviction. Add to this the marvelous growth of reform literature and the solid work of the reform newspapers and we have abundant ground for high hope and cheerful assurance that the triumph of justice is not far off.

ANNIE L. DIGGS.

IT'S SAD INDEED

That New York "Society" Folks Must Curtail Living Expenses to \$30,000 a Person.

Ward McAllister, the leader of upper crust society in New York, has lately been "earning" his living by writing society news for the papers. It is supposed that he gets more pay for this work from his associates than he does from the papers. Be that as it may, there is no doubt that he reflects the sentiments of "the four hundred" when he writes, whether he writes sense or nonsense. In the New York World of January 14, he says:

"Society is now earnestly discussing the question whether it would be wise to entertain on a large scale this winter

adopt the other side of the question and do all in our power to cheer up the rich man and encourage him to spend his money. The fact is that a large number of people who work to furnish luxuries for the rich are now the greatest sufferers. If every man should give up smoking, a vast number would be thrown out of employment, and there would be great distress. The same thing happens when rich people do as they are now doing—discharging their man-servants, renting their stables, giving no orders to their florists, their tailors, their jewelers, their wine merchants, giving no entertainments, employing no musicians and no caterers. A considerable number is thus added to the army of the unemployed.

"When France passed through just such a financial distress as we are now experiencing, Napoleon ordered his ministers to open their houses and entertain lavishly. He reprimanded one of his ministers for coming to the Tuilleries in a sicaire, ordering him at once to purchase an equipage suitable to his position. In fact, many think that it is now the duty of every one to spend to the extent of his ability for the purpose of fur-

nishing employment to the people.

"Few people realize what a tremendous shrinkage there has been in the fortunes of wealthy men during the past year. It is estimated that there are at present \$1,600,000,000 of capital lying idle and paying no interest. A friend of mine who had an income of \$50,000 a year is now actually pinched by the hard times, his bonds and stocks paying him nothing on his investment.

"But the rich man, aside from being obliged to lay out enormous sums in order to live, is haunted by the constant fear of losing all his gains. In addition to this he is looked upon to provide charity, and to act as a target for crazy bomb-throwers.

"A gentleman who is unusually well advised in financial matters told me recently that a reaction was coming surely. Everything, however, will be on a lower scale. Prices will fall. The necessities and luxuries of life and labor will be much cheaper than before. Many operators in the large factories have already agreed to receive a lower rate of wages. They have been compelled to do this in order to live.

"On the other hand, they will be obliged to pay less for food. The result will probably be very satisfactory, as we shall be upon a healthier and less expensive basis than ever before. Rich men will also be obliged to curtail their expenses. Men who used to spend \$50,000 or \$60,000 a year will have to come down to \$30,000."

Kansas Railroad Assessments.

Our attention having again been called to this subject by statements made in the daily press of the east in connection with the effort of the Santa Fe to effect a compromise of the taxes with the several counties on the basis of their assessment of 1892 or in case of failure to do so to appeal to the courts, and the further statement that the Rock Island assessment for 1893 was \$187,000 less than their assessment for 1892. For the benefit of our readers and the public we have made a thorough examination of the records and official reports and find that there is no truth whatever in the last statement, but on the contrary the Rock Island company was raised next to that of the Santa Fe. The assessments of the four main systems of railroads in the state of Kansas as taken from the assessor's report show the following state of facts:

A., T. & S. F. assessment, 1893, on 2,591.94 miles of main track was \$20,385,193.66 or \$7,865.98 per mile. The assessment on the same mileage, which was lowered almost \$2,500,000 in 1892, was \$16,137,097.93, or 26.3 per cent. less than in 1893.

The U. P. which has 1,161.02 miles of main track in Kansas was assessed for the year 1893 \$8,382,635.71, or \$7,220 per mile, and in 1892 \$7,113,702.88, or \$6,118 per mile, which is 17.8 per cent. above their assessment of 1892.

The M. P. which has 2,222 miles of main track in Kansas was assessed for the year 1893 \$12,386,791.62, or a valuation of \$5,572.85 per mile, and in 1892 on same mileage \$10,964,907.92, or \$4,928.64 per mile, which is less by 12.9 per cent. than their assessment of 1893.

The C. & R. I. which has 1,051.34 miles of main track in Kansas was assessed for the year 1893 \$7,307,732.62, or an average valuation of \$6,855.76 per mile, and in 1892 on same mileage \$6,044,095.50, or \$5,739.32, which shows an increase of 12.3 per cent. over their assessment for 1892.

The report shows that with but two exceptions all the roads were assessed higher this year than any previous year, the average rate of raise being about 15 per cent., or something over \$10,000,000 above the assessments of 1892.