

# POLITICAL REFORMER

## SOMETIMES DYSPEPTIC

BY ERNEST MCGAFFEY



REFORMER in politics is sometimes a dyspeptic, but not always. He is also sometimes actuated by motives entirely impersonal and unselfish. But not always. And reform politics may be classed as of two kinds the counterfeited variety and the genuine.

Independent, or reform movements in political campaigns, are intended to be the breaking away of members of the old parties and a consolidation of these "bolters" for the purpose of electing a ticket which is supposed to be better than either of the old-line party tickets. Sometimes an independent movement means this. Sometimes it means that a Democrat or a Republican who has failed of the regular party nomination has been persuaded to make the race on the ground that he has been deprived of the nomination by unfair means. But the basic element of independent movements is always a claim toward a bettering of conditions, and therefore, arguing a reform, politically.

Then there is usually the Prohibition movement to be reckoned with, and this is strictly founded on reform principles. Or there may be an educational feature in the campaign which will prove to carry the balance of power as to votes, and which may be adopted in the platform of either of the parties, with a view to secure votes for the whole ticket. Politics is largely a game of expedients, and as the only things that count, in the last analysis, are the votes, it follows, therefore, as the night the day, that votes are the prime necessities, and any expedient to catch votes is considered justifiable.

Other phases of reform politics may enter particularly into national campaigns, and may influence local conditions enough to swing victory to a side which may be weaker on paper than its antagonist.

In every large city and noticeably in my own city, I found two well defined types of the political reformers, with a smattering also of what were known as "cranks," "dreamers" and "visionaries." One of the two types referred to was the hard-headed citizen who, regardless of ridicule and discouragement, steadily set himself to work to better the class of official selection. Without caring anything for party affiliations, he associated with organizations which "went after" weak or unfit candidates, and supported and encouraged good candidates for all offices, whether state, county or municipal.

This class of men accomplished, with the aid of decent politicians, a great deal of good. In the beginning, like all men actuated by really high motives, they were derided and lampooned, and their lot, like the policeman's, was not a happy one. But as time went on they became a force which had to be reckoned with, even by the most hardened of the "bosses," excepting in what may be classed as strictly "saloon wars."

In the saloon wars, where the aldermen for instance, were saloonkeepers, or where the saloon influence predominated overwhelmingly, the "bosses" did not mind reform politics any more than a rhinoceros would mind the bite of a mosquito. I never could understand, knowing the absolute hopelessness of it, why the reformers would sometimes try to "break into" such a ward in an aldermanic campaign. I remember very well the occasion of a gentleman calling on me and endeavoring to enlist my services as a speaker in a campaign of this sort.

tion obtaining in that ward?" he asked, inquiringly.

"Oh, yes," was my answer.

"Well, we want to put up a candidate for alderman there and see if we can't arouse the better element there. We want to go in and fight the saloons to a finish," was his next remark.



—WANTED DOGS CAUGHT WITH A SOFT CURTAIN ROPE—

"Whose finish?" said I.

"Oh, we will probably be beaten," he admitted, "but we want to give them a campaign of education and enlightenment. What that ward needs, what every ward needs, is a chance to have its higher nature aroused. What they want, I'm convinced, is more opportunity to see the light."

"My friend," was my reply, "I've traveled some in that ward. What they want there is not more light, but more beer."

Yet, despite sometimes misdirected energy, these men and their associations did much in making political conditions better. For that they deserve substantial credit. So long as they were absolutely non-partisan they wielded considerable influence, and properly, but on occasion they allowed prejudice to bias them and they induced to good men.

The other type of well-known reformer was the one who continually headed "reform" movements. He might be a candidate for alderman, or the legislature, or congress. But wherever there was a "kick" coming, and a meeting advertised to protest, or organize, this class would be on hand early and get the chairmanship of the meeting, usually coming out in a "ringing" speech of denunciation against the infamy which the citizens had met to combat. This put the reformer "next" if it was a proposition to nominate an opposition candidate, and he often got away with the nomination. Or, if he was a professional man, a lawyer, a doctor, or a real estate man, even, it was a pretty fair advertisement, wasn't it? Not so "poor" to have your picture in the paper next day, with a long account of your, your business and your speech, etc. Something that would have cost you coin to have in the papers, and you got it for nothing. And then the reporters out to interview you and quite a racket started about you.

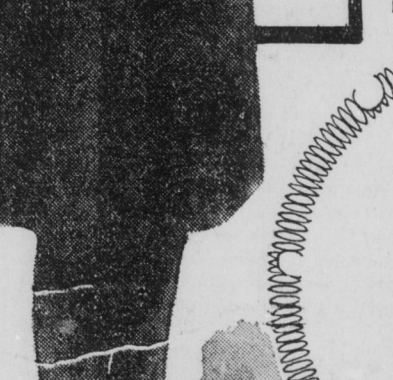
And in every large city I suppose there are only a few bright promoters like that standing around waiting to sell a gold brick or two.

Some of these "reformers" were pretty fierce when they happened to land in an office. A few of them were swept into the city council astride the persuasion of a pair of black eyes and a pretty face, and when toll was demanded, straightway produced the toll, setting an example that was followed by his staff.

"But," said Sheridan, as he passed through the gate, "I cannot vouch for my army."

There were a number of women reformers, too, during my political years, and they were invariably enlisted on some moral question, as they looked at it, tobacco, whisky, child labor, the bettering of conditions for women, the saving of girls, etc. They were very much in earnest, faithful and enthusiastic to their ideals. Occasionally they succeeded, and at least, they never seemed discouraged. It is to the credit of politicians in general, that they were listened to with perfect respect, even when it was apparent that conditions made it an absolute waste of time to discuss the questions. Sometimes an ordinance barred their way; at other times a state law, or possibly the constitution of the United States itself was a stumbling-block, but they were heard with patience.

Reform politics during my career concerned itself most particularly in rehabilitating the personnel of the city council. In this it met with substantial success, and it was the exception



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tion. "What are we here for?" was their slogan, and they went after franchise "divvies" or any other "divvies" like a terrier after a rat.

Real reforms were not so elaborately advertised as the sham ones; the louder the "holler" about the reform, the less genuine reform was in sight. And then there were the "fad" reformers, going about seeking what they might devour in the shape of having unmuzzled dogs caught with a soft curtain rope instead of a wire noose.

cab-horses provided with seats while waiting for a fare, the distribution of copies of Browning's poems to crossing policemen, or some such similar projects.

There are sometimes uneasy people in every community who want to run the rest of their neighbors: the bigger the community the greater they are liable to be in number. And in a city of two millions of inhabitants they are sure to be found. They haunt the gallery in the council chamber of the city, they infest the mayor's office, they surge in with the crowds having hearings in the public offices in the city halls, and whenever they have no connection whatever.

Substantial reforms are of slow growth. It took over 20 years of steady work to drive the infamous justice of the peace system out of Cook county. Some notable reformers went along very well for a time until they got so prominent that they were offered a high-salaried political position. And then they dropped practically from sight as reformers and reappeared as pay roll artists. This caused at times a revulsion of feeling among the reformers at heart, but they did not let a little thing like that entirely discourage them.

I got so that I could usually "spot" a reformer as far as I could see him. The majority of reformers are very busy walkers and talkers. They are not confined to one nationality, although I should judge that the bulk of them are Americans. They all have "missions." If you agree with them, and do everything they ask, you are a "patriot." If you disagree with some of them in any way, shape or manner, you are either a scoundrel or without mental balance. But to be a "patriot" in the eyes of those who were fanatical you must accede to their demands.

"Patriots," said Sir Robert Peel, "they spring up like mushrooms in the night; I can make 50 patriots in a single hour; I have only to refuse some unreasonable or absurd request, when up starts a patriot."

When the common soldiery came the girl again lowered the toll-bar and demanded toll. This was met by jeers from the soldiers, whereupon she wisely raised the guard. All day the dusty troopers passed through and all day Charlotte Hillman stood at her post. For every ten soldiers who passed the gate she cut a notch in the toll-pole. Early fled beyond the Blue Ridge with the remnants of his disorganized army in the Valley of Virginia, Lee, beaten back by Grant's overwhelming numbers, gave up the

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### VISITS WITH UNCLE BY

Autumn.



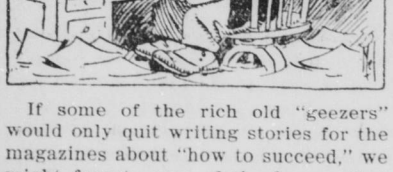
The corn shocks stand upon the hills Like armies tenting in the fields. The rustling harvest, full and ripe, That rivals even Ceres' yields.

The haze of Autumn blends with red That clings upon the trailing grape; The oak has put its color on And wears its glory as a cape.

The grasses nod along the road And billow in the lusty gale, While everywhere the seal of fall Is spreading fancies through the vale. The crow aloft in noisy flight Is sailing like a ship at sea— A bold marauder of the sky With blatant, raucous minstrelsy.

The crop is in and plenty smiles Upon a husbandman made glad. The one who plows the field and saps Has won the prizes Nature had. All vari-hued the Autumn comes To charm us with her glowing ways And lead us gently through the sere And chill and cold and winter days!

Chance Shots.



If some of the rich old "geezerers" would only quit writing stories for the magazines about "how to succeed," we might forget some of the horses that have been stolen.

Scientists now claim that bacteria are able to cause the breaking down of stone walls. If this be true, there is still hope that the stony hearts of those proud and haughty Boston girls may yet yield to disintegration and love!

A novelist has his hero kiss his lady's back hair. That's enough for me. A man might miss fire and kiss a girl in the bangs—but a fellow who will deliberately kiss a girl's back hair "a purpose" couldn't be a real hero in a million years!

The Boston physician who advises us to eat but once a week must be trying to make heaven on earth for poets. The way to make life seem bright in the morning is to get out into the sunshine and hike. The same diagram may be used for rainy mornings. When a man's liver is active, his lights are always bright!

Last night I walked by the lake. There was a harvest moon and a mist. The moonlight fell across the tips of the tree-banks and silhouetted fairy cities into the water—and over the fairland was the shimmer and the spell of silvery mist. No artist ever painted a picture like that! Art is the mastery of the Real Artist.

One staid old married lady of the party said the scene was food for her soul, while another could find no words to express her thoughts as she stood eloquently silent upon the threshold of the picture world and let its beauty charm her into an ecstasy of delight. As for me, it reminded me of the beautiful sentiment of the hungry poet who would sell one of his two loaves for a primrose with which to warm his longing heart! The moonlight has peculiar effects on people at times—but, honestly, it was great!

Introducing Miss Julia.

"Miss Julia Courtney, of somewhere, has accepted the position of editor of the Fort Collins Review. Never met Julia, but hope she will be a winner, and just to her next, want to warn her about getting mixed up in a jackpot with the Courier man." And we want to warn Miss Courtney, also, not to take any taffy from Vic Wilson the editor of the Evening News which last week contained the above. The last comment was by Fuller of Windsor Poudre Valley, and since they do not seem to know just who Miss Julia is and where she's from, we'll say that she resided in Salida for several years and is as snappy as her Auburn locks would indicate—Salida (Colo.) Mail.

Newspaper Ethics.

A Kansas widow lost a hog. I do not refer to the death of her husband. She lost a real hog and advertised for it. The editor says the hog must have read the paper, for he came hiking home on a dead run as soon as the paper left the post office. This is not the first instance where a hog has read a newspaper—and incidentally forgotten to pay for it.

Heat Hard to Imagine.

The electric furnace is capable of attaining a heat of 7,200 degrees. This is a fearful temperature, and will melt almost everything solid known to man. In comparison with this heat a red-hot iron bar would be called cold.

Product of the Endive.

The lettuce appears to have been derived from the endive, which is found wild in temperate and southern Europe, in the Canaries, Algeria, Abyssinia and temperate western Asia.

Dangerous to Author.

Perfidy often recoils upon its author.—La Fontaine.

### David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem

Sunday School Lesson for Oct. 4, 1908

Special Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT.—2 Samuel 6:1-12. Memory verse 12.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise."—Psalm 100:4.

TIME.—Either B. C. 1038 (Ussher), or 1002 by revised chronology of the Assyrian Epitome Canons. Prof. Beecher points out the fact that David's reign of 33 years in Jerusalem is divided up into three periods: 1. A period of war and conquest, about 14 years; 2. A period of rest and rebuilding, about seven years; 3. A period of domestic troubles, about 12 years. This lesson probably belongs to the second period, or to a period of rest during the conquest. But the exact order of events is not easily obtained from the narrative.

PLACE.—(1) The ark had been for a long time at Kirjath-jearim, about 11 miles west of Jerusalem, in the valley of Sorek (where Delilah lived), a valley which leads up from the Philistine country toward Jerusalem. (2) At house of Obed-edom between Kirjath-jearim and Jerusalem.

DAVID'S COUNSELORS.—Ahithophel, a very shrewd man; Nathan, the prophet; and Joab, his chief general.

Comment and Suggestive Thought.

The Long Period of Decline.—For 70 years the ark as the center of religious worship had lain in partial neglect. Soon after the settlement of the Israelites in Palestine Joshua deposited the ark at Shiloh, 20 miles north of Jerusalem, and ten miles north of Bethel (Josh. 18:1). It was still there at the close of the period of the Judges (1 Sam. 1:3); and Samuel lived at Shiloh with Eli. The sons of Eli had carried the ark from Shiloh into a battle against the Philistines, hoping that God would give them the victory for the sake of this symbol of his worship. But God did not reward wickedness in that way. The Israelites were defeated, and the Philistines captured the ark. But the Lord would not permit them to retain it. Their idol, Dagon, fell before it. The people were smitten with severe sickness wherever the ark was sent. Finally it was restored to Israel, and sent up the Sorek valley as far as Kirjath-jearim, 11 miles southwest of Jerusalem, in the house of Abinadab on the hill (1 Sam. 7:1), who put it under the charge of one of his sons.

The neglect of the ark and its separation from its place in the tabernacle at Shiloh, with one high priest following Saul and another David, shows to what a low and divided state religion had fallen in Israel under Saul. The neglect of the means of religion, of places of worship, and set times for devotion is generally accompanied by a decline in the spirit of religion. It is both a sign of the decline and a means toward it.

V. 1. "Again." For a different purpose from the former gatherings for war. "Thirty thousand," representatives of the whole people. According to Chronicles, they came as far as from Shihor, 50 miles south of Gaza, and from Hamath in Lebanon, 250 miles north of Jerusalem. The restoration must be a national act, or it would lose much of its unifying power.

The joyful procession and the religious enthusiasm were marred by an act of disobedience, where a good thing was done in a wrong way.

The first error was committed by transporting the ark by a cart instead of in the way ordained by God (Numbers 4). The ark was to be carried by Levites.

The next error grew out of this first one. "The jagged bridles of the parts are not at all adapted for wheeled conveyances," and when the ark had reached Nachon's threshing-floor, the "oxen shook" the ark, "were throwing it down," and (6) "Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God," to keep it from falling to the ground. If he had carried the ark as he was commanded, he would not have been tempted to this second disobedience.

V. 7. "And the anger of the Lord was kindled." Not passion, but rather indignation—that feeling which makes him hate sin and compels him to punish it. All that was loving and good in God was aroused against the act. "And God smote them there."

Why this severity? (1) It was a direct, double disobedience. (2) The wrong was enhanced by the fact that it was committed by a man who as a son of Abinadab had been with the ark, and should have known the law. (3) It was a public disobedience in matters of religion. It was a desecration of the holiest symbol of their religion. It was needful at the outset to prove to the people the necessity of exact obedience, and hence the careful study of God's law.

A Note of Encouragement. 1. There was real encouragement in the fact that God was so careful of the religion of the Jews that he expressed by his act the value of religion, and impressed it so deeply on their hearts.

2. The blessing that rested upon the family of Obed-edom through the presence of the symbol of religion in his house was a foretaste and a promise, and a prophecy of what it would be to the nation.

A fuller description of this festival procession is given in 1 Chronicles 15 and 16.

"It was the greatest day of David's life. Its significance in his career is marked by his own preeminent position—conqueror, poet, musician, priest, in one. . . . It was felt to be a turning-point in the history of the nation. David was on that day the founder, not of freedom only, but of an empire; not of religion only, but of a church and commonwealth."

The ark was borne on the shoulders of the Levites (1 Chron. 15:15), amid the greatest enthusiasm.

A Curious Phenomenon.

A German officer describes in the Rote Kreuz a curious phenomenon he witnessed on a ride in southwest Africa. A number of vultures, eagles and other large birds suddenly gathered on the trees at one place. A few dark clouds were visible, and ere long there was a violent tropical storm. The water penetrated into holes in the ground from which presently emerged large numbers of snakes, scorpions and mice, and these the birds pounced upon and devoured.

Small Urchin (to major, who has been thrown from horse into pond)—Hi, mister, as you 'appens to be in the water, would you mind looking for Willie's whistle?

PRESCRIBED CUTICURA

After Other Treatment Failed—Raw Eczema on Baby's Face Had Lasted Three Months—At Last Doctor Found Cure.

"Our baby boy broke out with eczema on his face when one month old. One place on the side of his face the size of a nickel was raw like beefsteak for three months, and he would cry out when I bathed the parts that were sore and broken out. I gave him three months treatment from a good doctor, but at the end of that time the child was no better. Then my doctor recommended Cuticura. After using a cake of Cuticura Soap, a third of a box of Cuticura Ointment, and half a bottle of Cuticura Resolvent he was well and his face was as smooth as any baby's. He is now two years and a half old and no eczema has reappeared. Mrs. M. L. Harris, Alton, Kan., May 14 and June 12, 1907."

Sometimes Hard to Tell.

George Elliot says that the expression on a woman's face when she is sewing tells the story of the woman's heart. If she is happy and contented, or possibly slovenly and indifferent, she may smile and look the happiness she either feels or is incapable of feeling. If she has many things to worry her and is possibly planning how to make ten cents do a dollar's worth of good, or if she is naturally a vixen, it will show in her face, so after all it is not safe to predicate as to what her sewing face reveals.

### A REASONABLE REQUEST.



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STATE OF OHIO CITY OF TOLEDO, ss. FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHENEY & CO., doing business in the City of Toledo, County of Lucas, State of Ohio, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHENEY, sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 23rd day of December, A. D. 1888.

A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by all Druggists. 75c.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Really practical men live in a world of ideals. They realize that it is not practical to conduct a business successfully unless that business is kept alive and growing by a constant out-reaching after ideals yet unattained.

If Your Eyes Bother You get a box of PETTIT'S EYE SALVE, old reliable, most successful eye remedy. State All druggists or Howard Bros., Buffalo, N. Y.

If you would not cease to love mankind, you must not cease to do them good.—Maclaren.

Smokers have to call for Lewis' Single Binder cigar to get it. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

He who hesitates much will accomplish little.—Von Meitke.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

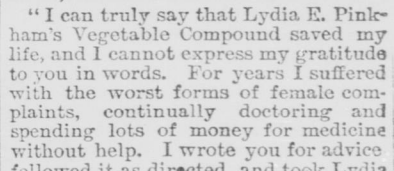
If you have anything to do, do it; don't loaf on the job.

Those Tired, Aching Feet of Yours need Allen's Foot-Powder. It's Wonderful. Write A. S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y., for sample.

If you don't get the best of it, make the best of it.

FARMS FOR RENT or sale on crop payments. J. MULHALL, Sioux City, Ia.

One cannot quarrel if the other will not.



This woman says Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound saved her life. Read her letter.

Mrs. T. C. Willadsen, of Manning, Iowa, writes to Mrs. Pinkham: "I can truly say that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound saved my life, and I cannot express my gratitude to you in words. For years I suffered with the worst forms of female complaints, continually doctoring and spending lots of money for medicine without help. I wrote you for advice followed it as directed, and took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and it has restored me to perfect health. Had it not been for you I should have been in my grave to-day. I wish every suffering woman would try it."

FACTS FOR SICK WOMEN. For thirty years Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from roots and herbs, has been the standard remedy for female ills, and has positively cured thousands of women who have been troubled with displacements, inflammation, ulceration, fibroid tumors, irregularities, periodic pains, backache, that bearing-down feeling, flatulency, indigestion, dizziness, or nervous prostration. Why don't you try it?

Mrs. Pinkham invites all sick women to write her for advice. She has guided thousands to health. Address, Lynn, Mass.