

knowing they have done effective work in the cause of truth.

s. c.



### A Lesson for the Democratic Party.

There is a lesson for the Democratic party in the election returns. It can not continue to be half progressive and half reactionary. It must become wholly one or the other—or die. There is furthermore the lesson that the safer course is to become wholly progressive. The Democratic losses principally occurred where the party nominated reactionary candidates. Roger Sullivan's defeat was clearly due to the thousands of progressive Democrats who voted for a genuine democrat, Raymond Robins. Had the party nominee been a democrat, say John Z. White or Carl Vrooman, these voters would not have gone outside of its ranks for a candidate, and Illinois would not have sent Sherman back to the Senate. There was a similar occurrence in Ohio, where reactionary Timothy Hogan was the candidate; in Iowa, where reactionary Maurice Connolly had been nominated in preference to the progressive Meredith; in Washington, where the party refused to nominate progressive George F. Cotterill; in Wisconsin in the case of the reactionary gubernatorial candidate, John C. Karel; in New York, Connecticut and elsewhere. The election in 1912, in Colorado, of the reactionary Ammons as governor gave the State an administration so servile in its adherence to monopolistic interests that the voters refused this year to favor a different Democratic gubernatorial candidate, although, as also happened in Wisconsin, they did elect the senatorial candidate, as well as a democratic Democrat, James H. Teller, as Supreme Court Judge. The voters in many states have saved the party from further discrediting itself by defeating the reactionary candidates so stupidly nominated.



These reactionaries clearly hoped to secure election by claiming their election to be necessary to uphold President Wilson. Lacking merit themselves, they figured on appropriating for their own benefit the credit that belongs to the President. These plans failed, as they should have failed. The defeat of these candidates—some of whom had the President's endorsement—was a much better way to uphold his administration than to entrust them with power to bring shame and discredit upon it.



It was inevitable perhaps that with so many unworthy candidates to defeat a few worthy

candidates, such as Stanley Bowdle in Ohio, ~~had~~ have suffered. But these cases were surprisingly few. In California, where the Democratic party had a democratic nominee in James D. Phelan, it elected him easily in spite of the strong temptation, that many democrats must have felt, to support so excellent a democrat as the Progressive nominee, Francis J. Heney. The Democratic party has received notice to become thoroughly democratic. Will it heed?

s. d.



### Political Straws.

Elections may bring sorry comfort to the politician, but they enable the statesman to catch the drift of public opinion. Yet even as a political barometer they are not always interpreted aright. Too often, indeed, men look only for evidence of what they want to believe. Some points of the recent election however stand out with sufficient prominence to arrest attention. One of these is the fact that President Wilson is more popular than his party. The Democrats of the whole country are still in the minority and owe their continuance in power to the divided ranks of their opponents. There is tendency toward a healing of the Republican rift which means that as the Progressive party disappears the Democratic party will find it harder and harder to win an election. The party is singularly fortunate in having a standard bearer whose popularity has increased with service; but it should not be forgotten that the most powerful influences of the financial world will oppose a further extension of his program. Nor will these influences be confined to the opposition parties.



The slump in the Progressive party vote, and the corresponding increase in the Republican vote, indicate an early reunion of the two wings of the protectionist party. This does not mean, however, that all of the Progressives will return to the Republican fold. A goodly number of them are democrats who, becoming disgusted with the Democratic party, thought to be rid of Bourbonism by joining a new party. Had Speaker Clark or Mr. Underwood, instead of Mr. Wilson, been President these Progressive democrats would have been confirmed in their choice. But Mr. Wilson from the day he took charge of the party has been breathing into it the breath of life, until it begins to show signs of revival. As the third party melts away these radical members will be drawn again to the Democratic party. And with