

department would be controlled by leaders of the "regular" school of doctors.

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If this would be the result, the project is full of menace. What could be more menacing than a national health bureau dominated by one school of physicians and with the despotic powers which such bureaus are conceded by the Supreme Court to have. It is bad enough to realize that the immigration bureau may arbitrarily exclude from the country any citizen returning from a foreign trip, with no power in the courts to interfere (pp. 388-90), but what if like powers were conferred upon a narrowly orthodox school of physicians?

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Whether there should be a national health board may be a debatable question. But in our view, there is no room for debate upon a question of virtually turning all the powers of the Federal government regarding the public health over to one school of medical practitioners. If this question is involved in the matter, the fact that men who would not be in sympathy with such a purpose favor this project makes no difference. It would not be the first time that democratic intentions had played innocently into the hands of autocratic purposes. Is that question reasonably involved or not? is the test. And if it is not, how does it happen that no organizations of physicians other than those of the old school are promoting the project?

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On the question of having a national health department with any greater powers than such as are necessary for general sanitation as distinguished from personal treatment, it does not seem to us that those persons who are asking for it have the stronger side of the case. Imperial standards of medical orthodoxy controlled by a Federal bureau which, like other Federal bureaus, would be an absolute dictator over all matters within its jurisdiction, would be approximately as objectionable as imperial standards of religious orthodoxy under similar control.

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"Barbarous Mexico."

Readers of the American Magazine who became deeply interested in John Kenneth Turner's articles on "Barbarous Mexico" (vol. xii, pp. 982, 1058, 1077, 1244), have been puzzled at their sudden and unaccountable stoppage. Mr. Turner's explanation is published in the June 4 issue of the Appeal to Reason, of Girard, Kansas. In sub-

stance it is, to use Mr. Turner's words, because the editors of the American Magazine found themselves face to face with "a power whose might they had misjudged and which threatened to crush them." A publication is promised by the Appeal to Reason of the "Barbarous Mexico" series which the American discontinued.

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Perpetual Franchises.

Bryan's Commoner reports a recent Federal court decision at Omaha which gives promise of putting an end to perpetual public service franchises. The court declared in the franchise under consideration—a grant to the Omaha Electric Lighting Co.—that "even if the Mayor and Council had intended to grant a perpetual franchise to the company they were powerless to do so."

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CHARLES FREDERICK ADAMS.*

One of the historic law firms of the older New York was Coudert Brothers—"Coodair," as the name was pronounced nearly enough right in the courts and on the street,—and one of the implicitly trusted and highly respected attaches of this firm, as a youth in its prime and in middle life on his return to it after some years of official life in Washington, was Charles Frederick Adams, a man who figured among the earliest disciples of Henry George on the Atlantic Coast.

As a legal practitioner Mr. Adams was unique.

Asked once why he with his admirable abilities and equipment as a lawyer had been content to spend some of the best years of his early professional life upon a salary of only \$1,500 a year, he replied: "The salary I got was not \$1,500 a year; I got—no matter how much,—\$20,000 a year, if you please, and I gave back the difference for freedom to refuse any professional service I objected to."

It was true. If the morals of a case turned over to him for action were repugnant to his scruples of conscience, or the facts impressed him as suspicious, or the law for his side seemed to him to be what lawyers call "bad law," he returned the papers and asked to be excused.

Added to his extraordinary scruples, is a sincere and self-judging modesty which has influenced Mr. Adams to decline opportunities cordially offered him by those concerned, because he himself deemed doubtful his ability to do justice to them. An amusingly characteristic instance of his handling of such a situation occurred once in Wash-

*A portrait of Mr. Adams goes with this issue of The Public as a supplement.

ington, when on strong (but wholly unsolicited) recommendations from New York, Mr. Adams was rather insistently invited to become a sort of legal secretary in South America to the Chinese Ambassador to the United States and the South American republics. His characteristic doubts as to his ability to "make good," having been smilingly overruled, he took refuge in a courteous but firm refusal (or rather, omission) to attend a proposed interview at the State Department for a "pro forma" exhibition of his familiarity with French and Spanish, on the ground that as he was not an applicant for the appointment, it was not incumbent on him to submit to any test, real or perfunctory, of his qualifications. In 1906, largely on the ground, as we suspect, that he thought his actual election was practically impossible, he accepted the nomination of the "Independence League" and three other minor political groups, for the Supreme Court of the State of New York. When President Coler of the Borough of Brooklyn offered Mr. Adams the borough secretaryship, his doubts of his competency were so serious that he had to be almost ox-teamed into the place. But once there he served most efficiently to the end of Mr. Coler's term of four years.

Testimonials might be multiplied, to the advantage of his popularity, if he had as good a press agent as Mr. Rockefeller employs, inasmuch as his many friends, including a number of very distinguished men, have vied with each other in avowing for him esteem, friendship, and admiration, in a degree which to him has seemed amazing. Every one who ever knew him well could contribute something. Throughout a period of more than twenty-five years the path of Mr. Adams's career is strewn with incidents exemplifying, not in his own opinion but in that of all who know him, a unique confusion of three qualities in one personality—extraordinary ability, insistent modesty, and rigorous moral stamina.

His character has been truly described by Edward M. Shepard, the eminent lawyer of New York, than whom none is better qualified to judge, and no one's commendation could be of greater worth. Writing in 1903 of Mr. Adams's qualifications for exalted judicial service, Mr. Shepard said: "I regard them as being of the *very highest*. Those whose acquaintance with Mr. Adams is somewhat superficial, and those who have observed his intense earnestness upon public questions upon which he feels strongly and upon which he often after his own general fashion takes a side supported only by a small minority, are apt to underrate his practical qualifications; and this risk of underrating them is enhanced by Mr. Adams's

own modesty. Mr. Adams in the first place is a remarkably good lawyer. He knows the law and he likewise knows how to apply it. Indeed, but a very small proportion of the bar have nearly the accumulation of real learning and wisdom in their profession which Mr. Adams has. He has in all practical matters entire good sense, and moderation, and common sense. I emphasize this because on some matters he holds views that are not in accord with the majority of people, many of which are not in accord with the views which I hold. All the more on this account I must lay stress upon his entire reasonableness and open mindedness. In the next place as to his character, the city does not contain a more high minded, just and generous man. He has the instinct of justice and mercy as it is given to very few men."

The story of such a character cannot fail to interest all who sympathize with the man in his views. It is worthy the attention of others as well.



Mr. Adams was born in Santiago, Cuba, July 27, 1851, when his father, a native Virginian, resided there as American consul.

At ten years of age he came to the United States, legally his native country. His father had given up the Cuban consulate to take charge of a business at New York, that of Moses Taylor & Co., in which he was a partner. It was then one of the distinguished mercantile houses of the world.

After studying under a private tutor and at the Brooklyn Polytechnic, and attending for three years the famous school at Pittsfield, Mass., of which a brother of J. S. C. Abbott was the head, the subject of our sketch continued his studies at Cambridge, and in 1871 was graduated by the Harvard Law School in the class with Walter S. Logan, afterwards president of the American Bar Association, and Patrick A. Collins, who became mayor of Boston.

While at the Brooklyn Polytechnic Mr. Adams belonged to a debating club which kept on many years as the Milton Literary Society, and in which he became intimately associated with several men now famous in Greater New York, including William M. Ivins, F. W. Hinrichs, Horace E. Deming, Charles R. Flint and A. Augustus Healy. Upon going to Harvard, he carried letters from William M. Evarts, Joseph H. Choate and other men of distinction, and through these and his own brilliant qualities of mind he came into friendly relations with John Fiske, Longfellow, Agassiz, and Governor Washburn, and saw something at close range of Emerson and Lowell. Mr. Adams is

described as having been noted even at the law school for judicial temperament and deep insight into the fundamental principles of the law. His analysis of the law of evidence was given a special mark of commendation for its precision and exactness by Chief Justice Bradley of Rhode Island.

Admitted to the New York bar in 1872, after a term as law clerk in the office of Evarts, Southmayd & Choate, where on many occasions he acted as junior to each of those eminent lawyers in the preparation, trial and argument of important cases, he soon afterward entered the service of Coudert Brothers. Among the most notable of the cases in which he was engaged while connected with the Evarts firm was the famous Erie litigation in which "Jim" Fisk and Jay Gould were the defendants. His familiarity with Spanish, French and Italian made him especially valuable in the foreign business of the Couderts.

In 1880 he represented his firm as head of their office in Paris, succeeding the late Edmond Kelly; but he declined a permanent assignment there because he was unwilling to expatriate himself.

Mr. Adams was also actively engaged for the Couderts in the important "insular" cases before the United States Supreme Court, in which the question at issue was the extension or non-extension of the Constitution over territories acquired by the United States by conquest in the war with Spain. In these cases he wrote the form of pleading which became the standard. He also adopted and advocated the practice which the Supreme Court unanimously approved, although its correctness had been questioned by such able lawyers as former Secretary Carlisle, and two United States circuit judges had decided against it before it was finally approved by the United States Supreme Court in full session. In those cases Mr. Adams won another victory when he discovered and established to the satisfaction of Attorney General Knox and the Treasury Department the availability of an old and forgotten standing appropriation for the payment of the De Lima and other similar claims, although the Comptroller of the Treasury had already published a long and elaborate opinion holding that no appropriation was available and that action by Congress would be necessary. The firm of Parsons, Shepard & Ogden, representing the largest claims, paid Mr. Adams the compliment of adopting his theory and standing upon his presentation of the point as their own.

In addition to those cases, which went deep into the whole subject, Mr. Adams argued important lawsuits, and wrote briefs in others, which were tried before the Appellate Division of New York,

the Court of Appeals of New York, and the United States Supreme Court, and in them won notable victories against leaders of the bar.

Besides his service with the Federal Civil Service Commission, which began in 1884, Mr. Adams served under Lamar, Noble, and Vilas, Secretaries of the Interior, as a member of the law board which passed on appeals to the Secretary from the Commissioners of the Land, Patent, Pension and Indian offices. In 1890 James G. Blaine, then Secretary of State, appointed him, because of his familiarity with foreign languages and his scholarship generally, as editor of the debates of the First Pan American Conference.

While in Washington, Mr. Adams and Miss Henrietta Rozer were married, and they and their children are living in Brooklyn, where they settled in 1892.

It was after returning to New York and renewing his connection with Coudert Brothers, that Mr. Adams participated in the Porto Rico and Philippine cases in connection with their firm. These cases brought out the best that was in him, professionally; for he is a democratic Democrat, and Coudert Brothers represented the side in the courts with which the anti-imperialism of that time was politically identified.

Mr. Adams is now one of the corps of lecturers of the Henry George Lecture Association, of which Frederick H. Monroe of Palos Park, Ill., is manager, and which includes Henry George, Jr., Herbert S. Bigelow, H. H. Hardinge and John Z. White. Mr. Adams's subjects are: "The Things that Be Cæsar's," "The Social Organism," "How Shall Capital and Labor Be Reconciled?" "Must Wages Be the People's Only Income?" "Social Parasites," "Rent, Interest, and Wages," "Henry George and His Teachings," "Government by Judges," "True Leadership in a True Democracy," "Marshall's Discovery in Marbury vs. Madison," "The Brotherhood of the Commonwealth," and dramatic readings.

One undertaking to which Mr. Adams has devoted his talents for almost a lifetime must not be overlooked. It is the Brotherhood of the Commonwealth, founded by him in 1905 as the result of many previous years of study and experiment. Its object is directly the experimental development of a genuinely democratic form of civil polity, and incidentally the building up of a voluntary system of improving life annuities which, while operating as an old age pension system, would not depend upon taxation.

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The friendly relations between Henry George

and Mr. Adams, which began in 1881 and continued until Mr. George's death in 1897, were most intimate. They originated in Mr. Adams's published appreciation of "Progress and Poverty," the leading principle of which he had already adopted, and of which he has ever since been an effective expounder and eloquent advocate. He had become interested in the subject as early as 1870, and his earliest printed expression on it appeared in 1878 in Eugene Beecher's Brooklyn Monthly under the title of the "Land and the People." It begins in these terms: "There is really no reason why land, which is absolutely needed by all, directly and indirectly, and which is . . . the natural gift of God to the human race, should be allowed to become private property, instead of having the rent of it applied for the benefit of the entire people." Mr. Adams participated in the municipal campaign of 1886 in behalf of Henry George when the latter was the Labor candidate for mayor against Abram S. Hewitt and Theodore Roosevelt; and he was, by Mr. George's personal request, made a member of the committee of seven which, under Tom L. Johnson's leadership, managed George's campaign when he ran as Labor candidate for first mayor of Greater New York in 1897—the campaign in which Mr. George died on the eve of election.

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As a speaker Mr. Adams seems inspirational, but it is the inspiration of an orator full of his subject, who thinks as well as feels, who reasons as well as exhorts.

He suspects shibboleths, and when a formula, whether of law or literature, of religion or science or economics or politics, seems to be getting vogue as a shibboleth, it makes him eager to question its claims as used. No man with such a temperament can be orthodox in opinion or conventional in exhortation. This may account for his general fashion of consorting with small minorities, as Mr. Shepard describes him; for majorities and large minorities are responsive to shibboleths. But, as Mr. Shepard also says, Mr. Adams "has in all practical matters entire good sense and moderation and common sense."

We write of him with much affection for his personality, and great confidence that his appearance upon the lecture platform will make our readers glad to know what we have told of him here and wish to know in addition what it may be we shall yet have to tell.

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White parasols and elephants mad with pride are the flowers of a grant of land.—Sanskrit Deed, Works of Sir William Jones.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

AUSTRALIA.*

Corowa, N. S. W., May 7, 1910.

General elections for the whole of the Federal House of Representatives and half the Senate, held on April 13th, resulted in the defeat of the Ministerialist party. The Labor party considerably increased its representation in the House, and gained every contested seat in the Senate; it has a majority in both Houses.

The last Parliament was composed as follows:

	Senate. House.
Liberal	21 46
Labor	15 29

In the new Parliament the parties stand thus:

	Senate. House.
Liberal	13 31
Labor	23 44

The Deakin Ministry resigned soon after the elections, and a Labor government has been formed with Mr. Andrew Fisher as Prime Minister.

Usually the head of a government chooses his colleagues, but on this occasion the ministers were elected by ballot by all the members of the party.

With two exceptions the present ministry is the same as the former Fisher government. The most able member of that Ministry, Mr. Hugh Mahon, is not included in the present one.

The program of the Ministry has not yet been published, but it has been stated unofficially that the principal planks will be a graduated land value tax and "new protection."

It is said that the free trade members of the Labor party will be reconciled to the present tariff if the "new protection" measures, for raising wages in protected industries, are carried. This seems a very shortsighted view to take, for only about five per cent of the workers are employed in protected industries, and even those, together with the other ninety-five per cent, are, as consumers, adversely affected by the high duties.

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The referendum on the question of amending the Constitution to provide that the Commonwealth must pay the States twenty-five shillings per head of population annually (p. 148) was defeated.

Another referendum involving an amendment of the Constitution to permit the Commonwealth to take over all State debts was carried.

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The graduated land value taxation bill, passed by the Legislative Assembly of Victoria (p. 149), was defeated in the Council. The State ministry intends to introduce a very similar bill this session.

ERNEST BRAY.

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Moonta, South Australia, April 28.

We have just got over our State and Federal elections. The Labor party has practically swept the

*See The Public, pages 148, 149, 368, 411, current volume.