

The people of civilized Europe and America seem to be in a state of agitation, and wherever you go whatever the character of the agitation, it generally and everywhere resolves itself into the one great question, what is true Republicanism? and it is most amusing to read the strictures and comments of some of our best writers both in Europe and America upon this subject.

For example, in the great Middle States, and especially in the State of Illinois, there has been recently a great and serious agitation of the public mind upon the subject of the power of corporations organized by act of the Legislature, or under general statutes for that purpose, and as to what rights could be exercised with impunity, by corporate bodies, and what powers are reserved to the whole people to be exercised by them in their sovereign capacity, and for the general good whenever required.

The States of Illinois like many other of the States of this Union, within the last twenty years has been permeated by railways in all directions, which are owned by soulless companies and corporations, who have by their operations, and to satiate their thirst for money and power, oppressed the people and brought upon them burdens too grievous to be borne; in consequence of which the people have become uneasy, agitated and dissatisfied.

About two years ago the farmers in the State began to hold meetings for the purpose of discussing measures for their own protection against the incursions then being made upon their just rights by the too rapid strides of monied monopolies. The result of which was, that in the late judicial election, the people in the fifth district selected Craig over Lawrence as one of the Supreme Judges of the State, and many of the leading journals of the State are going wild over it. Among others, the Chicago Tribune, a paper which in our estimation heretofore has maintained correct principles upon most political subjects, and advocated them too, with more than ordinary ability, seems to have completely lost its equilibrium.

In speaking of the result of the election, the Tribune remarks:

We have characterized the defeat of Judge Lawrence as the most brutal outrage ever perpetrated in the State of Illinois under the auspices of universal suffrage. One such transaction is enough to set every reflecting person to musing on the probable outcome of an elective Judiciary.

This would intimate the doctrine, that our judiciary would be less corrupt if the selection of the judges were removed from the power of the people, and the power to appoint for life placed in the Governor or some other hands uncontrolled by the sovereigns themselves.

This we regard as a very dangerous doctrine and well calculated to shake the very foundation of republicanism. It is not necessary for this argument to discuss the question as to whether Craig or Lawrence it the better jurist, or which is the more honest and honorable, nor even whether or not the people in their selection have made a mistake or have been imposed upon, the great question to be settled is, can it be said that a government is republican in fact and form, where the people in the aggregate are so bound down and fettered by their own laws, as to render them powerless to relieve their own necessities.

Suppose you make the office of our Supreme Judges appointive and for life as some would have it, then, when they have made a decision against the rights of the people, it is irrevocable during the life of the Court, and if the wrong perpetrated by the decision be a grievous one, it might, and in all probability would, bring about bloody revolution before any change could be made. This to our mind does not savor of republicanism, but is nothing more than a relic of genuine monarchy. If the people are capable of self government, then you must permit them to govern or you destroy at once the very corner stone of a republic, and when the time shall come, when it is conceded that the people cannot govern them-

selves, then as a matter of course they must be governed, by tearing down your republican structure, and erecting upon its ruins a monarchy or despotism of some grade or character.

The facts are that we have been wading through experiments in our form of government ever since the adoption of the Constitution and before, and we have allowed our constitutions and laws to be so loaded down with relics of that old monarchy from which our parents came, that up to this time, all things considered, the experiment has been a failure. We must establish pure republicanism in this government, or we must go back into monarchy from which we came; we cannot exist a government half monarchial and half republican. They are opposing forces and ultimately the one or the other must yield. The struggle may be long and bloody as it now is in Mexico, and as already commenced in the southern portion of our own Republic, but the time will come when the weaker will be compelled to give way, and the stronger will triumph.

The only manner in which this attempted establishment of republicanism in this country can be fully accomplished, upon a basis that will bring security and permanent peace, is this; the people in the first place must wake up to a true realization of the fact, that they are the sovereigns and real rulers of this country, then instead of hesitating as to the power they possess, they must act courageously, promptly and as though they well understood that they were the source of all power political, within their jurisdiction, they must commence and lay the foundation correctly, or the whole structure built upon it will be wrong; they must first so far as our own race is concerned establish in practice the principles of which all republics boast—that taxation without representation is oppression; they must never deviate from the one great idea incorporated, in words, in the Declaration of American Independence, that all men are entitled alike, to those God given rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; they must allow no race of beings save their own race, to enjoy the elective franchise, because that is the key to perpetuity in all popular governments; they must permit the whole body of the people of their own race, to assist in carrying out and perpetuating the government by excluding none from the ballot, except idiots and minors, and they must shorten the term of minority, so as to correspond with the elation and general knowledge of the people; they must take away from the president a large portion of his present appointing power; they must send no man to the halls of legislation either State or National, without a knowledge of what his true name is, and of his general character for truth, honesty, capability and strict integrity; they must abandon the idolatrous worship of party name, and depend upon and support good men for official positions acting from principle, and actuated by a desire for the general good; they must abolish forever all life offices; they must make all domestic offices elective by the people with short terms; they must allow no man to hold the office of President or Vice President more than one term; and they must forbid by positive enactment any amendment to the Constitution without a direct reference to the people.

All this and more must be done and performed by the American people before they can expect to make the experiment of establishing a pure republic in the United States a success. We do not expect to live to see all these much needed reforms accomplished, but this we do say, that unless in the main they are brought about within the next quarter of a century anarchy within the jurisdiction of the United States will take the place of law and order, reigning supreme; while the present wretched condition of our sister Mexico will then be ours, and the once happy people of this fair land and country, will weep sad and bitter tears over their own folly, and desiring to retract, will be answered by the sound, too late!—too late!

As to whether in Illinois, Lawrence or Craig holds the true doctrine as to the rights of corporations and the people, we

know not, but this we do know, the judge or court that holds the doctrine that, railroad companies possess vested rights beyond the reach of the people to control when necessary for the general good, is not fit to represent a free people upon the bench, and ought to be hurled from his position summarily without opportunity for explanation. It should be no excuse that precedent has been followed, and no court should be allowed to shield itself behind the proclamation, that he has decided according to the established rules of law in England and America when the decision is manifestly against justice and the rights of the people.

Vested rights are absolute rights, and should be exercised by no man or company of men in a republic when it works general wrong and injury; and the idea that railroad companies have the right absolute and forever to charge for freight and passengers, whatever they please, after appropriating the lands and property of the farmer to their own use, is a proposition which could be entertained only by fools or knaves, with or without precedent. This plea of precedent and established rules of law, is a humbug, and takes us back, many of them, to the dark ages when the majority of the people possessed less sense, education, wisdom and humanity than most of the school children of the present time, of twelve years of age; and yet well knowing this, many of our judges will sit upon the bench assuming great dignity, acting the wolf in sheep's clothing, and when he is attacked for a decision which shocks the sensibilities of the true minded in this, the noonday of the nineteenth century, he falls back upon his judicial dignity, and covering himself with his official robes indignantly and insultingly tells you he has decided according to precedent and the established rules of the common law.

In Republics where the sovereignty rests entirely with the people they have and do possess the right to regulate the price of freight and passengers upon the thoroughfares owned by railroad companies, just as effectually as they exercise the right to regulate toll on ferries, turnpikes, mills, bridges and the like, and he who would hold up the bloody robes of a Julius Caesar for the purpose of exciting the people to opposition against this right of sovereignty so just in itself ought to be treated as a common enemy, and banished for high crimes and misdemeanors.

This doctrine of vested rights by corporations against the best interest of society, is as damnable and despicable as its astute inventors, and ought to be frowned down contemptuously by any people who lay claim to honesty. It was conceived in the dark, mid-winter in the back room of a corrupt ring, and sprung upon the country through bribery and a corrupt judiciary; it is the doctrine of Halliday's plaything, Senator Hipple, and is advocated by Dolph, who to-day is a standing candidate for the next Republican Governor of Oregon; and it is also the doctrine always advocated by the devil in order to destroy republicanism on the globe, and perpetuate the worst type of monarchial anarchy.

CIRCUIT COURT.

This Court for Marion county has closed its business for the term, but not for rest to Court or even the members of the bar, for on Monday next it meets at Yamhill to perform the business of an adjourned term, and in one week it convenes at Tillamook and two weeks from Monday the Supreme Court meets at Salem. The motion for a new trial and in arrest of judgment in the case against Whitley which case had been so persistently prosecuted by the District Attorney and the numerous counsels employed to assist him, and which has been so ably conducted on the part of the prosecution, was overruled, but the Court was of opinion that many of the questions raised in the argument, being, by our Courts unsettled and of grave importance, it was his duty to certify the case, upon application of the Attorneys for the defence, to the Supreme Court for their consideration so that justice might be done and the practice regarding the questions in dispute settled. The Court accordingly stayed all further proceedings and discharged the defendant from custody and he stands over on his bonds.

ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT.

By invitation we were present at the commencement exercises of the Sister's School at Salem on Monday last. The attendance was large, all seemed interested, and from what we could see and hear, from the position occupied, the performance was excellent. We regret that we were unable to remain during the whole of the exercises, but we listened with great pleasure to the short, but stirring and very sensible opening address of Maggie McManus, who we were delighted with the sweet music that followed, and we were more than pleased with Miss Dora Hayden's Essay on "Romance and Reality," the other essays so far as we heard them were well selected well written and well delivered. The graduates, who were Maggie McManus, Margaret Cooper, Zella Savage, Dora Hayden, Estelle Hayden, and Ella Hunt, acquitted themselves creditably, and the talent and learning by them displayed, as well as their general appearance and demeanor on the occasion, disclosed evidence unmistakable, of correct training.

We frankly acknowledge that much of our former prejudice honestly entertained from early education, and very many of the cobwebs of superstition heretofore so neatly woven before our eyes respecting the Sisters School, and the particular religious denomination under whose direction they are so ably and profitably conducted, has been pretty thoroughly wiped away of late and we feel that we state but the simple truth when we say, that the Sister's School is among, if not the very best in Oregon for young ladies and girls of all ages. We also had the pleasure since the close of the exercises to see and examine the paintings of two of the graduates, those of Miss Estelle and Dora Hayden which we think it allowed to express an opinion, are superb. We should be glad to give a more extended notice, but for the present at least, want of space and time forbid.

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