

LIVE QUESTIONS.

A Series of Articles Contributed by Advanced Thinkers.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY.

Why Should Not All Be Treated Alike Politically?

I believe that the ministers of the United States have done more than any other one class to hasten the progress of the woman movement. I know that many of our reformers hold a contrary view, and perhaps I am not an impartial witness, as I come of a long line of ministers and my only brother was a member of that guild, but we must not forget that the woman question can only prosper in time of peace, and that as a class the Christian ministry has, more than any other, proclaimed peace on earth and good will to men. The teachings of the pulpit have inculcated those principles under which women can be coworkers with men in every line of life. It is only under the influence of the principles of Christ that the inhabitants of a nation become sufficiently coordinated in their attitude toward government and commerce, literature and labor, art and life, to appreciate the characters and qualities of women as coworkers in all the enterprises by which men forge forward toward better conditions for themselves and families. It is also true that ministers have been a well nigh determining factor in the boards of trustees of those higher educational institutions to which we have been admitted, and without such education we could never have held our own in the comradeship of good work now so largely recognized among men and women. All my life I have found more encouragement and help from Christian ministers than from any other class of men, and I believe that the majority of our reformers would bear the same testimony. As a rule the pulpits of all churches, except those in which sacerdotalism forbids, have been opened to us. When I went to the south, it was, as a rule, ministers and their wives who formed the bone and sinew of the early, as they do of the later, temperance movement, and as they do of every other reform, because they are the representatives of the Divine Reformer.

These facts furnish a background before which a few ministers have departed themselves in an unenviable light—for instance, when an excellent bishop says to a class of "sweet girl graduates" that when women vote they will sell their ballots as they now sell themselves. When the gifted Dr. of Georgia declares that "the woman who rides the bicycle is the victim of a



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personal devil," he shows himself to be out of sympathy with this great question of equal rights.

The brethren have made for themselves unenviable fame, and their attitude toward women who are trying to ameliorate the sorrows of humanity will not, I dare affirm, be quoted by their descendants, but will be consigned by them, and let us hope, by the women who will then be invested with all the powers and dignities of citizenship in church and state, to a charitable oblivion. I do not say that these are not good men, but they are certainly whimsical and grotesque in their attitude toward one of the greatest reforms of their time. Nor will those other good men who are doing their best to prevent the admission of women to the councils of different branches of the church of Christ desire to have this fact emphasized when their post mortem eulogies are written. It is the ill fortune of some men and women in every epoch of advance to find their emblem in the boulder on the track rather than the arrowy current of the refreshing, forward rushing stream of that public sentiment which is the final factor in all those revolutions by which humanity comes nearer to good will and God. The sultan and the czar may order the words "liberty, equality, fraternity," eliminated from all published documents within the area of the autocracy they represent, but the famous prohibitions of despots, whether on a large or a small scale, are but another form of personal death warrant autobiographically given.

Readers of Benjamin Kidd's "Social Evolution" must have been often struck by the phrase "equality of opportunity." In these words is the quintessence of a high and noble socialism, for at the bottom of all our social discontent it is not a quarrel with parentage, birth and gifts of nature that disturbs us, nor even so much with environments as with that maladjustment of opportunity which we feel instinctively is not natural, but comes of human meddling with nature and utter disregard of God's place in the world he has made.

And the present social perturbations and scarcely suppressed upheavals—what are they but attempts to bring about not equality in wealth, equality in position, but equality in opportunity for every human creature? The mode of attempt may not always be wise or well adapted to the end sought, but the end and aim are good. It is this aim to secure equality of opportunity that has given such impetus to the cause of public education during the last few years, for it recognizes in all classes of society that no power raises a man so quickly to the level of the world's best accomplishment

as the education and development of his intellect. Nothing gives him such noble companionship and sets him as a peer in the society of mind, nothing has so raised man as man and distributed its gifts so widely save Christianity as taught by Christ himself.

FRANCIS E. WILLARD, EVANSTON, ILL.

IMPROVED BANKING METHODS.

A Congressman Who Gives Some Attention to the Will of His Constituents. Our representatives should be more scrupulous in getting the will of the people, and when they do not represent this will they should resign; otherwise they become misrepresentatives.

Congressman Brosius of Pennsylvania set his fellows a good example recently by writing to H. C. Baird, the able economist, to indicate what changes he would make in the banking and money system of the country. Among other things Mr. Baird said:

"First, in regard to our banking system. That system is based upon the same great fallacy as the wickedness of Lord Overstone's bank act of 1844, known as 'Peel's bank act.' This fallacy is that of attempting to regulate the bank operations through the currency instead of acting directly upon the bank itself. The currency belongs to the whole people, and if the British government or the United States government abdicates the right of furnishing the currency it should not permit the bank or banks to tamper with it or to regulate their loans by the amount of currency in their possession on a given day. As far back as 1838 Carey, in 'The Credit System in France, Great Britain and the United States,' demonstrated conclusively that the test of safe banking was to be found in the relation which the capital of a bank bore to the amount which it had due to its debtors. The proper way to regulate the national banks of this country would therefore be a provision of law by which no bank could loan more than 100 or 150 per cent over and above its capital and surplus.

"But if the Overstone law is still to be fixed upon the people of the United States, then the reserves of the banks should be kept at home and not in the banks of New York, there to stimulate speculation, to centralize business and create panics, as the present quack system does, placing the whole country at the mercy of Wall street.

"Now we come to the much larger question of the currency. I would cease absorbing myself with the one idea of the standard and what it should be, and devote myself to putting in operation, in full vigor, the great function of association which money fulfills. In a word, I would have gold if we could get enough of it. I would add silver, too, if that would be enough, and if not, paper until we had enough. Gold is utterly unfit for the currency of a country, because it is always liable to export, giving you one day a feast and another day a famine. If we could have a large volume of silver which was overvalued in the coinage, that would be an immense advantage, as only the bullion and not the coin would be exported. The attempt at a gigantic sacrifice (tens of thousands of millions of dollars) during the last 31 years to give us a currency 'at par all over the world' is one of the most mischievous results aimed at by any legislators in the world. What is wanted is an inexportable currency which by its continual presence will give to the whole body of the people the ability, promptly and vigorously, to associate and combine, to exchange services, commodities and ideas among their several selves. What you and Mr. Walker, the chairman of your committee, would do would be to make enormous sacrifices to the end that the people should wake up one day and find almost the entire basis upon which their power to associate rested fleeing across the Atlantic ocean. This, permit me to say, is not statesmanship. It does not lead to prosperity, to business, to virtue, to civilization, but it leads to the waste of labor power, the most perishable of all commodities, to poverty, to demoralization, to crime and to barbarism.

"If you will once recognize in its full force that great truth enunciated by Carey, that the greatest need of man is that of association with his fellow men, and that money is the instrument of that association, you will then prepare yourself to leave the company of the men who are now driving these people to desperation, and you will join the silver men, who would rescue them from destruction."

HERBERT SPENCER ON FREE LAND.

Given a race of beings having like claims to pursue the objects of their desires, a world into which such beings are similarly born, and it unavoidably follows that they have equal rights to the use of this world. For if each of them has freedom to do all that he wills, provided he infringes not the equal freedom of any other, then each of them is free to use the earth for the satisfaction of his wants, provided he allows all others the same liberty. And conversely it is manifest that no one or part of them may use the earth in such a way as to prevent the rest from similarly using it, seeing that to do this is to assume greater freedom than the rest. Equity does not therefore permit property in land. For if one portion of the earth's surface may justly become the possession of an individual and may be held by him for his sole use and benefit as a thing to which he has an exclusive right, then other portions of the earth may be so held, and eventually the whole of the earth's surface may be so held. Observe now the dilemma to which this leads. Supposing the whole habitable globe to be so inclosed, it follows that if landowners have a valid right to its surface, all who are not landowners have no right at all to its surface and exist only by sufferance. They are all trespassers. Save by the permission of the lords of the soil they can have no room for the soles of their feet.—Herbert Spencer.

Education the Test of Immigration.

The immigration committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives have both reported favorably a bill to restrict immigration according to an educational test. Both bills are quite similar, and the reports unanimous; hence there seems to be a fair prospect of enacting such a measure before the close of the present session. The important clause in each bill provides for the exclusion of "all male persons between 16 and 60 years of age, who cannot read and write the English language or some other language." While the measure is aimed to protect the interests of labor, it specially seeks to prevent the ingress of illiteracy. The attempt to improve the quality of citizenship, or to prevent any accession of population that would lower the present standard, is commendable, and some advantage would be gained by the passage of the bill.

A Dog's Long Tramp.

Monday a little white dog went to the door of John Knapp's house in Lebanon and whined to be let in. The dog was tired, dirty and half famished.

David Dundore opened the door. He is living in the Knapp house now. When he saw the dog he exclaimed: "Bless us, it's Jerry."

"Jerry" was John Knapp's dog. He went to Martinsburg, W. Va., early last month when the Knapp family moved there. It is believed "Jerry" got tired of life in the Panhandle state and footed it home, something over 100 miles. He will be taken care of until he recovers from his long tramp.

It is said that apples will keep for two years when wrapped up in newspapers. Of course a great deal depends on the newspapers used. Now some sheets are so foul that they would pollute and decay fruit in a very few moments.

Porch chairs and hammocks are now being looked up and placed in position for the summer.

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A VISIT to the SICK ROOM



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