

sult of the Democratic party primary, there will be a candidate on the Progressive ticket worthy of their support.

S. D.



Inaccurate History.

John Howard Todd, A. B., who is writing the history of Illinois for the Chicago Herald, is not as accurate as a reliable historian should be. On May 11 in speaking of the railroad strike of 1894 he erroneously stated that Eugene V. Debs was tried and convicted on an indictment. Although his attention was called to the error it has not yet been corrected. Now, in the issue of July 3, he has made an even more serious error. Speaking of President Cleveland's action in sending federal troops into Illinois he says: "It was the time of the Pullman strike when train crews refused to handle trains carrying Pullman cars and rioters were tearing up tracks, overturning and burning cars and paralyzing traffic generally." Professor Todd here gives the impression that prior to the ordering of federal troops to Chicago rioting prevailed and railroad property was being destroyed. The fact is that there were no riots nor any serious destruction of railroad property until the order had been issued to send in federal troops. There was certainly nothing serious enough to justify use of troops of any kind. Professor Todd must have failed to study Governor Altgeld's message to the legislature on this matter, since it is inconceivable that, had he done so he would so disregard his duty, as a historian to deliberately make the statement he did. If similar errors exist in his statements regarding other events in the history of Illinois then his history can not well be accepted as fairly accurate.

S. D.



Intemperate Criticism.

The assassination of the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary suggests again the need of a healthy public opinion to secure rational action. Whatever may be the excuse for reform by assassination in countries afflicted with autocratic governments, there is none at all under popular governments. The Russian government has invited the assassin; but the English government anticipates him with freedom. The one government has seen many bloody deeds; the other has been singularly free from personal violence. Yet, we of this country, enjoying the freedom of England, suffer the violence of Russia. Of the thirteen Presidents who have presided at Washington during the last fifty years, three of them have been

assassinated; and attempts have been made on the lives of numerous lesser officials. But there is this difference, however: In Russia the assassin is a man of intellect and character, nerved by a love of liberty. In this country the assassin is a weak-minded man, laboring under some hallucination; but whether the assassin be a patriot striving to free his oppressed countrymen from tyranny, or a crank striking to redress an imaginary wrong, the reality is the same to the individual.



That intemperate criticism of public officials in this country is responsible for overturning the judgment of weak-minded individuals is evident. The relation of our government and people is quite similar to that of the English government and people; but our methods of criticism are very different. Not that the Englishman is at all backward in finding fault with his government, far from it; but he is more temperate of statement. He does not "see red," and his press is not "yellow." The gross exaggeration and intemperate abuse of some of our press cannot but be evil in its influence. The intelligent recognize the exaggeration, but the weak-minded take it in all seriousness; and some are aroused to the point of violent action. It is not a matter, however, for legislation, but rather, the cultivation of a sane public opinion. Laws will not control the weak-minded, but public opinion can restrain the utterance of the intemperate criticism that dethrones the weak mind. Hence, in the last analysis, the responsibility rests with the people themselves; and by patient persistence, by a greater readiness to recognize an opponent's worth, and above all, by placing law above persons, we shall eventually arrive at a public state of mind in which we can discuss rationally our common interests.

S. C.



A Proper Action.

Friends of Joseph Fels have no criticism to offer of the action of the Central Conference of American Rabbis at Detroit in tabling resolutions of sympathy over his death. Nor should the advocates of other resolutions relating to public questions feel that any wrong was done. A resolution should express the sincere feeling of the body that adopts it, or not be adopted at all. Joseph Fels stood for a modern application of the doctrines of social justice proclaimed in the Old Testament. He stood for stopping the taking of wealth from those who have earned it by those who have not. He stood for the abolition of poverty and all the