

abetted one of the most conspicuous cases of legislative bribery of recent years.

One of the most popular statesmen of the country in a speech a few days since upon a question of high public importance, was driven by party stress, to falsify the deliberate and well considered history which he had written but a few years ago, and yet he suffers no eclipse of party popularity. A Governor of one of the largest States in the Union pays his electioneering expenses out of a share of the profits of a contractor of public works under his control, and a convention of his party re-nominated him.

"A public meeting treated at his cost  
Resolves him back the virtue he had lost."

It was the custom:

A hundred years ago  
If men were knaves to call them so."

The Mugwumps believe it would be good policy to revive the old custom, but they find it very difficult to bring other people to the same way of thinking. The next generation will agree with them.

They must upward still, and onward, who would keep  
Abreast of truth;  
Lo before us gleam her camp-fires! We ourselves must  
Pilgrims be,  
Launch our Mayflower, and steer boldly through  
The desperate winter sea,  
Nor attempt the Future's portal with the Past's  
blood-rusted key.

#### ARE WE A CHRISTIAN NATION.

(Prize Oration delivered by A. A. Patterson at the Junior  
Oratorical Contest.)

We look at Russia, with her millions oppressed and suffering, and call her a despotism, and why? Because the vital forces in her existence are tyranny and absolutism. We look at Switzerland with her happy people secure in their liberties and we call her a republic, and why? Because she was rescued from oppression and born anew into freedom.

We look at the United States and call her a Christian nation, and why? Because she was born a Christian nation, and the principles of Christianity by which she was surrounded at her birth, have been protected by Christian institutions which have preserved them, and make them vital and active to-day.

The Pilgrim Fathers fleeing from religious persecution, founded the Puritan colony in the North; Lord Baltimore and his Roman Catholic bretheren founded their refuge side by side with the French Huguenots in the South. Between them, the Quakers persecuted alike by Puritans and Papists found their resting place, and laid there the corner-stone of a mighty commonwealth. Tho' differing in their creeds, these colonies each founded by men fleeing from the terrors of religious persecution, were bound in the principles of religious toleration and freedom of conscience. Separated from their oppressors by 3000 miles of water, no mandate of Prince or Pope had any terror for them, and their religious liberties were secure. Freedom in religion however, did not mean civil liberty. A century of oppression and taxation without representation served to sever the tie that bound them to England. Political independence was secured, but there was no nation. The necessity of a closer union was felt, a stronger chain than the articles of Confederation must be forged, a chain to bind them inseparably together. The mighty minds of the colonies about to be formed into a new nation were assembled to frame the instrument that should place them among the powers of the earth. They meet face to face with the never-dying, all troublesome question of Church and State. Full well they know the evils of State religion, they appreciate fully the terrors of religious oppression, they know what freedom of conscience means, they recognize that to be morally free is man's inalienable right. In the face of these facts then, it is absolutely impossible for them to incorporate into the Con-