

is naturally toward centralization, and greater care is required to preserve the reserved rights of the States than to maintain the authority of the general government.

In recent years another force has been exerting an increasing influence in extending the authority of the central government. I refer to the great corporations. They prefer the Federal courts to the State courts, and employ every possible device to drag litigants before United States judges. They also prefer Congressional regulation to State regulation, and those interested in large corporations have for years been seeking Federal incorporation.

It has been suggested that the rights of the States can lapse through non-use, and that Congress is justified in usurping the authority of the State if the State fails to make proper use of it. While this doctrine has been advanced in the pretended interest of the people, it is as insidious and as dangerous an assault as has ever been made on our constitutional form of government. The people of the State can act with more promptness than the people of the Nation, and if they fail to act, it must be assumed that the people of the State prefer inaction.

The predatory corporations have taken advantage of the dual character of our government and have tried to hide behind State rights when prosecuted in the Federal courts and behind the inter-State commerce clause of the Constitution when prosecuted in the State courts.

There is no Twilight Zone between the Nation and the State in which the exploiting interests can take refuge from both. There is no neutral ground where, beyond the jurisdiction of either sovereignty, the plunderers of the public can find a safe retreat. As long as a corporation confines its activities to the State in which it was created, it is subject to State regulation only; but as soon as it invades inter-State commerce it becomes amenable to Federal laws as well as to the laws of the State which created it and the laws of the States in which it does business.

A distinction is drawn between the railroads and other corporations. The railroad being a quasi-public corporation and, as such, being permitted to exercise a part of the sovereignty of the State, is subject to regulation at the hands of both the Nation and the State, but this regulation is intended, not to cripple the railroads but to increase their efficiency. The people at large are as much interested as the stockholders are in the successful operation of the railroads. Their own pecuniary interests as well as their sense of justice would restrain them from doing anything that would impair the road or reduce its efficiency. The traveling public is vitally interested in the payment of wages sufficient to command the most intelligent service, for life as well as property is in the hands of those who operate the trains,

guard the switches, and keep the track in repair. But we should distinguish between those railroad owners, directors and managers who, recognizing their obligation to the public, earn their salaries by conscientious devotion to the work entrusted to them, and those unscrupulous "Napoleons of Finance" who use railroads as mere pawns in a great gambling game without regard to the rights of employes or to the interests of the patrons....

BOOKS

"EACH EAR THAT HEARD HER WAS MADE GLAD."

The Life of Alice Freeman Palmer. By George Herbert Palmer. Published by Houghton-Mifflin Co., Boston. 1908. Price, \$1.50 net.

"Three reasons impel me to write this book," says Professor Palmer, "affection first of all. Mrs. Palmer was my wife, deeply beloved and honored. Whatever perpetuates that honor brings me peace. To leave the dead wholly dead is rude. Vivid creature that she was, she must not lie forgotten. Something of her may surely be saved if only I have the skill. Perhaps my grateful pen may bring to others a portion of the bounty I myself received. A second and more obvious summons comes from the fact that in herself and apart from me Mrs. Palmer was a notable person. Somebody therefore may be tempted to write her life if I do not; for her friends were numbered by the ten thousand. . . . Those who approached her even casually gained power and peace. If my portrait of her, then, is correct, invigoration will go forth from it and disheartened souls be cheered." And, third, "retaining my belief in the public causes for which she stood, I should like briefly to record their history and thus encourage the next generation in its own way to push them on." "We follow here a harmoniously developed and stimulating drama, into which little that is accidental intrudes. To say that Mrs. Palmer was born in an obscure border village and became the renowned president of an eastern college at twenty-six may at first startle, but only until acquaintance with her shows how naturally this eminence and obscurity went together. In some degree to bring about that acquaintance and to set forth the orderly development of a noble nature is my inviting task."

One is tempted to dwell on that drama. It is told marvelously well; and the reader forgetful of all the discouragements and annoyances of a commonplace existence, lives a few hours a life of clever helpfulness and joyous accomplishment. "She chiefly distinguished herself by wise ways of confronting the usual world." There lives in every page the inspiration of moral energy and

intellectual power, of sweet sympathy and loving happiness; of that sort of character which we Americans like to claim as the offspring of our democracy.

But as very often happens in a book, the most significant sentences are not announced in the author's intentions. Incidentally, if not unconsciously, in scattered phrases this frank and modest biographer has set before us an ideal marriage.

"Of her relations with my own work I may say that while she assisted me in making acquaintance with my students and had much influence over student life in general, for philosophy itself she had no natural inclination; its speculative side being peculiarly foreign to her. She was a woman of action, ideals, and practical adjustments. But none the less she honored what she did not herself pursue, and felt strongly the vital issues of the ethical doctrines which it was mine to elaborate. With full understanding and sympathy she discussed the less technical parts of my studies and offered her mind as a field for experimentation. Whatever I wrote was submitted to her exacting taste. But in all our intellectual companionship there was no merging; each had his and her special interests, to which the other came merely as a novice. I was as ignorant of her school problems and of what was being done for the training of girls as she of my dialectics. Her style of speech and writing remained her own, widely unlike mine. We prized the strength of difference rather than that of identity, though pleased at any parts within us which happened to be interchangeable. Usually she took charge of the kitchen, and I of the college; but when she was called for a time to Chicago or elsewhere to manage a college, she left the kitchen to me. If one of us had promised a public address and was suddenly disabled, the other appeared." Such dignified respect each for the other's work, such simplicity of devotion to high ideals, such freedom of comradeship between husband and wife, we fondly (and egotistically) call an American marriage.

In manufacture the book is as satisfying as its contents. Beautiful, clear type, wide margins, several portraits of Mrs. Palmer and pictures of her homes and her colleges make the volume seemly.

Read it. As an antidote to tales of political corruption, business ruin, social rottenness; for your soul's health and your heart's joy, for your faith in the power of work, in the flow of human sympathy—read it.

ANGELINE LOESCH.

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"Papa, what does hades mean?"

"It's the polite word for hell, my son."

"And, papa, is there any polite word for heaven?"

—Chicago Chronicle.

PAMPHLETS

New Songs to Old Music.

Tom Dungan (Minneapolis) has adapted words to the Marsellaise for a Labor Song, "Ye Sons of Martha, Awake;" and to the Battle Hymn of the Republic, words for a battle hymn of Democracy. He dedicates the latter to William Jennings Bryan.

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A Political Primer.

In "Vital Issues" (Civic and Referendum Bureau, 1637 Indiana Ave., Chicago), Charles N. Haskins outlines some thirty political questions of present concern, his object being "to set forth the principal issues of the present day citizenship, pro and con, in truth and fairness and with clearness and brevity." The arguments of both sides are given with each question, and brief comment and data follow. Mr. Haskins has done his work with evident care and conscientiously. Whatever criticism it may bring out the little book will nevertheless serve an excellent use both for reference and as a preliminary for deeper study than can be made with any outline however perfect.

PERIODICALS

—The initiative and referendum in practical operation is described by George H. Shibley in the Arena (Boston and Trenton) for August-September; and Helen Campbell in "A Man and a Book," tells about Horace Traubell as the author of "With Walt Whitman in Camden," in a manner at once judicial and delightful. W. B. Fleming unmasks the Republican platform, and the second of the late Frank Parsons's papers, on "The Vocation Bureau," appears in this issue.

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—The Free Trade Broadside (Boston) for October, edited by William Lloyd Garrison, reprints a liberal extract from Bryan's Des Moines speech of last August on the tariff issue, and reproduces the substance of several of the papers presented at the International Free Trade Congress in London. A fine appreciation of Byron W. Holt, the truly "indefatigable, patient and scrupulous statistician," as the Broadside describes him, appears on the first page along with an excellent portrait.

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—A controversy between John Filmer and H. J. Chase, on the question of rising or falling wages, appears in the Single Tax Review (New York) for September-October, together with an unusually valuable discussion of competition by James S. Paton. Fables by Bengough furnish the lighter matter, and Peter Aitkin's "What the Single Tax is Not," does much to tell what the single tax really is, and how it is likely to come about. The number includes also a poem by Robert Cumming, and portraits of three single taxer candidates for Congress—Western Starr, Haines D. Albright and James W. Hill—