

voting" bill for men, a measure that does away with all property qualifications and gives to every man a vote, and to no man more than one. Next in order, naturally next, politically next, and inevitably soon thereafter will come genuine suffrage for women—not several votes apiece for rich women, but one vote apiece for all women as for all men. Then will political democracy be ushered into Britain to hasten the coming of that industrial democracy already so swiftly on its way.

A. L. G.



### Historian Todd's Mistake.

Not altogether accurate is the account of the railroad strike of 1894, in the Chicago Record-Herald and Inter Ocean of May 11, by John Howard Todd, A. B., and member of the Illinois Historical Society. Mr. Todd says: "One of those indicted was Mr. Debs, who was found guilty and sentenced to serve an imprisonment of six months." Such a statement imparts the impression that Mr. Debs was tried on his indictment found guilty by a jury and sentenced in accordance with a statute defining the punishment to be inflicted under the circumstances. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Mr. Debs was indicted, but he was neither tried, nor found guilty on the indictment. The only basis for Mr. Todd's assertion is the fact that Debs, in addition to being indicted, was charged with violation of an injunction by Federal Judge Woods who, acting as judge, jury and prosecutor, convicted and sentenced him. Later, Debs and his attorneys endeavored to secure a trial on the indictment and were refused. Such a trial, unlike the injunction proceedings, would have been before a jury and there would have been opportunity to cross-examine witnesses. They consequently felt confident not only of acquittal, but of exposing the prejudice of Judge Woods and the outrageous injustice of his course in the contempt proceedings. Apparently the district attorney felt the same way, for he insisted on annulment of the indictment and dismissal of Debs. The judge must have seen matters in the same light, for he upheld the district attorney. So Mr. Debs' conviction and sentence was clearly one of those abuses of power which so frequently disgrace both federal and state courts. Mr. Todd owes it to his position as historian to correct the false impression given.

S. D.



### Philanthropy versus Law.

It may seem churlish to question the wisdom of the man who sets out to help the people, instead

of removing the barriers that prevent the people from helping themselves; but when the two policies are contending for a hearing, and charity is offered instead of justice, sentiment should give way to reason. A few months ago the whole world was agog over the proposition of an exceptionally successful manufacturer to raise the wages of his men arbitrarily; that is, without regard to the market price of labor. He would establish a minimum wage of five dollars a day. The pulpit and the press met the proposal with loud acclaim. "See," they cried, "what the rich do for the poor. Away with the carping critics. Here is the solution of the labor problem."



That the action of this kindly disposed manufacturer was purely philanthropic, and not based upon justice, soon became apparent. Scarcely had the world ceased to marvel at his generosity than it was startled by his meddling with the private lives of his employes. They must do this, omit that, and live thus and so; all of which conduct was dictated by the ideas and opinions of the successful manufacturer. His workmen might differ in their ideas, and their conceptions might be better founded than those of their employer. That did not matter. They must subordinate their opinions to his, on pain of forfeiting their claim to the five dollar minimum wage. How many yielded, and how many stood for their right of individual expression is not recorded; for the press is given to publishing benefactions, and neglecting to record the results. But this can be taken as fact: Men yield their individuality only under compulsion. The manufacturer dared to encroach upon the private life of his employes only because he had the power. He was giving them something over and above what they could rightfully claim; and for that largess he demanded the subjection of their will to his will. And the men, knowing they were in receipt of this benevolence, were brought face to face with the alternative of yielding their individuality, or surrendering the largess.



And now that all this upsetting of the verities has occurred, the press dispatches announce another move of the benevolent manufacturer. The company is laying off men during the "slack season" at the rate of a thousand a week. But the paternal interest continues. Those who are unable to find other jobs by the end of the month will be helped to places on farms. Of what avail is the five dollar minimum to the man who is laid