

JOHN PETER ALTGELD

Memorial

AT THE AUDITORIUM

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 1902

GEORGE A. SCHILLING, CHAIRMAN

Programme

ORGANIST, A. ALFRED HOLMES

CHORUS—"At the Altar of Truth," *Mohr*

German Singing Societies of Chicago
PROF. OTTO W. RICHTER, . Conductor

Address, WILLIAM P. BLACK

Address, BISHOP JOHN LANCASTER SPALDING

Address, CLARENCE S. DARROW

SOLO—"Within This Sacred Dwelling," *Mozart*

MR. OLOF VALLEY
MISS ENGBERG, Accompanist

Address, JOHN J. LENTZ

CHORUS—"The Bard in Silence Sleeps," *Silcher*

German Singing Societies of Chicago
PROF. LUDWIG RAUCH, . Conductor

The Clock in the Chamber of the Omnipotent

EXTRACT OF SPEECH DELIVERED BY JOHN P. ALTGELD IN THE
AUDITORIUM, OCTOBER 22, 1900

But, says some one, is there any use in our making an effort? Are not all the bankers of this country, all of the trusts and great corporations of this country, all of the powerful forces of this country, is not the fashion of this country, are not the drawing rooms and the clubs of this country now controlled by concentrated and corrupt wealth? Are they not growing stronger every year, and do they not vilify and attempt to crush everybody that does not submit? Can anything be accomplished in the way of curbing this great force and protecting the American people?

My friends, let me cite you a parallel: George William Curtis and other writers of his day have described the slave power back in the 50's. They tell us that slavery sat in the White House and made laws in the capital; that courts of justice were its ministers; that senators and legislators were its lackeys; that it controlled the professor in his lecture room, the editor in his sanctum, the preacher in his pulpit; that it swaggered in the drawing-room; that it ruled at the clubs; that it dominated with iron hand all the affairs of society; that every year enlarged its power, every move increased its dominion; that the men and the women who dared to even question the divinity of that institution were ostracized, were persecuted, were vilified—aye, were hanged.

But the great clock in the Chamber of the Omnipotent never stands still. It ticked away the years as it had once ticked away the centuries. Finally it struck the hour and the world heard the tread of a million armed men, and slavery vanished from America forever. Note the parallel. Today the syndicate rules at the White House and makes laws at the capital; courts of justice are its ministers; senators and legislators are its lackeys. It controls the preacher in his pulpit, the professor in his lecture room, the editor in his sanctum; it swaggers in the drawing-room; it rules at the clubs; it dominates with a rod of iron the affairs of society. Every year enlarges its power; and the men and women who protest against the crimes that are being committed by organized greed in this country—who talk of protecting the American people—are ostracized, are vilified, are hounded and imprisoned. It seems madness to even question the divinity of the American Syndicate. But my friends, that great clock is still ticking—still ticking. Soon it will again strike the hour and the world will see not 1,000,000 but 10,000,000 free men rise up, armed not with muskets, but with freemen's ballots, and the sway of the syndicate will vanish from America forever.