

THE JOURNAL

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No life can be pure in its purpose and strong in its strife. And all life not be purer and stronger thereby.
—Owen Meredith.

FOUR YEARS HENCE

IN THE third of a series of articles, Frank A. Munsey, one of the consequential men of the third party, discusses the future chances of an amalgamation of the Republican and Progressive parties. He says:

So, with the Republicans we now have a body of men stubbornly opposed to the Progressives. They have not retreated in their position that they lean backward in their prejudice against the new party.

On the other hand, the Progressives, for the most part, are even more openly hostile to the Republicans than the Republicans are to them.

There is just about as much chance of the Progressives going over to the Republicans as there is that the Republicans will come over to the Progressives. And there isn't the slightest probability that the Progressives as a body, or in any considerable number, will ever return to the Republican party.

Indeed, if the Progressives were to be disbanded, not more than 15 per cent of them would join the ranks of the Republicans.

Nothing is so uncertain as the question of what will be the status of political parties in the United States in 1916. After the great Democratic split of 1880, there was a far reaching realignment of parties and vast changes by individuals from one political organization to another.

Unquestionably, there are forces and elements for similar realignments and changes as sequel to the great Republican split of 1912.

Mr. Munsey correctly says many Progressives of Republican antecedents will never return to the Republican party. Nor is it likely that the Progressives will be able to recruit a great deal more strength from Republican sources unless the Republican party actually goes out of existence, an eventuation that seems altogether unlikely.

Meanwhile, Woodrow Wilson and the Democratic congress will have a great deal to do with the disposal of political strength in the next presidential conflict. President Wilson is undoubtedly an extraordinary leader. It is doubtful if a more tactful or a clearer headed man has ever occupied the White House. It is improbable that he will have differences with his congress. It is within the easy possibilities that Woodrow Wilson's administration will bring large prestige and greatly augmented power to the Democratic party, an eventuation that would have very great effect in the party alignments of 1916.

Anyway, there never was a time when party ties rested so lightly on the individual. The proof of this is in the withdrawal of 4,000,000 voters, nearly all from the Republican organization—and their enrollment under the banner of a new political party.

In such a status, nobody can prognosticate with certainty as to the probabilities four years hence. The condition that can be surely counted on, is that there will be three great parties, with Theodore Roosevelt once more as a formidable factor in the situation.

IMPENDING CATASTROPHE

CONSTANTINOPLE is facing today a more tremendous peril than has hung over her since the conquering Turks entered the city through her battered gateways and over her ruined walls four hundred and fifty years ago.

The danger today is from the mutinous and disorganized army of a quarter of a million men that holds the Tchatalja forts and lines. These men have been half starved, and exposed to the rigors of a severe and long winter. There are distinct lines between the men of old Turkey, recruited and officered in Asia Minor, who are Moslems and all, belonging to the old school, and men controlled by the young Turks and obeying Shekfat Pasha, Kiamil's successor.

When Shekfat rose to power by the engineering of the young Turks, and over Nazim Pasha's dead body, his declared object was to save Adrianople. But wise, old, Kiamil, varied it thus, "Better save Constantinople," and, having turned the charge over to Shekfat, Kiamil and his ministers, one and all, fled from the city.

As soon as peace is signed the young Turk crowd, Enver Bey, Talaat, David, and the rest of the old committee will turn on the present government, with cries of "Traitors, destroyers of Turkey," and the like, and tear it in pieces. The members of the committee will try then to extirpate it, root and branch. The two parties are about evenly balanced. About the same number of troops will follow each

of them, and that means over a hundred thousand men. Then the streets of the city will run blood. Revolution, counter revolution, and counter-counter revolution will be tried in turn, and the scenes in Mexico City will be child's play compared to those appearing within the next three weeks in the city by the Bosphorus.

The last efforts of Shekfat's ministry will be to crowd every vessel they can get hold of in the Golden Horn with troops from Tchatalja, and ship them back to Asia Minor whence they came. Without stores of food, without a sign of commissariat, starvation impends over the whole movement. Rather than see the soldiers die the European powers may, very possibly, come to their aid, and rations by the million be shipped in.

So will disappear, in all probability, the last great Turkish army to organize on European soil under the green banner of Mohammed.

COMMISSION GOVERNMENT

THE present status of the movement for commission government is reviewed by Clinton Rogers Woodruff, secretary of the National Municipal league. He is behind the scenes of many cities, being one of the experts most generally consulted by those cities which are "lingering shivering on the brink, and fear to launch away."

He bids them be of good comfort. He tells them that the records of those cities which have had two or three years of experience are uniformly encouraging—except. Why exceptions? Because of disappointment in some cities in the character of the commissioners elected. Still there is hope even there since "the present character of officials in commission governed cities is very much higher than prevailed under the older forms."

How clear it is that the people, not the law, is responsible for any disappointment. The law excludes no citizen from office. Every one really eligible for commissioner, and many who are not eligible, may run.

But it is all but criminal to elect all or any commissioners whose characters and whose special qualifications are not well known to the electors. It should be a matter of conscience to act on the familiar notice "No stranger need apply."

There should be no chance of a mistake on character. About that there can be no disguise. What the men may possibly not know in this respect, the women will. As to qualifications there is, of course, room for error. It is a pity there is no device for a kind of term, where a failure could be quietly dropped without a stain on his record.

The election of a commissioner, much less of a mayor, should not be an experiment. No man, however ingratiating, however agreeable and pleasing, should be chosen without a history of proved success in at least one line that parallels a city department.

Every month city commission government is moved farther from the plane of experiment.

A week or two ago there were in the United States 257 commission governed cities. There are others in a condition of incubation. And still others, like St. Paul, with 214,000 people, ready to begin January 1, 1914.

Which are the states that have gone farthest? Kansas, with 24 cities, Iowa with 17, Illinois with 17, Oklahoma with 15, Texas with 16, and South Dakota with 11. California trends on their heels with nine, and Alabama with eight. The rest are distributed in threes and fours and so on.

Unless the most unlikely happens we shall soon have to try our hands at electing in Portland. It is well to be prepared.

A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY

SCHOOL books to be selected in June are to be used in the Oregon schools the coming six years.

That fact lays a heavy responsibility on the text book commission. Charges are made that Oregon is paying too much for school books.

It is the commission's duty to go to the bottom of these charges, and if found true, to provide a remedy. Oregon children should have books at prices as low as in any other state, and the text book commission should both know that the prices are as low and that the books are as good. If the commission cannot do all this, its members should resign. The authority they are to exercise in behalf of the public is very important. The selection of the books, the fixing of the prices, and the determination of the terms on which the changes are to be introduced comprise an extraordinary function.

There are 175,000 persons of school age in the state of Oregon. There are approximately 125,000 pupils in the elementary schools. The selection of books and the fixing of the prices of books for this great army of children is a heavy responsibility, a responsibility that call forth the serious reflection and the best endeavors of every member of the text book commission.

It is a duty that goes far to involve the welfare of the common school system for a period of six years.

Not only should the books be priced at the lowest notch, but the arrangements for introduction of new books should be perfect. There is no use to permit an introductory price for changed books that will be an undue tax on school patrons. The figures in such cases should be cut to the bone, and new books go

to the children on such terms that no hardship will be worked on the many homes of poverty.

One of the most important problems to be worked out in Oregon this year, lies before the Oregon Text Book Commission. Oregon expects every member of that important body to do full statured duty.

DR. FRIEDMANN

GRADUALLY Dr. Friedmann appears to be making friends in this country. He certainly has not been allowed to come in over the wall into the medical sheepfold. He has had to go round and come in by the door. Probably he has alleviations, when the first criticisms of his operating methods gradually give place to admissions that he knows his business and is a distinctively skilled operator.

Two accounts of his progress have recently appeared in the papers of this coast—the one from Dr. August H. Kinney of Astoria, still in New York—and the other from Dr. Charles H. Noble of Seattle, who has just returned from his New York visit, where he went to gain knowledge of Dr. Friedmann and his methods at first hand.

In the case of both doctors a receptive state of mind seems to have been produced. Both of them appear to be looking for confirmation of hope already produced by what they have seen of the patients who had received the vaccine treatment.

Dr. Noble says "It will take from three to six months to demonstrate whether those who have been treated will become perfectly well again. This much, however, is absolutely certain to me, that a great discovery has been made by him and that it will greatly aid in the relief for this disease." This declaration may well be taken as a corrective to the "leaning over backwards" tone of the Journal of the American Medical Association. Probably that professional paper would now hesitate to repeat what it said a week or two ago, shortly after the arrival of Dr. Friedmann in this country.

Its statements were to the effect that no discovery had been made, all facts cited as to immunizing by inoculation being old—that if Dr. Friedmann had discovered anything it is "only a culture which possesses unusual immunizing powers for human beings." Only? If that and nothing more were verified the man would be one of the greatest benefactors, whose name would never be forgotten.

The truth seems to be that hope may burn bright, since nothing has been brought out to dim it. But that it is no more reasonable now than when Dr. Friedmann first made his appearance here to assert as fact that which is still a matter to be proved in its entirety.

CHINESE IDOL SMASHERS

IN MANY and many a temple, writes a missionary from Nanking, the "gods" have been torn from their seats and smashed into bits with hammers. Some were dragged into the streets, soaked with oil, and burned. One thrifty priest scraped the gold leaf from the idol which he had tended, and sold it for eighteen dollars.

Some of the popular temples held hundreds of idols. The troops came in, smashed the gods, turned out the sellers of incense and paper money, and, having cleaned out the temple thoroughly, converted it into barracks for the soldiers of the republic.

Among the rubbish and debris of the old gods at the famous temple in Nanking called Cheng Hua one little idol six inches high was found, and given to the missionary as the sole visible relic of the idol worship of the past.

The Chinese are evidently making a very complete turning from their religion of the past. What they are turning to, in place of it, is in serious doubt.

Among the many millions of China a few thousand Christian missionaries are giving their lives to prevailing on the people to exchange their idols for the worship of the one god that the Christians preach. Not as Mohammed and his followers, by the proffer at the sword's point, "believe or die." But through the attractive and vivifying power of the new faith—believe and live.

In face of this tremendous task—the conversion of a nation the missionaries have found their strength to lie, not in the mazes of an ancient theology, but in the simplicity of the gospel of Christ which they proclaimed to those who had abandoned the old without yet adopting a new religion.

To simplify, to reduce to the fewest possible dogmas, to cut down old creeds to the bare statements of a common faith, was the necessity that reached first of all the missionaries themselves. In the loyal and earnest endeavor to succeed these teachers found that the boundaries and shibboleths of their own original denominations practically disappeared, or at least were retired to the background in their own minds. And this was their common report to the great missionary conference at Edinburgh two or three years ago.

The impression sunk deeply into many minds that if the basic faith offered to the Chinese was a saving faith it was good enough and strong enough to become the moving religious power in white, and brown, and red men as well as in yellow men.

The simplicity of the gospel has been found to contain in it the essence of social as well as of religious brotherhood. And this, there is little doubt, will be the doctrine, that is the teaching of the Christian citizenship conference to meet in this city in a few months' time.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

"Communications sent to the Journal for publication in this department should be written on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 200 words, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the sender. If the writer does not desire to have the name published, he should so state."

Present and Future Fruit Crops.

Cov. Of. April 3.—To the Editor of This Journal—The fruit crop of 1912 is drawing to a close, and it is needless to say it has proved the most disastrous to the producer in the history of commercial fruit growing. There must be some strenuous efforts put forth by the producer or fruit growing in the future will be a repetition of that of the past. What we need is a strong organization among all fruit growers, and sell direct to the consumer when ever possible, so that the middleman, the only solution to the congested fruit situation would be to compel the retailer to sell on a fair margin of profit; and if they are unwilling to do justice to the producer and consumer, let the fruit growers organize and establish distributing points in all the cities of any size and importance, and sell direct to the consumer at wholesale prices, and eliminate the retailer. If the 1912 crop of apples and other fruit growers, there would not have been an over-supply of fruit thrown on the market; but with one of the largest apple crops on record, and the retailers selling for practically the same prices as they did when apples were scarce, no wonder there was an over supply.

Apples have been selling to the retail trade from 50 cents to \$2 per box, and from \$1.75 to \$2.50 per barrel, and retailing from \$10 to \$18 per barrel. Of course the price had to be regulated according to the quality of the apples, but at such prices very few people of the poorer classes could afford to use them. They were bought only as a luxury, and this with thousands upon thousands of bushels of apples going to waste and the grower not able to collect enough from the proceeds of the sales to pay freight and other expenses. We will look up the commission man and jobber and see what part they are taking to help the producer and consumer. Of course, we have some honest commission men, as well as some dishonest ones, but we are not over-supplied. We will start with the grower, or the man that produces the fruit. The fruit is packed and turned over to the commission man or jobber, and he will sell it at a price as cheap as he possibly can instead of trying to make a small margin for the grower. Why does he not exert himself for better sales? Is his heart in the right place and is he trying to buy as cheap as possible to help out the grower, or is he in it for a hidden motive in view? We will try and investigate and see if he is not bidding the fruit in at about the cost of transportation, and sometimes even less, and then reselling to the retailer, making two commissions. C. A. SMITH.

Stephen Kennedy Not Accused. Portland, April 5.—To the Editor of This Journal—Will you please correct an error in a story published a few weeks ago in your paper about Stephen Kennedy helping the St. Clair boy and sister to steal coats and cars. I am not Stephen Kennedy, and I have no hidden motive in view? We will try and investigate and see if he is not bidding the fruit in at about the cost of transportation, and sometimes even less, and then reselling to the retailer, making two commissions. C. A. SMITH.

Why a Militant Suffragette Is. Portland, April 5.—To the Editor of This Journal—The attitude of the English suffragette is deplorable. The indignation of her American sisters to imitate her is a matter of grave concern.

Love is the greatest power in the universe, and woman is preeminently fitted to use it. It is, in fact, the only weapon she should ever use. Her love for truth and right, her love for the oppressed and the weak, her love for the poor and the suffering, that is what will prevail. That it is undivided, single in purpose, free from selfish or personal ends. Woman's field is in the realm of causes; man's is in the world of effects. Let her desire right, and with all her might, with all her power, and man will work out her desire, sometimes with bloodshed, often with force. The manner and the means lie in man's judgment. This is his field, and his invasion of it results inevitably in the civilized world to behold man's inhumanity to woman. The odium of the spectacle which she creates she endeavors to throw upon man, thus causing righteous public judgment. She

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THE MOUSE AND THE BUMBLE BEE.

Portland, Or., April 3, 1912.—To the Editor of This Journal—The young man who dashed out of the crowd on a Portland street to stamp a little mouse to death may have been, as "Easterner" says, nicely dressed and intelligently featured, but he will have to go some to quote that sympathy of soul which, to quote from Brand Whitlock, "more than anything else forms the hallmark of true culture." So will those "hyphenated things" who took pleasure in a coward's act.

The incident recalls an experience of my own. I was staying over night at the home of a minister, a very good man, much interested in foreign missions, and a family worship, he prayed most earnestly for the good Lord to deliver him and his from hell fire, and then, as he rose from his knees, he picked up a young bumblebee, which had somehow got into the room, and dropped it into the lighted lamp. The lamp didn't explode, but I did. I gave the reverend gentleman my opinion of him in terms more forcible than polite, pointing out that some of those heathen he longed to convert not only would have refrained from harming so insignificant a little creature, but would willingly take some trouble to "let it live its little life." It took only about a minute. Then, of course, I came to my senses and apologized. The minister, having recovered from his astonishment, not only forgave a much, but thanked me for calling his attention to a matter he had never thought of before. And he and I are still the best of friends.

But isn't it strange how totally lacking in feeling for dumb things many people can be, especially for little dumb things? I shake hands with you, Easterner. I don't know your name and never heard of you before, but just the same, I claim you for my near kin, though I myself am a WESTERNER.

Answer to Small Dealer.

Portland, April 4.—To the Editor of This Journal—I have read with interest and indignation letters from the minimum wage knockers that have appeared in your paper recently. A man in one of these papers stated that this minimum wage law was just a scheme to freeze out the small dealer. I assume from his statements that he is one of the said "small dealers" (in more ways than one) and for fear that this freezing process may affect his process, he voices his protest, and, as he seems, to see the working girl do the freezing. Then he has more consideration for the working girl than he. How grateful they must feel in their hearts for his touching sympathy!

Now we all know that the small dealer doesn't get so many orders as the large dealer, and therefore his expenses would be no greater in proportion than the latter's; and in any event, should we sacrifice our working girls for the sake of preventing some small dealer from going out of business? Surely this would not be granting "the greatest good to the greatest number."

A woman a few days later expressed her opinion, her chief reason, it seems, for not wishing to see the working girls get better wages was just because she didn't get any more when she was a girl. That same old, wo-e-gone, selfish tale! She neglected to mention the change that has taken place in the cost of living since that time. And because "in her day" girls worked for starvation wages and stayed home with no other ambition in life than to get married, a man who came along, probably—does it follow that all girls should have such a fate meted out to them?

If the working girl was paid a fair wage she would neither have to sell her virtue nor marry just for a home—surely neither choice sively uplifting. Certainly, we know there are girls with characteristics strong enough to carry them through almost any fight, and we know, too, that some are not so fortunately endowed. Perhaps if the girls in this woman's time had not been compelled to work so hard and could have given more time toward mind and body culture some of our present day girls might not have been such easy victims. At any rate, the least we can do is to give them a chance to make a decent living. SCHOOLMARM.

The Case Against the Mouse.

Clackamas, Or., April 4.—To the Editor of This Journal—I love those who love their fellow men. Human beings sometimes are cruel to animals. But give the animals your love, and soon you will not be able to live. To kill a little mouse seems like a cruel thing. But a little mouse might destroy some great painting, or gnaw some lace gown that took some hard working woman half her life to create. Human beings are God's creatures. What if we owe our fellow men? The little mouse might get into baby's milk and commit many other depredations. Love your fellow men and women and children. VIOLA BURR.

SPRING

(Copyright, 1912, by Frank Crane.) Throughout this north world is the feeling that something wonderful is about to happen. We feel it in our bones. Men and women are in their offices. Women are discovered gazing sensitively into space. Children are restless. Something is coming. The most sweet conceivable, is on the way. It is Spring, the annual miracle of life, the recurrent angel that keeps the world from going mad, from becoming hard and cold.

In the lower woodlands the skunk cabbage is pushing its cowled head through the cold turf. Crocuses, the boldest pioneers in flowerdom, are setting their flags of color in sunny spots. A robin here and there is reported. It means life, life, the treasure beyond all treasures, the pearl of great price for which the merchantman will sell all that he has, the one thing needful.

Life! The brown soil is full of it. Under the ground lie in wait the myriad armies of little recruits waiting for the signal to come out and conquer the earth. Hyacinths, tulips, buttercups, spring beauties, dog-tooth violets, bloodroot, and bleeding hearts are ready, eager to start at the signal of the sun, their captain.

All trees are swelling. Birds, most adorable of nature's confections, are dotting out branches. The world is pregnant with a mighty and unconquerable joy. Do you feel it? Is there a strange new hope in you? Have you a premonition of adventure? Do you find yourself at times during the day in the grip of a dream, a fresh, foolish, wild dream? Or is your dream dead? Have cynicism

WHAT IS CONSTITUTIONAL?

From the Detroit News Tribune. It doesn't matter where you take up the debate of congress, whether in the year 1860, or 1865, or 1870, or 1875, you will find a whole phalanx of representatives and senators bustling with all their strength that reform measures before the congress are "unconstitutional."