

been revealed in all the previous trials of the various Australian laws put together.

But the Massachusetts test met and overthrew all points of criticism. The law was a thoroughgoing application of the Australian system. In all important principles it was a copy of the bill which was drafted by the committee of the Commonwealth Club of New York City in the winter of 1887, and which became the basis of the two so-called Saxton bills that Governor Hill vetoed in 1888 and in 1889. These principles are secret voting in compartments, exclusively official ballots, printed and distributed at public expense, and nominations by means of petitions or nomination papers, as well as by regular party organizations and conventions. The names of all candidates were to be printed on the same ballot, and the voter must indicate his choice by an X opposite the name of each candidate for whom he wished to vote. Governor Hill and his imitators in opposing these principles had objected, most strongly to the exclusive official ballot, the grouping of all names upon one ballot, and the marking of that ballot by an election official to prevent imitations. These were the principles upon which the general charge of "complications" rested. There was nothing said by Governor Hill in his two veto messages in opposition to the Saxton bills which was not aimed at one of these principles. His contention was that in the large cities these provisions would lead to endless delays and complications, would open the door to fraud, would furnish easy means for defeating the secrecy of the ballot, would aid rather than prevent bribery, and would disfranchise thousands of voters.

When tried in the city of Boston every one of these objections was proved to be absolutely groundless; that was the testimony of everybody who witnessed the working of the law. It was shown that all classes of voters had no difficulty in using the system; that "heelers," "workers," "bulldozers," and all the other annoying concomitants of elections in American cities had disappeared as if by magic; that bribery had been abolished; that voting was so easy that three minutes was the average time in which the voter prepared and deposited his ballot, instead of the ten minutes provided by the law; that during voting-hours the polling-places were as orderly as a prayer-meeting, and, finally, that the counting was almost as quickly done as it had been under the old method. In every other part of the State the same demonstration was made, and when the polls closed on election night there could not be found in the State of Massachusetts a single opponent of the Australian system. As one of the bitterest opponents of it said after witnessing its operation: "It is as easy as rolling off a log."

The wonder is, not that the system succeeded, but that we have been content to get along for so many years without it. As a matter of fact we have had nothing which could properly be called a system. We have been getting on in many States, including New York, literally with no legal provision whatever for the furnishing of ballots. The law directs how the ballots shall be printed, but makes it nobody's duty to supply them. Our voters get them where they may, have no assurance that they are honestly printed, or represent what they purport to represent, and advance to the polls to deposit them, in our large cities, through a

crowd of loafers and "heelers" to a room filled with a similar crowd and reeking with tobacco smoke, vulgarity, and profanity. Nobody can truthfully call that a "system."

Under the Australian method the voter is taken charge of from the moment he enters the polling-booth, is guarded against annoyances of all kinds, is helped in every way to prepare his ballot, has a path marked out for him to follow in depositing it, and a separate door for him to depart from when his work is done. He could not go astray if he tried. That such a system as this should be called "complicated" is, in the light of experience, an absurdity. It is small wonder that the success of the Massachusetts law has created so general a demand for similar laws that it is a safe prediction to make, that within five years every State in the Union will have adopted a similar statute. There were nine States which had such laws at the close of 1889, and two others which had imitations; and it is not improbable that in a majority of the States our next national election will be conducted under the Australian system. That will be a reform advance as invaluable in its effects as it has been speedy in accomplishment.

Value of the Small Colleges.

No part of Mr. Bryce's "American Commonwealth" shows a keener insight into American needs than his chapter upon our universities. He is able to perceive at once the weak point in the criticism which is so often heard, to the effect that we have too many small colleges and not enough great universities. Like any other observing foreigner who has visited this country, he heard this criticism more generally than any other, for it is the one most often made, both by those who have thought a little upon the subject and by those who have thought upon it not at all. Mr. Bryce says (Vol. II., p. 552):

The European observer . . . conceives that his American friends may not duly realize the services which these small colleges perform in the rural districts of the country. They get hold of a multitude of poor men, who might never resort to a distant place of education. They set learning in a visible form, plain, indeed, and humble, but dignified even in her humility, before the eyes of a rustic people, in whom the love of knowledge, naturally strong, might never break from the bud into the flower but for the care of some zealous gardener. They give the chance of rising in some intellectual walk of life to many a strong and earnest nature who might otherwise have remained an artisan or storekeeper, and perhaps failed in those avocations.

That is as true as it is well said. We have quoted only a few lines from a chapter which every friend of education ought to read entire. No man can estimate the service which the small colleges of the country have done by setting up "learning in a visible form" in so many parts of the land. Our educated class would otherwise be no more than a fraction of what it is to-day. American boys are proverbially ambitious of learning, and in thousands of them the spark has been kindled by the presence of the small college near their homes. They could not afford to go miles away to a great university, but they can live at home and walk daily to the small college. In every part of the land where such an institution exists it acts as a perpetual inspiration. When the elder son of a family goes to college, his example becomes at once the model for

the younger sons. The tuition is usually low; the ability to live at home instead of having to board brings the education which the college has to offer within the means of any boy who has in him the stuff of which a real man is made. Thousands of American boys have paid their way through these colleges by teaching school and by various kinds of manual labor in vacation time.

Of course the education afforded is limited. It bears no comparison with that obtainable in the largest American colleges, to say nothing of that to be had in the great European universities. But between it and no college education at all the distance is enormous. In some respects the quality of it is inferior to none which is given anywhere. The personal contact between teacher and pupil is closer in the small college than in the large, and wherever there is found in one of them a true teacher, a man of large soul, quick sympathies, and high ideals, who has the indescribable and invaluable gift of touching and opening the minds of youth—wherever there is a college with such a man there is a great university in the highest sense of the word. One such teacher, it matters little what he teaches, can make a college a power in the land. It is our conviction that there are many of these teachers scattered throughout the 345 colleges which we have in the United States, and that there is not in the land a more potent influence for the highest good of the nation.

Statistics show that our colleges, great and small, contain about 70,000 students, and that more than 10,000 degrees are conferred each year. There are thus sent forth into the world 10,000 young men—the statistics given do not include women—in whose minds a love of learning has been kindled. It may be that in the majority of cases there will be little growth towards higher learning after the college precincts are abandoned; but in all cases some influence has been exerted. These 10,000 men will not be so easily misled by false doctrines and fallacious theories as they would have been had they never gone to college. In every community in which they pass their lives their influence will be exerted on the side of progress and in favor of the more liberal ideas which find the light there. Among the 10,000 there will be a few in whose larger and more fertile minds the seed of knowledge will continue to grow until it bears fruit. Among them there may be one whose voice or pen shall prove of highest value to his fellows for many years to come.

There never was a time when our country needed the services of these college-bred men so much as it does to-day. We shall always have in this land of inexhaustible resources enough of men who will devote all their energies to the accumulation of wealth and to the increase of our material prosperity. To counteract them we need and shall continue to need the restraining influence of those who are willing to devote themselves to what Lowell calls the "things of the mind." The country must have some men who can resist the temptation to devote their lives to mere money-getting, not because they would not like to have the freedom and power which money gives, but because they love knowledge more. Our colleges alone can supply these men, and they are supplying them, and are thus of inestimable service to the Republic.

The Care of the Yosemite Valley.

A COMPETENT judge has characterized the announced policy of an active member of the Yosemite Valley Commission to "cut down every tree [in the valley] that has sprouted within the last thirty years" as a policy "which, if it were carried out, would eventually result in an irreparable calamity—a calamity to the civilized world." This member is represented as declaring that his policy has the support of the commission: it remains to be seen whether his associates will follow such fatuous leadership. But the history of the Yosemite makes it only too probable that a crisis in its management is near at hand.

The American people are probably not aware of their proprietorship in the Yosemite. In 1864, by act of Congress, the valley and the grounds in the vicinity of the Big Trees of Mariposa were granted to the State of California "with the stipulation nevertheless that the said State shall accept this grant upon the express conditions that the premises shall be held for public use, resort, and recreation; shall be inalienable for all time," etc. This is recognized by law the moral claim of all humanity to an interest in the preservation of the wonders of the world. A citizen of New York is as much one of the owners of the Yosemite as a citizen of California, and his right to be heard in suggestion or protest is as undoubted. There are, unfortunately, few resident Californians who are well acquainted with the valley. An actual count has indicated that one-half of the visitors are foreigners, chiefly Englishmen, while one-fourth are from the Eastern States. The opinion of these "outsiders" might be supposed to have a special value, being disconnected with the local dissensions which have gathered about the valley. And yet disinterested endeavors made in a private and respectful manner to arouse the authorities to the destructive tendencies which are evident to people of experience and travel are denounced by certain members of the commission in the most violent and provincial spirit. This spirit has been widely remarked by travelers, and is candidly recognized by many Californians and deplored as doing much to retard the growth of the State.

It is unfortunate that the first public presentation of the subject and the resultant investigation by the legislature of California were complicated by personal, political, and commercial considerations to such an extent as to obscure the important point—Has the treatment of the Yosemite landscape been intrusted to skillful hands? We have before us the report of this investigation, together with a large number of photographs showing the condition of portions of the valley before and after the employment of the ax and the plow. Without going into the details of the alleged abuses, monopolies, rings, and persecutions, it is easy to see in the above testimony and photographs abundant confirmation of those who hold that the valley has not had the benefit of expert supervision. In saying this we are not impugning the good faith of past or present commissions or commissioners, appointed for other reasons than their skillfulness in the treatment of landscape. They are certainly to be acquitted of any intention to injure the valley: that would be unbelievable. It is no reproach to them that they are not trained foresters. Their responsibility, however, does not end