

BALLOTS AND BULLETS.

No Vote Has Value Without Force and Will to Back It Up If Need Be.

Take from your pocket a dollar bill smooth it out, and look at it. Why is it that note will buy twenty loaves of bread, or a hundred bricks, or a new novel, or a ticket to the theater, or a ride on a railroad?

The one fact that gives it universal purchasing power is the universal knowledge that somewhere behind it there is a piece of gold whose intrinsic value is equal to that of twenty loaves of bread, or a hundred bricks, or a new novel, or a seat in the theater, or a railway ride, and that the holder of it can have that piece of gold whenever he chooses to call for it. Raise in the minds of the holders of these commodities a serious doubt as to the existence or the availability of that piece of gold, and you can no longer get the articles for your twenty-one square inches of printed paper.

If then, a piece of paper unbacked by metal cannot procure us a bag of salt or a yard of calico, can another piece, equally unbacked by metal, procure the passage and execution of laws, the distribution of property, the regulation of wages, and the security of life?

The most civilized portions of mankind have not outgrown the measurement of force for the ultimate settlement of every great question, and the unit of force is the man capable of bearing arms.

Various devices have been brought into use by which available force can be measured and the result of a conflict be foretold, whereupon the destined losers generally submit without a conflict and thus save life and treasure.

This is the philosophy of a popular election. The appeal to reason is made in the preliminary canvass. Then the ballots are cast and counted, and the result is announced, and the announcement is essentially this: "So many thousand units of military force are enlisted on the affirmative side of this question, and so many thousand on the negative."

Then those who find themselves in the minority give up, and permit the majority to have their way; not because they are convinced that they have been in the wrong and their opponents in the right, but because they know that if they do not submit

peacefully they will be compelled to do so.

All this may be very deplorable, but it is the state of affairs that exists, and with it we are compelled to deal.

It is galling to a citizen of education and refinement to see great and sometimes difficult questions decided by the votes of the new-comer and the illiterate; but our only safety is in manhood suffrage, because the final arbiter is manhood strength.

The government set up, and the policy adopted, may not be the best possible; but if a majority of the men stand behind them, we shall at least have stability, and that is the most necessary element in any government.

These considerations lead directly to the conclusion that woman suffrage would be a serious mistake. A ballot put into a box by a woman would be simply a blank cartridge.

Doubtless it would be a righteous spectacle to see a million women and a half million men outvoting eight hundred thousand men on some great moral question; but when the eight hundred thousand men decline to submit, who is going to make them?

It is not to be wondered at that an educated and patriotic woman frets a little when she sees an ignorant or vicious man going to the polls while she stays at home, nor that she should sometimes assert herself by asking if she is not intellectually and morally superior to him. So is a man intellectually superior to a sledge-hammer; but when he wishes to rend a granite rock he does not pry at it with his fingers; he persuades the sledge-hammer to do his bidding. Similarly, it would be futile for her to go to the ballot-box and with her own fair hand throw in a blank cartridge ballot; but if through argument or entreaty she can persuade a musket-bearer to throw a right ballot instead of a wrong one, she can accomplish something worthy.

It should be remembered that every popular election has two phases—the phase of discussion and the phase of determination. A woman who is familiar with our politics and knows how to address an audience might take a very forcible part in the phase of discussion, and she would be listened to as eagerly and respectfully as any orator we have.

And it seems a little singular that none of the suffragist speakers ever use their eloquence to turn hundreds of votes and make an election go right instead of wrong. Instead, they appear to be only anxious to get their

single forceful ballots into the box. They find it impossible to realize that the ballot is not power, but only a means of reckoning power.

The subject of the suffrage is not a question of courtesy and chivalry toward women. It is a question of the stability of our government. Universal peace has not yet arrived; the great struggle that has wrenched mankind through the ages is still going on, and one may see in it various phases in our own country as well as in the bristling armies of Europe.

Boast as we may of our inventions, our arts, and our learning, we have yet a thin crust of civilization spread over a heated mass of savagery; and organized force is what saves us from anarchy.

Such is the brutal truth about the suffrage and its basis; and a brutal truth, when it exists, must be admitted and reckoned with like any other truth.

Real Estate Office.

At 635 State street Messrs. Wes Hodson and John Knight have opened a real estate office, where they will be glad to see their friends who have property to list. They will transact a general real estate business, and already have some good properties to offer. Call and see them at 365 State street. 4-23-3t

A Song or Sermon.

The Astorian of the 23rd says:

Last evening Dr. Gustave Rydquist spoke to a large audience on the subject of "Christ's Resurrection" and the proofs therefore. He said in part:

"The proofs of the resurrection of Christ are so many and conclusive that every unbiased reasoner must accept them providing he gives them a serious thought. We can divide the proofs into Biblical, historical and rational.

"No historical event or phenomenon has so many proofs and testimonies as the resurrection of Christ. This is a blessed assurance and a great comfort, as it is of such great importance in our religion and life.

"Historically also the resurrection is convincingly testified to. We have already spoken of the death of our Lord and on account of its publicity it has never been doubted. There is, however, one circumstance in connection with his death that has not only been ridiculed by anti-Christians, but used as an argument against veracity of the Gospel narrative. When the soldiers saw that Christ was already dead one of them thrust his spear into his side, piercing

his heart, and there gushed out a stream of blood and water. This little sentence has been the bone of contention for ages. But the sentence has stood there in spite of all ridicule. It was not that the sentence was a stroke of ignorance or falsehood, but it was ridiculed because men, even scientists, did not know any better. This little incident mentioned as if by the way only has become the strongest possible proof not only of the death of Christ, but also of the manner and nature of his death. When that sentence was written the human body was not understood as it is today. Anatomists had not then, as they have now, unveiled the mysteries of the human body, and pathology, one of the greatest sciences of today, was not then taught nor understood in the light of modern times.

"Science today attests to the fact that when anyone dies from violent emotion, mental agony, a crushed spirit, or by what is termed a broken heart in our popular tongue, a watery secretion is always formed in the cavity of the heart. The soldier who thrust his spear into that sacred heart did not know this secret, but that great and loving heart was crushed by mental agony rather than by physical pain, and in breaking it sighed forth the words: 'Eli, Eli, Lama, Sabaktani.'

"The resurrection of Christ has been ridiculed as a myth. But no historical event has such a complete and trustworthy record. Here are the writers of the Gospels and epistles writing independently and at various times. And the beautiful harmony of the records testifies to the truthfulness of the same. Most historical events of the far bygone days are only recorded by one, and if by more we find the records so conflicting that it is difficult to establish the truth concerning them. Some would say that the disciples were visionaries and it was only an hallucination on their part that they saw the Savior after his death and burial. Well the disciples really think they saw a vision when Christ appeared to them at the occasion our text describes. The Savior had to prove himself living and real. And the doubting Thomas, the very last one to be convinced, finally burst out in overwhelming emotion, 'My Lord and my God.'

"For a purely rational standpoint the proofs are equally convincing. There can be no result without a cause. Christianity and its progress must

have an adequate cause. It is not conceivable that its cause could be a falsehood or a vision. Even the most skeptic will be convinced of they will but seek the truth.

"As Christians we rejoice because we have such a firm foundation for our faith. Christianity as it is taught and preached in its purity solves the problem of this life and makes us hopeful even in death. And looking at the resurrection of Christ we can truly exclaim: 'Thanks be to God who hath given us the victory.' An eternity of glory and blessedness awaits us. Thank God for such an assurance. Who does not long to triumph over nature? Here we are hampered on all sides. Our knowledge is limited. We cannot peer into the mysteries that surround us and come within the sphere of our thought, but we cannot penetrate them. Our highest longings and ambitions cannot be realized here. We feel that we carry eternity within our being. What an extent of knowledge, wisdom, honor, glory and power shall flash upon us when in the power of Christ's resurrection our souls are pure, ethereal and holy shall be ushered into the presence of Him who said, 'Because I live ye shall live also.' But while here let us be witnesses of Christ's resurrection, attest to his glory and power, that his cause may prosper on earth and that souls may be won for His kingdom."

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