

changes again under McKinley, and the Democrats have carried the State by seventeen thousand majority, or, adding the vote of the Sound Money Democratic nominee for clerk of the Court of Appeals, by a majority of over twenty-six thousand.

Notwithstanding facts like these, a prominent politician has recently given it as his solemn opinion that if offices had been distributed by President McKinley in accordance with the good old fashion of the spoils system, the party in power would have made a better showing in the recent elections! Does any unprejudiced observer of recent political events believe a word of this?

Patriotism and Imagination.

Is it fantastic to maintain that if people had more imagination they would have more patriotism? Suppose that a man about to cast a ballot for Tammany Hall, or about to join a lynching-party, should be suddenly stricken with a realizing sense of the effect that a Tammany victory or a new mob outrage would have upon the reputation of the American republic, would he change his ballot? would he drop the rope?

Suppose a politician who was about to perform the part of Benedict Arnold in relation to any given political conflict should, before the act was fully accomplished, realize in a flash of the imagination not only the harm he was about to do to his own honorable name, but to the cause of good government, would he not pause and turn from his lamentable course?

We once heard a man, whose patriotism had doubtless been touched with imagination, avert from himself the compliment of "good citizenship" by sincerely pleading in extenuation that there was in his zeal for cleaner and nobler government in his city and in his country a strong admixture of downright human pride. He said that he endured such a keen and personal sense of shame at any fault attributable to American institutions that he felt no moral credit for his efforts to bring about, through public opinion, a state of affairs more satisfactory and honorable.

There is no lack of patriotism in America; no war-threatened country of the Old World would be quicker to fly again to arms on any genuine occasion: but political scandals would perhaps be fewer, the barter of ballots would not be so frequent, the guardians of some of our large corporations would be less often accused of criminal complicity in bad government, if men's imaginations were quickened as to the relation of such evils not merely to the individual conscience, but to the fame and fortune of the republic. Many of the men guilty in these ways would any day, if necessary, give their lives in battle against foreign or domestic foes. If their imaginations were aroused, would they not see their civic treachery in the same light as that in which they now regard treachery in stress of war?

Surely patriotism, like religion, is "an appeal to the imagination"; and it should be the part of the pulpit, the school, and the press to intensify that appeal so that it may bear perpetual fruit in the sentiment and practice of a noble citizenship.

Southern Protests against Lynching.

WHILE the crime of lynching has not of late by any means been confined to our Southern States, certain

well-known conditions have made it more frequent there. It is therefore interesting to note that from the South have lately come some of the most earnest protests against this disgrace to our civilization.

In an address delivered not long ago by Edward J. McDermott of Louisville, Kentucky, strong ground was taken against these outrages from the point of view of a lawyer and a statesman. The papers have recently printed a charge to the grand jury in Nashville, Tennessee, by Judge Anderson, in which he urged the enforcement of the law against those who take the law into their own hands. Said the judge: "An application of this law to a few mobbers will give them a respect for the law and a regard for the peace and order of the community that they never felt before. Whenever occasion arises," he added, "I intend to see, so far as I can, that it is enforced in all its provisions; and I am sure that you will not be found remiss in your duty in regard thereto. Let the law be promulgated, and the people understand that it will be enforced if violated, and then rarely, if ever, will occasion arise for the infliction of its penalties."

But the most important recent Southern deliverance on the subject which has come to our notice is that of Governor Atkinson of Georgia. His message to the General Assembly of the State on the 27th of October last discusses the whole subject with freedom and force. It seems that since November 1, 1894, there have been lynched in Georgia one negro woman, two white men, and nineteen black men—twenty-two in all. Nine of these, including one white man, were not charged with the revolting crime, or the attempt thereat, which occasions a majority of the lynchings in the Southern States.

The governor, in the course of his presentation of the subject, makes the startling statement that he believes that during his administration there have been several men lynched who were not guilty of the crimes with which they were charged. "How many cannot be known, for their tongues are hushed, and they are denied an opportunity to prove their innocence. I am informed," says the governor, "that one man whom the mob believed to be guilty was shot down. A question then arose as to his identity, and he was salted down like a hog, shipped to the location of the crime, and found to be the wrong man!" The governor calls attention to the fact that during the past year evidence has come to light in other States showing that victims of the mob have been innocent men. During this governor's term, one man who was rescued from the mob was afterward tried and proved innocent. Another fled from the mob to the executive office, obtained protection and a trial by jury, and he too was proved not guilty.

Again, it appears, as would naturally be expected in such circumstances, that false charges have been made against men with a view of bringing about their convenient removal by lynch law, though in the special instances cited without the complete success of the plot. In one case this was the means sought for the suppression of evidence against a violator of the prohibition law; in another case the object was to prevent the collection of a debt!

Governor Atkinson insists that lynch law tends to let the guilty escape; that it discourages investment, drives away immigration, advertises the State as lawless and half civilized, and degrades the character of the peo-

ple. «This barbarous practice,» he declares with patriotic indignation, «does not decrease, but increases, crime. Having stained their hands in blood, its perpetrators are more easily led again to violate law. Recently a man tried on the charge of murder and convicted of shooting a citizen through the window, as he sat by his own hearthstone at night, confessed also that he it was who tied the rope around the necks of the two men who were lynched in Columbus in 1896. I condemn it, and will not apologize for such lawlessness. To exterminate the practice, it must be made odious and dangerous. The penalty should be the scorn of the people and the punishment of the law.»

The governor recommends stricter laws against the offense most often giving occasion to lynching, more

prompt administration of justice, and also laws more effectually protecting prisoners in the charge of State officials; but, above all, he appeals to that public opinion which not only makes but enforces legislation. Responsibility for the crime of lynching, as the governor well says, rests not only upon the actors, but upon the community which permits and tolerates the crime. He declares truly that «it can and will be stopped when the better element who deprecate mob law aggressively condemn and determine to suppress the practice.»

What is true of these infamous lynchings is true of all the other crying evils of our social and political system. If decent people would stand together, not only in condemning but in actually suppressing them, they would soon cease to tarnish the fair fame of the republic.

OPEN LETTERS

Andrée's Pigeon Message.

MR. JONAS STADLING, who described in the November CENTURY the departure of Andrée by balloon for the north pole, and who had charge of the carrier-pigeons while Andrée was waiting for a favorable wind, sends to THE CENTURY a facsimile of an undoubted message received from Andrée, with the following letter:

«I inclose a facsimile of the message from Andrée sent with the carrier-pigeon which was shot on the whaler *Alken* on July 15. The genuineness of the despatch cannot be doubted, it being written in Andrée's handwriting, and the pigeon carrying the stamps on the inside of its wings which I made. The literal translation of the message runs as follows:

Från Andrées Polarexp.
till Aftonbladet, Stockholm.

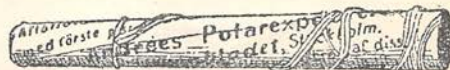
d. 13 juli
kl. 12.30 midn.
Lat. 82° 2'
Long 15° 5' öst.
god fart åt
ost 10° syd.
Allt väl
ombord.
Detta är
fredje dub.
posten. r
Andrée

«(July 13th, 12:30 o'clock noon. Lat. 82° 2', long. 15° 5' east. Good speed eastward, 10° to south. All well on board. This is the third pigeon-post.

«(ANDRÉE.)

«We cannot understand why it should have taken some forty-four hours to make so comparatively short a distance as about 400 kilometers, the wind being strong southwest all the time as far north as we know. Nor can we understand why Andrée did not, according to promise, send a shorthand message.

«If we ever hear from the intrepid fellows, I hardly think we shall do so before next summer.»



The envelop shown above, in its natural size, is of parchment saturated with paraffin, and was made fast by threads to a tail-feather of the pigeon. The open end of the tube was closed with wax to render it watertight. It was addressed as follows: «From Andrée's North Pole Expedition to (Aftonbladet,) Stockholm. Open the envelop on the side and take out two messages. Telegraph the one in ordinary writing to (Aftonbladet,) and send the one in shorthand, by the first mail, to the same newspaper.» As Mr. Stadling explains above, no message in shorthand was found.

Charity or Economy?

OCCASIONALLY one reads a pathetic tale supposed to show the destructive effect of comfortable living on poetic genius, and implying that only grinding poverty can draw forth the sweetest songs. There is no doubt as to the educating power of keen suffering of whatever sort; but it must be questioned whether a sufficient supply of bread and butter would ever cause literary paralysis in any one whose work could not well be spared. However, be this as it may in regard to litera-