

as relate to revenue and expenditure will receive their first and closest study; and if there should be provisions for extravagant taxation, excessive bonding, unlimited borrowing, multiplied officers and increased salaries, the whole Constitution will be defeated at the polls just as sure as the sun shines—and it ought to be.

Out of the 107 men who will compose the constitutional convention next March, a good many who are already named and who will probably be elected are personally known to the News. Some of them possess excellent capacity for the responsible duties before them; some are passably good; and some, who will have to be regarded as hopelessly unfit, are only a small source of concern because they are few and will be unimportant. It is truly to be hoped that wisdom will prevail, that the advice of sound, experienced and conservative men will be heeded, and that those who do not know much about the business before them will at least know enough to listen to the counsel and follow the example of their intellectual superiors. For ourselves, we do not mind saying we care not what the composition of or how small the coterie that takes the lead and assumes the dictation in the important work on hand, provided the ruling motive is devotion to the people's interests and to the welfare, justice and patriotism of the proposed State. And we shall have much more respect for the intelligence and independence of the convention as a whole if its members shall be content to follow wise leadership and work in harmonious unity in the preparation of a broad, plain, strong charter, than if, in following his own whim and riding his own pet hobby, each fantastic theorist and politician shall contribute a patch to a constitutional crazy quilt of which the whole lot of us will be ashamed.

#### THE LEXOW COMMITTEE'S WORK.

The moral rottenness of the "finest police force in the world" has been exposed in its loathsome details during the past few weeks before the Lexow investigating committee in New York, and the work of unweaving is still going on. The brutal character of many of the men to whom is entrusted the duty of preserving and representing law and order in the great metropolis was shown in the fact that a whole army of those officers were arraigned for assault upon peaceful citizens. They seem to have used their clubs merely for the pleasure it gave them, and were kept on the force, notwithstanding the complaints made against them from time to time. Besides this, a regular system of bribe-taking is shown to have been in vogue. Persons carrying on legitimate business had to share the profits with the police in order to avoid being harassed in various ways, and owners of places of infamy of various kinds escaped prosecution by paying the police regular contributions. The money thus obtained was divided between the men and some of their superiors. Every day during the remarkable hearing new discoveries of a shocking nature have been brought to light.

Probably the most sensational yet is the announcement by the New York

World, on what that paper considers good authority, that those interested in the continuation of the corruption have actually gone to the length of offering Mr. John Goff, counsel for the Lexow committee, large sums of money for withdrawing from the case. The story goes that that able prosecutor was approached by a high Tammany official and offered \$30,000 to give up the investigation. Later, when it became evident that the searchlight was to be thrown upon the stage even behind the police department and higher up, he was, according to the report, offered \$300,000. Both offers were indignantly refused. At last he was given to understand that if he would accept the nomination for mayor of New York, he would be endorsed by Tammany hall. Again he refused and resolved, it is said, to add his testimony to that of the others. Interviewed on the subject, Mr. Goff refused to talk for publication, a fact in itself rather suspicious; for if he had not been approached at all with such offers, the most natural course would have been to deny the rumor. But an intimate friend of Mr. Goff did not hesitate to say that the World would not be much mistaken in publishing the information.

It is humiliating enough to contemplate a case of total depravity in any public servant in whom the people, by virtue of their own majesty, have placed confidence. But it is worse still, that such indescribable corruption and deception as are referred to are part of a machinery by which a whole community is being manipulated against its own moral interests. If such things are possible in one of the largest cities of the world, the metropolis of this country, once the God-given refuge of men and women who fled from the corruption of the Old World, it is time to pause and consider a remedy which shall be adequate to the purifying the body politic from head to foot.

The struggle of Dr. Parkhurst against the iniquities of New York concerns the whole Republic, and the final outcome of it will be watched with the greatest interest. The real question is whether the institutions of this country can be used with impunity for the furtherance of selfishness, greed and vice, or whether individuals, who thus lay unholy hands on the sacred ark of liberty, will not at last be smitten as was Uzzah at the threshing floor of Nachen.

#### AN OLD PLAGUE HERE AGAIN.

The beholder of spooks and the imaginer of vain things is going up and down the earth wailing about strange influences, subtle suggestions, and mysterious nods, winks and signs being introduced into Utah politics. This epidemic recurs with more or less regularity just prior to every election; while not as frequent as the "shakes and fever," it is infinitely more serious, for it is an affection of the mind rather than of the body. Physicians are by no means agreed as to the best treatment for a patient thus taken, but on general principles it is advised that a strong mental tonic be administered, the habit of looking straight at tangible things be encouraged, and the mouth be ordered closed

at least long enough to give the larynx a rest. As there is doubtless some force in the theory of "taking a part to strengthen a part," a conservative diet of gnats' or sheep's or other delicate and fine-textured brains is earnestly to be recommended.

Two or three bright intellects whose hallucinations are beginning grievously to distress their friends are in need of immediate treatment; they should be seen to without delay. The symptoms already detected are a mortal fear of and a wandering imbecility concerning certain "insidious, secret, insinuating influences" that are getting in their political work. The poor victim hears "whispers behind the scenes;" he sees specters of somebody or something in "authority;" in his ecstasy of terror he shrieks for the open exhibition of the ghosts he flees from, and straightway he rushes to the nearest newspaper to exhibit his own sad lunacy. He jibbers about the "simple-minded and the unreflecting," about cowardice and falsehood; and in the next breath he shudders before "old weapons re-sharpened" and dreadful "tactics two years" old.

The disease, of which these are sure evidences, for want of a better name may be called *politicum tremens*. A fortune awaits the man who can discover a permanent cure for it; for while it is in some degree contagious, the chief danger lies in the fact that it is not only fatal to the usefulness of him whom it touches, but that the very whimsicalities that his ailment develops make everybody sick who comes near him.

#### IMPENDING CHANGE THERE, TOO.

The dispatches bring news that an imperial rescript has been issued convoking the Japanese parliament in extra session at Hiroshima to discuss such matters connected with the war as require parliamentary action. As the special privileges granted by the mikado to parliament when the constitution was established were the full control of finances and of the administration of justice, it may be surmised that the expense incurred in the war is the chief item under consideration.

There is also in the dispatch a suggestion that a new member is to be added to the cabinet in order to satisfy the opposition. In this proposed movement may be observed the aggressive advance of what is known as the progressive party in Japan. It is only a little over five years since the mikado, who formerly was an absolute monarch, decided to give to his subjects a parliamentary form of government; and in doing this he moved with extreme caution. He saw the tendency which arose in his country through contact with western civilization, and in order to be in harmony with conditions and not endanger his throne, which it was feared would be rendered insecure if the absolute monarchy were continued, the constitution was promulgated. It reserved plenary executive authority, however, in the emperor himself; and through his cabinet ministers and privy council, who are responsible only to him, he aimed to retain absolute control over administrative matters generally.

The concessions made by the