

that the Irish were assimilated; but so will the continental immigrants be assimilated. Mr. Root's alleged idea that these are barbarians who will overrun our country "as their ancestors overran the Roman Empire, in search of riches," borders upon the preposterous. Men who come to produce riches should be welcome to the riches they produce.

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American Government by Clubs and Cossacks.

By all means let bomb throwers be punished and assassination conspiracies be stamped out. But meanwhile let us not allow our attention to be diverted by criminality of this kind from criminality of a more dangerous kind. The most ominous kind of crime that challenges the law-abiding sentiment of this country to-day is not anarchistic bomb throwing; it is police contempt for the law. For many years the query of a New York Congressman, "What's the Constitution between friends?" has passed current as a harmless joke. But there was no joke in the declaration of the policeman in supreme authority at Union Square last Saturday, when he boasted of policemen's clubs as "bigger than the Constitution."

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Our police have imported the brutal "sweat box" from abroad, and in defiance of the simplest principles of American law have built it up into an institution. They have usurped the functions of committing magistrates. They have re-established domiciliary visitations. They have seized upon authority to suppress public meetings in their own arbitrary discretion and with the mailed fist. They have organized bodies of mounted men in imitation of the Cossacks of Russia, to ride with murderous gallop into crowds of peaceable people. From a responsible peace force they have become an irresponsible and un-American military power. And the wicked thing about it all is this, that American plutocracy wants such action, and a plutocratic press deceives the people as to its character. In the Union Square episode, for instance, the great fact was the high-handed dispersal of a peaceable meeting, called in the usual way, and at a place which has been dedicated to public meetings for half a century. Yet the plutocratic press subordinates this larger fact to lurid accounts of an individual's wretched attempt at vindictive murder after the police outrage was complete.

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The peace-loving and law-abiding people of this country need awakening to the growth of police

despotism. They must acquaint themselves with the falsifying tendencies of the newspapers in support of that despotism. They must realize the plutocratic sources of its inspiration. They must insist that the police become again guardians of the peace. Above all they must stand up for peaceable public meetings and freedom of discussion, regardless of their own approval of sentiments expressed. Unless they maintain these rights for others, they will lose them for themselves. If peaceable meetings of workless workingmen may now be assailed with policemen's clubs "bigger than the Constitution," and be ridden recklessly down by battalions of police Cossacks, it may not be long before peaceable meetings of employed workingmen will be dealt with in like manner. From that point to the suppression of all meetings not approved by predatory interests that thrive alike on the workless-workingman, the working-workingman, and the productive business man, will be but a matter of keeping on.

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We have every confidence, however, in a reaction from recent tendencies toward the surrender of American liberties to the despotism of police clubs and Cossacks. We believe that at heart the American people are for freedom of speech and press, not alone for themselves and their own opinions respectively, but, as Wendell Phillips was, for the humblest persons and the humblest opinions as well. If they have acted otherwise, it is because they have been deceived as to the facts. But the episode at Union Square contributes to the exposure of such deceptions. The facts there were too obvious for successful misrepresentation; and for other reasons as well as this, the era of systematic newspaper deception is passing away. We firmly believe that the time is very near when the great mass of law-abiding people from ocean to ocean will remember the Union Square event as the culmination of a despotic police policy happily thwarted by its own excesses. We believe that the day is not much farther off when no alderman who hopes for re-election will dare vote money for the support of Cossack police. We believe that the police system is already at the point of turning back to be a peace-guarding system again. We believe that we of this country are soon to see freedom of speech and of the press more secure than ever before, thanks to a self-thwarted tendency the other way. And as we know human nature, so we believe that with the lessening of the size of policemen's clubs relatively to the Constitution, and the increase of freedom of opinion and expression, the inspiration of the bomb thrower will

be gone. While all this is what we wish, yet we predict it not because we wish it, but as a rational inference, as it seems to us, from the inherent character of American manhood and the accumulating signs of the times.

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The Police Spirit.

In perfect keeping with the wanton dispersal by the police of the peaceable public meeting at Union Square last week, is the reply to Robert Hunter's dispassionate comment, which Police Commissioner Bingham is reported to have made:

Robert Hunter! Robert Hunter wants to behave himself, or if he doesn't he may be sorry for it. I'll stand for no inciting to riot. I'll suppress with an iron hand any game of that kind, and it might as well be understood at one time as another. Robert Hunter is one of those hot air pipes that made this trouble. Whenever I think of those wind bags who stirred up this trouble I just want them to know I'll not stand for it.

How can foreigners be expected to distinguish American from Russian police if Bingham is an American type?

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American Ideals.

It is naively suggested that violent anarchists "should be educated in Americanism." There would be no violent anarchists to educate in Americanism if Americans themselves were more Americanistic.

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Vacant Lot Gardening.

The "Pingree potato patch," invented by Mayor Pingree, of Detroit, a dozen years ago, is fast becoming an institution for the encouragement of industry and thrift among the disinherited of the earth. It is a simple plan. Owners of vacant lots in cities permit their use for the season for gardening purposes, and persons of charitable instincts contribute tools and seeds. Workers with more leisure than they need do the rest. Under a superintendent's advice they dig and plant and gather, and with such effect as to obtain in money value as high as \$100 or more of market produce in a summer. Whether sold or consumed by the producer, this affords no inconsiderable addition to the worker's income.

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A national Vacant Lot Gardening Association now exists, with headquarters at 56 Pine street, New York. Howard Payson Wild is president. He is supported by Bolton Hall as treasurer and the Rt. Rev. David H. Greer, Dr. Henry M. Leipziger, Dr. M. Allen Starr, Whidden Graham, Rob-

ert Baker, Lawson Purdy, Dr. L. Duncan Bulkley and Miss A. L. Fairfield as directors. Vacant lot gardening is commended by this Association "to the charitably disposed who fear to pauperize the objects of their benevolence," its influence on character and morals being "wholly good, stimulating the spirit of independence and self-help which lies dormant in even the most debased." Experience is said to show that the gardeners "take a keen interest in learning how to plant and cultivate, and are willing to do any amount of work on the soil." The indirect benefits to large families are described as very great. "In a few weeks after going to the farm," says the Association, "the pale, puny children become ruddy and robust, playing in the grass and living healthy, natural lives."

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The Industrial Depression.

Two large reasons are urged for regarding the industrial depression as at an end. One is the reported fact that money is no longer tight, and the other that business men have adjusted their affairs to lower levels of expenditure. Instead of implying recovery from the depression, both facts indicate its persistence and intensification. The "tight money" of last Fall did indeed spell hard times. But that was because it crippled business men in meeting obligations already contracted. But "easy money" now means no more than that the demand for loans has shrunk, which means in turn that business operations are contracting. And this inference harmonizes with the inference that in adjusting their operations to lower levels of expenditure, business men are promoting hard times instead of ridding us of them. They are thereby diminishing the purchasing power of the people as a whole.

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The Banking Alternative.

If Walter Wellman's report of an extensive inquiry among bankers may be accepted, there is about to be formed a banking federation of vast dimensions and portentous possibilities. Such a federation would rule the government, from party primary to Presidential election and from local tax assessor to secretary of the Federal treasury, with an absoluteness far transcending the present power of the banking interests. If this is to be the alternative of Bryan's plan for governmental insurance of deposits—and Mr. Wellman makes its mutual deposit insurance feature its strong point—then there is little room for choice. Under Bryan's plan the banks could not combine so completely as to swing the banking interests at