

It was to be expected that many pledges would not be paid. Among so many subscribers a proportion of loss from the accidents of fortune was inevitable, and the expressions of unhappiness at their inability, which have come from subscribers to the fund, have been indeed painful to us to whom they were addressed. This fund for the second year thus largely reduced, will no doubt be further reduced by the withdrawal of others, who, though they have paid for the first year, are feeling severely the pinch of the times. While I urge upon all such to be frank, and to have no hesitation in withdrawing if their own circumstances are such as to necessitate withdrawal, I hope that there may be others who can and will increase their subscriptions, and that all who do withdraw from necessity will interest new supporters or send me names of possible supporters with whom I may correspond on the subject.

Payments for the second year may be made as before, in installments or at deferred periods during the year. They are not to begin until the New Year, 1909; but it is necessary that I know during the next few weeks just what may be expected, so that plans for the coming year may be made by November 30 at latest.

At the close of this year I shall prepare a detailed statement of my stewardship and of the condition of The Public. This statement, while not for general publication, will be delivered to any person in interest upon application.

An expression of opinion from every friend—whether with an offer of pecuniary support or not—will be much appreciated. All correspondence on this subject should be addressed to me at 530 Walnut street, Cincinnati.

DANIEL KIEFER.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

THE DAY AFTER ELECTION.

Milwaukee, Wis., Nov. 4.—Suppose Mr. Bryan had not sought the Democratic nomination, can any intelligent person doubt that some plutocrat calling himself a Democrat, would have been nominated by the "machine"?

He would have been supplied liberally with money, and plutocratic papers all over the country would have supported him and probably have elected him. This would have provided another historical mark for the Republicans to point to as a Democratic failure. Mr. Bryan's entering the race has saved us from that.

It has done more, for Mr. Bryan has forced the Republicans, in order to keep him out of the White House, to promise tariff revision and to guarantee prosperity. They would have liked to deliver prosperity during the past year, no doubt; but they couldn't. Can they do it in the year to come? Can they even revise the tariff? In the fight between the favored interests I doubt if they will be able to reduce it as much as 5 per cent. But they caught thousands of votes with their promises, and if they don't make good they will meet the tidal wave coming back two years hence.

If they do make good we can all cheer up. For

if we all get prosperity, what difference whether the Democrats, the Socialists or the Republicans bring it?

JOHN DOYLE.

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THE WAY OUT.

Moline, Ill., Nov. 8.—Well, the third battle has been fought, and lost—"but the war goes on!" Yes, the war of democracy against privilege will go on, even to final triumph. But not the war of the Democratic party vs. the Republican. The sooner that ends the better. Party—any party—is the peculiar machine of privilege. The sole practicable pathway for successful democracy is that of direct legislation. The masses can almost always be frightened from the seeming hazard of a radical change of political policy, as involved in change of party dominance; but they cannot be frightened nor fooled from voting for single measures. They dare not elect a Democratic government for fear that it will give them not only the particular laws they wish for, but others that they either fear, or are ignorant of. Of course I voted for Bryan. But I didn't care a rap for the fact that he was a Democrat. What I cared for was the chance that Bryan would afford for democratic progress—progress toward democratic government. And that means emancipation from party government, whether identified as "Democrat" or "Republican." Party is the perfect tool of privilege, against which direct legislation is the public's sole defense. Indeed, how can we expect the public to discriminate wisely between parties—complete political regimes—if it cannot act intelligently in single acts of legislation? We ask too much of the public when we require the former; we cannot ask less than the latter. How grandly Bryan looms above his successful opponents! How his name will illumine the histories yet to be written, when society shall have advanced to his plane!

E. H. PUTNAM.

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EACH FOR ALL.

I said it in the meadow path,
I say it on the mountain stairs—
The best things any mortal hath
Are those which every mortal shares.

The grass is softer to my tread,
For rest it yields unnumbered feet;
Sweeter to me the wild-rose red
Because it makes the whole world sweet.

Rich through my brothers' poverty?
Such wealth were hideous! I am blest
Only in what they share with me,
In what I share with all the rest!

And up the radiant peopled way
That opens into worlds unknown,
It will be life's delight to say,
"Heaven is not heaven for me alone."

—Lucy Larcom.

* * *

Suppose that men kill thee, cut thee in pieces,
curse thee. What then can these things do to prevent thy mind from remaining pure, wise, sober, just?—Marcus Aurelius Antoninus.