

without earnestness his preaching is not likely to lead to much result.

This is true, and yet how can it be avoided by anyone left entirely to his own fallible judgment as to the truths he proclaims? How can a preacher help being "loosed about," according to the winds and currents that obtain, as long as he has no other guide than "reason," or the facts that reason slowly discovers, and the conclusions drawn from these facts, modified from time to time by new discoveries or alleged discoveries? The certainty with which ancient heralds of the truth appeared was based on knowledge obtained from a higher source. Only by standing on the ground where they stood can modern theology escape the errors of both heterodoxy and "neodoxy."

A FREE BALLOT WANTED.

What every patriotic citizen of the United States should desire this year in preference to almost any other political consideration, is the free and untrammelled vote of the American people. Neither the press nor the politicians are able to befog or disguise the issues which squarely confront the great parties in the nation. For once in our history, no particular attempt has been made as yet in this campaign to evade or deny the main propositions on which the respective candidates for the presidency stand before the country. Of course there is the usual distortion as to results and as to the intentions of the candidates; but on the whole it is conceded by both managers and followers that Mr. McKinley's success means the victory of the gold forces in the nation, while Mr. Bryan's success means the triumph of the bimetallic cause and the complete restoration of silver so far as the same can be accomplished by the man at the head of the nation's administrative affairs.

The issue being thus well-defined, it ought to be desired on all sides that a free vote of the whole people be recorded on the question. If majorities should rule, every patriot ought to desire the removal of all coercion that would interfere with the ascertaining of the real desires of the majority. Each side appears sanguine that it possesses an abundant majority; then why not leave it to the people, without any threats or interference beyond the use of legitimate persuasion or argument?

Unfortunately there is plenty of evidence that on neither side is there any intention of settling the matter in so simple and decisive a manner. Large corporations both east and west are quite as bold as ever in the attempt to influence the vote of their employees. They do not exactly butt heads with the individual voter and tell him what ticket he must support, but their methods are just as effective when they say that in their judgment the success of a certain ticket is necessary to the welfare of their business, and that every employee is expected to look at the matter as they do, on pain of being discharged personally or thrown out of work by the shutting down of the business. Naturally this affects

the voter in a most vulnerable point; and while it may not come within the prohibited degree of intimidation, it is nevertheless subversive to a great extent of the free voice of the people on the questions at stake.

The people, however, are becoming restive and impatient of bosses—whether political or industrial—when the latter assume to exert over them anything more than the proper degree of control. Many Democrats in the East this year will vote for Republicans; many Republicans in the West will vote for Democrats—and in this way will the dominion of the party bosses be desperately wounded. The unrest among the masses is such that they will be reluctant to yield to the temporary but hitherto invincible influence of campaign money—and thus will the power of the capitalistic as well as the industrial bosses be shattered. We believe that many thousands will vote out of despair for a cause which even if successful will only bring them disappointment, and that many thousands more will vote for a mistaken remedy. But if all of them vote as their own inclinations and preferences suggest, the true remedy will be more quickly reached and the sad disappointment more speedily recovered from.

The need of the hour, both by way of comfort to American patriots of every section and station, and to the world as fresh evidence of the independence and stability of a government of, by and for the people, is that the century be closed with an absolutely free and unrestrained poll of the nation on the great question at issue. The administration should be the first to remove every threat of coercion from its large office-holding family. Silver mine owners or silver newspapers should follow the same course. Railroads controlled by Wall street, as well as those run in the mining interest; factories on the eastern coast as well as in the mountains; extensive employers of labor in the valleys, on the plains, in the coal mines, on the farms, in the great centers of population and commerce, on the lakes, rivers and high seas,—all ought to desire that the result this year should truly represent the popular will. The masses themselves have a right to speak, and they should speak. They have a right to ask, and we hope they will ask, that so far as relates to attempts to intimidate, threaten, enforce or improperly influence their ballots, the best and worthiest elements of all the parties unite in the command to the would-be bosses, "Hands off!"

A EUROPEAN POINT OF VIEW.

The development of the United States is followed with the keenest interest in the Old World, and the subject invariably causes profound reflections to the minds of statesmen and leading men generally. Not long ago the *Hamburger Nachrichten*, Prince Bismarck's paper, in a leading editorial called attention to the supposed danger threatening Europe from a united America, and suggested a united Europe as the only shield against pan-Americanism. The article contains thoughts and suggestions

particularly interesting because reflecting, probably, the views of Germany's greatest statesman, or of those more intimately acquainted with his political creed.

The danger mentioned, the *Nachrichten* says, should be pointed out now, when there is every probability that a party unfriendly to Europe will assume control in the coming Presidential election. For years, the paper continues, the development of the idea of unity in America has caused irreparable damage to declining Europe. It looks as if it were the destiny of Europe to lose its life-power after having fulfilled its mission, just as some organisms in nature die after fecundation. Barely a century ago Europe created the United States in a desert, and this country has already destroyed the traditional order of things. America first made the necessities or life an international article of trade, whereby the cost of living in Europe was reduced, but at the same time the value of farming land was depressed and the agrarian movement as a matter of necessity started; the silver production of the United States has reached such proportions as to disturb the financial systems of the world.

The German paper then gives a brief sketch of the influence of the United States on the industries of the Old world. European export, it says, has decreased in proportion to the increase of American export. The continent at one time found in England a profitable market for nearly all raw material, but in 1875 or thereabouts American competition appeared with so much success that in 1880 the greatest part of the food products imported to Great Britain came from the United States; from this moment the European continent had lost its best market. India, Australia and Russia also rose to prominence, and prices fell; Europe was flooded with food products. A policy of protection was the natural result.

It is further pointed out that Europe before long must lose Central and South America as markets for European products, and that the United States naturally will absorb that part of the globe. But a war with Europe is thought to be inevitable first. Bismarck's paper says:

He who speaks thus [referring to the Monroe doctrine] must feel that he has power to take up arms against the great powers of Europe. Whether the United States can do this may be doubted; for such a war could not be decided with fleets or Alabama cruisers, and the dollar, now threatening a revolution in Spain, is not almighty. The United States in a war with Europe would have enough to do to cover its coasts, and since the West Indian Archipelago, the Mexican gulf and the Panama isthmus would be in the hands of the enemies, these would be strategically in the most favored position. This is also the main reason why Americans support the rebellion in Cuba and desire to purchase the Danish Antilles.

The European discord, it is further urged, cannot be permanent. A time will come when Europe will unite in an effort to prevent the United States from taking possession of Central and South American markets. When England assisted Spanish and Portuguese colonies to overthrow the Spanish system of prohibition, it was done in order to secure