

POLITICAL PARASITES.

THE "STRIKER," THE "WHEELER" AND THE "HEELER."

Descriptive Nouns That Most Local Statesmen in Big Cities Understand. Distinctive Peculiarities of Each Variety—Above Them Is the Voter.

The vocabulary of politicians is not frequently enriched by additions of any very striking sort, for the reason, very probably, that local leaders are much more likely to quote the expressive phraseology of others than to originate any of their own. So when in giving his testimony at one of the boodle trials, Alderman Michael Duffy, known prior to that as "the mayor of Harlem," used the term "a combine"—with the accent on the com—to describe a corrupt alliance between public officials having legislative powers, he added something to the politicians' vocabulary and the term has endured, in frequent use, since. There are, however, some nouns of description which all local politicians understand, even if no one else does. Here are a few:

A "striker" is a full fledged or would be elector who seeks some pecuniary return as the condition of giving his support to a candidate or party. The basis of his demand is that if his terms are refused he will work for the other side. Usually the "striker" is sugar coated; under guise of ball, picnic or excursion tickets offered for sale just before election, or of the membership of a target company or a social club, or a subscription for an alleged destitute person, or a chance at a raffle. The distinctive peculiarity of the striker is that he is without power or influence. He deceives only the weak kneed or uninitiated. Strikers, like wolves, usually go in pairs—never alone.

A "wheeler" is, in politicians' parlance, an elector whose identification with a party is due to pecuniary reasons and wholly disconnected with any principle. The "wheeler" is a grade above the "striker," because he has usually some influence, and those who pay him get, therefore, some return, whereas in the case of the "striker" they are, to use a Bowery phrase, "flat bunkoed." The "wheeler" does not remain on the same side of the political house two years in succession, lest through close identification with it he might come to be regarded as a regular member, and thus out of reckoning as a purchasable agent.

A "rooter" is a follower of a party or candidate on behalf of whom or which his loyalty and enthusiasm is shown whenever required. He gives and can give no reason for his support other than the fact that he is with his champion "through thick and thin." He holds usually some small place and there is no discount upon his effusive devotion, extending, as it does at times, to deeds of violence and even to those of a criminal character. The "rooter" does what he is told and does it with great energy and in a loud tone of voice.

THE "HEELER'S" FORMER BUSINESS. A "capper" in the field of politics is the subsidized eulogist of a local statesman who is rich in means but spare in fame. The chief duty of the "capper" is to retail in touching accents and in forcible and picturesque language the kindly and beneficent actions of his chief. He gets for this a regular weekly salary, and his ordinary formula in a crowded barroom or on a street corner is about this: "You all think that the old man is mean, small, selfish and only looking out for himself. You never made a bigger mistake in your life. Why, in my presence, only this morning, I saw him distribute \$300 among a score of poor persons, asking only of each of them one thing, that they would never mention it to a living soul. I suppose he will be dead soon at I've got to stand up for what is just and right, even if it is my ruin."

A "heeler" is the follower and attendant of some boss or mischiefman whom he accompanies on all missions or excursions of peril or importance. He is not enthusiastic like the "rooter" and has none of the intellectual accomplishments of the "capper," but he is invariably on hand when needed for a convention, a primary or an outing, and no instance is known of a "heeler" enjoying anything but the most robust health on election day, even though on other occasions his infirmities should be as many and as complex as others of the average of humanity. In the old days of repeating and ballot box stuffing, before a registry law was enacted, the prime duty of the "heeler" was to vote early and often.

ABOVE THEM ALL, THE VOTER. A "hooker" is a constitutionally impetuous person, who believes that the living which the world owes him, and which the world withholds, can and should be secured in the troubled fields of politics. He regards, therefore, every candidate, leader, ward worker and municipal statesman as his debtor, and loses no opportunity to enforce small loans ranging in amount from a dime to a dollar. He uses no threats like the "striker," and makes no promises like the "wheeler," but regards himself as a privileged character and the candidate as his appropriate prey. It not infrequently happens that one of the results of the "hooker's" persistence is his failure to register, the consequence of which neglect is that he is unable to vote, and thus all the financial aid and comfort given him is entirely thrown away.

The list of personages indigenous, as it were, to the field of local politics might be still further extended, but when the "striker," the "wheeler," the "rooter," the "capper," the "heeler" and the "hooker" have been told about the subject in its plainer aspect has been very nearly exhausted. For above all these is the one man whose influence outweighs all the others—the voter who, and who only, determines elections, approves or rejects movements and policies, indorses or rebukes the action of the public servants, and maintains intact and entire the system of representative, popular government, which the others named would threaten if they had the power to assail it.—New York World.

His Sight Was Telescopic.

The official of a leading railway company tells a good story about one of the engine drivers of his line. The engine driver was growing old, and frequent reports were made to the directors that his eyesight was not as good as it should be. This the old man stoutly denied, but nevertheless there is every reason to believe that his eyes were getting a trifle dim. However, he stoutly maintained that his eyes were not only strong, but phenomenally strong, and that these criticisms were made by jealous fellow engine drivers.

The test for eyesight on that line was made by a doctor who lived in a house facing a large common. When he wished to test the men's eyes he used to say, "Look over there and see what you can see." This fact had got known to the employees of the railway, and when the old engine driver was going to be examined he arranged with his son that he should take his bicycle about half a mile across the common and stoop down and oil it.

In due course the old engine driver was led to the window and the doctor said, as usual, "What can you see?"

The old man peered out and said: "Well, I see a young man stooping down beside a bicycle."

"Do you?" replied the doctor; "I cannot see anything at all."

"Gammon!" said the engine driver; "can't you see it? Why, he's oiling it."

On this the doctor took up a pair of field glasses on the table and looking out behind quite plainly saw a young man stooping down oiling his bicycle.

"Magnificent sight!" he said; "magnificent!" and to this day the engine driver is taking his forty shillings a week with striking regularity.—Exchange.

How a Man Acts in a Woman's Company.

"My office is nearly opposite a popular downtown restaurant, the upper floor of which is reserved for ladies or gentlemen accompanied by ladies," said a young aspirant for legal honors the other day at the Lawyers' club.

"The view from my window, however, allows me to see only one person seated at any of the three tables near the window, and that fact has enabled me to have lots of fun, and at the same time gives me a first rate chance to study my fellow man in the presence of a girl of whom he thinks enough to invite her out to luncheon."

"In a fortnight I got so I could tell in a moment whether any man of whom I could catch a glimpse at a table had as his vis-a-vis another man or a woman."

"How did I do it? Oh, it was easily enough divined. If there were two men the one I could see would act perfectly naturally. But if there were a woman on the other side of the table things were very much changed. The fellow in my view would conduct himself entirely differently from the one with his chum along. His interest in the curl of his mustache would be increased tenfold, and every now and then he would suspend operations in the eating line to cast a killing look at his fair companion. In fact, under such conditions, I found that the whole manner and pose of nine men out of ten became at once absurdly unnatural and self-conscious, and their efforts to please, from my point of view, invariably became most amusing."—New York Herald.

Doctrine of Malthus and the Food Supply.

The doctrine of Malthus regarding the future food supply of the world and the ultimate starvation of a portion of the race has been greatly misrepresented, but even the most favorable interpretation is a gloomy one. Briefly stated, the theory is that population increases in a geometrical and food supply in an arithmetical ratio; and hence the time must come when there will not be food enough. Perhaps the simplest and most correct reply to this theory is that the assumption that the race increases and will continue to increase in geometrical ratio is not borne out by observed facts. The theory that the food supply increases in only arithmetical ratio, and most ultimately reach its limit, is doubtless nearer the truth. But while there is a limit to the possible production of food, it transcends all the ideas that ever occurred to Malthus or to the people of his time.

It has always been assumed that the capacity of the soil to produce plants is measured by what is popularly called its fertility—that is to say, the amount of production possible under ordinary conditions of culture. The science of today, however, shows this measure to be incorrect, and the practice of agriculture is already beginning to add its testimony to the same effect. And remarkable as is the story told in market gardening, in the reclaiming of the desert and in irrigation, it is only the first chapter of a tale the already attested wonders of which almost rival those of the "Arabian Nights."—Professor Atwater in Century.

Tanning Hides.

Of late years there has been much talk of tanning hides by electricity, and several methods have been tried, but with indifferent success. There is no doubt, however, but that electricity does greatly aid in the tanning process. In the old days of tanning, the hides, after being dehaired and made ready, were placed in the tan vats, and there allowed to remain untouched and undisturbed for from nine to twelve months, and in some cases even longer, until the tannin in the liquors, thoroughly uniting with the hides, had converted them into leather. But after a time it was discovered that by putting the hides into a revolving wheel or drum, which had first been partially filled with the tan liquors, the time necessary to convert them into leather was greatly shortened.—New York Advertiser.

Dressed in Style.

Stage Robber—Hold up y'r hands! Scared Passengers—Yes, yes, yes, of course. Robber (gallantly)—Beg pardon, lady; you needn't hold yours up. Put 'em down again. Lady—My hands are not up. Those are my shoulder puffs.—New York Weekly.

HOW THE ESKIMOS LIVE.

They Are Uncivilized, but They Can Give Points to Many a Civilian.

A very pleasant and openhearted people are these Cape York Eskimos. One would expect to find them gloomy and unhappy, like the icy fastnesses of their native Greenland. Their frame of mind, on the contrary, is very different. When they first sighted the Kito from their hillside tents they gave her a joyous greeting. "Kymol Kymol!" or something resembling that word, they shouted in hearty tones. They seemed to have no fear that the visit of strangers boded them ill.

All the time aboard the ship they were smiling and laughing. These people have never had any Christian teachings, and almost the only white men they ever see are the whalers. Yet they are scrupulously honest. In trading with them members of the expedition passed around among them needles, knives and many articles as precious to them as diamonds to an American. Everything was returned.

All the men aboard the ship who had been whaling declared that no Yak had ever been known to take anything that was not his. The whole forty-eight people swarmed over the vessel for two days and not a single article was missed. It was very different in the Danish settlements. There everything was tied up or stowed below as soon as any Eskimo came aboard.

There was only one thing that could have been construed into theft at Cape York. A Yak walked into the cook's galley and grabbed a piece of bacon from the pan and devoured it. In their settlements, however, the food appeared to be common property—a rule which may prevail during prosperity. It was noticed that they brought aboard birds and blubber for sustenance while they remained on the ship, but it did not seem to be the exclusive property of any one. Whoever was hungry helped himself.

Looking at these Eskimos, who are entirely beyond the influence of civilization, who live, as one might say, "on their own hook," one is tempted to ask whether the Danish rule is such a beneficial thing for the Greenlanders farther south. There does not seem to be so much happiness in the latter quarter. The only advantage possessed by the Danish Eskimo is that he has a better market for his goods. A few hundred years of civilization have not done much else for him, except to give him a liberal strain of European blood.

What these Cape York Eskimos need in a material way is wood, and perhaps guns and powder. Civilization can do little else for them. No signs of a rebellion could be seen, but they evidently have traditions, superstitions, and perhaps a god, for all their affairs are well regulated.

In the mob of forty-eight people, all bargaining, there was no instance of an Eskimo coveting any article secured by one of his fellows, nor was there a single dispute as to property. On no occasion, as far as seen, did any Eskimo lose his or her temper.

The husband and wife seemed to have separate property. All was not owned by the man. Sometimes a wife went ashore to get fresh articles of trade belonging to her husband, but on her return she would never part with them, however tempting an offer was made, until she consulted him. Her own possessions, however, such as bone needles, thimbles, necklaces, etc., she sold without consulting him. The bargaining of the children for their toys was not interfered with in the least by the old people. The couples are very fond of each other and are tremendously proud of their children.—Boston Herald.

Improvements in Leather.

As early as 1833 an English tanner conceived the idea of forcing the tan liquors into the hides by hydrostatic pressure. By this method he greatly lessened the time of tanning; and, as he used a frame on which the hides had to be tacked before being put into the wheel, and as the hides had to be cut to fit these frames, thus causing considerable waste and damage, the process was abandoned.

It is hardly to be doubted, however, that with the spirit of push and enterprise now manifested by those engaged in the manufacture of leather the future will see wonderful improvements in this important industry, and that science and electricity will make it possible to convert hides into leather in as many hours as it now takes days. If this is done at all the shoe consuming public need have no fears that it will be accomplished at the expense of the excellency of the material which goes into its footwear, while tanners themselves can rejoice in the fact that they, being able to turn their money several times a year, can make both better and cheaper leather than ever before.—New York Advertiser.

Jelly from Elephants' Tusks.

How many people have ever eaten jelly made from elephants' tusks? Yet it is very good, indeed. In the English factories where many tons of ivory are sawn up annually to make handles for knives and forks, great quantities of ivory dust are obtained. This dust is sold at the rate of sixpence a pound, and when properly boiled and prepared it makes the finest, purest and most nutritious animal jelly known. Years ago ivory jelly was a very fashionable remedy and much sought after.—Washington Star.

Why Boy Choirs Are Preferred.

There are several reasons why the old style quartette should have been replaced by the boy choir. Under the old system the singers often misbehaved; they took no interest in the church service, and I have known cases where they occupied their spare time during the service reading novels and newspapers. Then, again, the solo singers were extremely independent; they used to take most unwarrantable liberties with the service and were not at all amenable to discipline.—Interview in New York Epoch.

Women.

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A Revelation.

Few people know that the bright bluish-green color of the ordinary teas exposed in the windows is not the natural color. Unpleasant as the fact may be, it is nevertheless artificial; mineral coloring matter being used for this purpose. The effect is twofold. It not only makes the tea a bright, shiny green, but also permits the use of "off-color" and worthless teas, which, once under the green cloak, are readily worked off as a good quality of tea.

An eminent authority writes on this subject: "The manipulation of poor teas, to give them a finer appearance, is carried on extensively. Green teas, being in this country especially popular, are produced to meet the demand by coloring cheaper black kinds by glazing or facing with Prussian blue, tumeric, gypsum, and indigo. This method is so general that very little genuine uncolored green tea is offered for sale."

It was the knowledge of this condition of affairs that prompted the placing of Beech's Tea before the public. It is absolutely pure and without color. Did you ever see any genuine uncolored Japan tea? Ask your grocer to open a package of Beech's, and you will see it, and probably for the very first time. It will be found in color to be just between the artificial green tea that you have been accustomed to and the black tea.

It draws a delightful creamy opinion, and is so fragrant that it will be a revelation to tea-drinkers. Its purity makes it also more economical than the artificial teas, for less of it is required per cup. Sold only in pound packages bearing this trade-mark:

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