

history. It is unmaking it, holding it up, if indeed history be a record of the development of human civilization.

It was not the Pharaohs who made the history of their age, they held it up with their wars. Moses, who led a people forth from bondage to build up a new civilization and to make laws that are of value today, made a very large chunk of the history of that epoch. It was not the Spanish Emperors with their Armadas and armies who made the history of medieval Europe. They tried their best to unmake it, but Columbus and Gutenberg, and a few others of that kind, managed to keep up a forward movement in the development of the human race. It was not Crecy nor Agincourt that made history for England, but it was the signing of Magna Charta and the Repeal of the Corn Laws which marked well-defined strides forward in the history of England's development. The discovery of steam did more to make history than a dozen of the most famous battles, however they turned out. Every great thinker, every great artist whose dreams inspire mankind to make them a reality—these are the history makers of all times.



No, gentle reader, we are not "making history now"—we are unmaking it—more's the pity.

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

UTOPIA IN MARYLAND.

Oxford, Maryland, September 1.

Oxford is a curiosity. It is a democracy where there are no rich or poor, or at least where there are no sharp drawn lines or contrasts. There is no poverty. No workless class, and as for work, well, they don't do much after providing for their simple wants. It's hard to get help because of the abundance of opportunities for self-employment—oystering, fishing and crabbing. In oystering season a man and boy in a boat can earn from \$30 to \$50 per week if he works all the week and the weather permits. I have known men to earn \$10 and even \$25 per day. Do you suppose you can hire those fellows to work? The bottoms of the water abound in oysters and crabs. They are free, and what a man gets are his wages. He doesn't work all the time. He is satisfied with three days a week. They have a baseball team here, and I thought the fellows were the ordinary loafers you see around a ball ground. Fellows that lie on the grass and look up to the floating clouds, as I did when a five-year-old. So I "jacked" them on being in the easy class when some one said: "Why, Mr. Bingham, these boys have been to work. Got up early, caught a boatload of crabs and sold them to the canning factories, and have the money in

their pockets." Three days' work in a week is enough. There is no drunkenness. Living is cheap and house rent low, so are land values. The town is older than Baltimore and doesn't grow. They don't want the improvements (so-called). They are satisfied. If you want help, be good-natured and jolly them and perhaps you can get it. If you put on "airs" and are not considerate, you can't get any help. I had a whole crowd of colored people "just quit me," because I pushed them on some work. They don't starve. They get another job. Or, this being fine climate, they could sleep out of doors, and a confiscated chicken would give a sumptuous repast.

MILLARD F. BINGHAM.



HOME RULE CAMPAIGN IN CALIFORNIA.

San Francisco, Sept. 10.

The outlook at this moment is very encouraging. If all "good weather signs" do not fail us, and our ammunition and supply trains make connection, we shall surely win a great victory, not alone for California but for the cause all over the country.



In 1911 the California League of Municipalities at their annual conference held at Santa Barbara, after a thorough discussion of the local tax problems that confront every town and city administration, unanimously passed a resolution endorsing "Home rule in the matter of local taxation." At this conference there were 231 delegates, mayors, councilmen, city attorneys and others, from 87 cities of the state. The state controller and other prominent citizens participated in this discussion. At Berkeley in 1912, at their annual conference, "home rule in taxation" was endorsed by a five to one vote, of those voting. At this conference there were 308 delegates from 104 cities.

Again at Venice, California, 107 cities and 417 delegates endorsed the home rule amendment by a unanimous vote.

The 1913 Legislature passed the measure by a two-thirds majority vote.



The Farmers' Educational Co-operative Union, the Fruit Growers' convention and the State Federation of Labor have endorsed the amendment, while thirty-seven individual city councils have also endorsed it.

It would seem foolish, in the face of such facts, to have any fears of the measure carrying; but a similar measure was defeated in 1912, largely, as we believe, because the people did not understand it, and this will be the reason, or the principal reason, if it should be defeated this fall. This lack of information, coupled with a conservative fear based upon prejudice (preconceived and illogical opinions) that obtains with the masses, must be overcome in some way. The printed page is the most potent agency by which to do this. But this means money for stamps, for printing and clerical help. To send leaflets explaining the matter to each voter would mean thousands of dollars for a one-cent stamp to each one, aside from other expenses.