

himself after various struggles. The country flourished under his rule, as did Russia under Czar Peter, England under Cromwell and France under Napoleon Bonaparte.

After many years of despotism democracy was again established. And with democracy the old party feuds seemed to be revived. However, through the action of Cleisthenes, who redistricted the people, the feuds were swept away, and democracy, the work commenced by Solon, was completed.

Dangers from the outside now threatened the State. Persia, stirred to war by expelled politicians, threw her tremendous forces against Greece and especially against Athens. At this critical moment the aristocracy again came to the front and, when everybody was trembling in fear, by their noble and decisive actions saved the country. Democracy gave way, to a certain extent, out of pure gratitude, and the Areopagus became again the most important body of the State. It was, however, only temporary. The old regime was once more established and remained so until the time of Pericles. Aristotle says: "So long as Pericles was the leader of the people, all went well in public affairs; but when he was dead there was great deterioration. Then for the first time did the people take for their leader a man of no repute among the better classes; up to that date there were always men of position at the head of the popular party." The deterioration consisted in the fact that demagogues instead of men of merit were elected for offices. Cleon, the successor of Pericles is described as a man with no principle and little statesmanlike ability. But he was gifted with "tact to catch the ear of the people and to beguile them with a specious policy." And this Cleon was only the first of a series of such worthless officials. The great chronicler says: "The men who obtained the leadership of the people were those who would boast the loudest and who were the most profuse in promise to the populace, with their eyes only on the interests of the moment."

With such men at the head of affairs the catastrophe was unavoidable. The people embarked in a rash undertaking, a war which ended in disaster. The nation became exhausted. Her fleet was destroyed and her glory was gone.

What an instructive lesson to nations in all ages is offered by this modern disclosure of the history of ancient Athens.

Carl Hagman, the tenor singer, is studying vocal music in Moskwa.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES.

THE New York *World* is throwing its great influence in the direction of an air garden for that city. It devotes over half a page of a recent issue to this purpose, and inserts a blank petition to be filled out and returned, asking the Legislature to pass the bill providing for the garden.

Of course the measure meets with opposition—nearly everything of a public nature does—but it looks as though the newspaper was destined to prevail in the end. "We have too few breathing places in this city for the poor," says the *World*, "and we should lose no opportunity of embracing every available space. Whenever a project is brought forward for the benefit of the working classes there is sure to be some flimsy opposition, and this time they are afraid it will degenerate into a beer garden. The argument is worthless as the bill provides against that. We don't want beer gardens, but we do want places where the poor can go and get a few moments' fresh air." This seems not only proper but imperative.

It is noteworthy in this connection that all large and growing cities have within them an element whose native sense of justice to all classes and public-spiritedness prompt them to look beyond the mere matter of personal gain and do something for the welfare of those who are not, perhaps, as fortunate as themselves, especially when the boom sought is as beneficial to all classes as to any one class. It is also a fact that these men are always encountering an element of opposition, just as in the New York case, and curiously enough such opposition, in almost every instance, is backed by money and upheld by such influence as too often makes it prevail. As to the majority, they are generally in the right on such propositions; but members too often prove themselves in the presence of wealth and unscrupulousness.

No city has any too much public ground. It is not to be desired that art, handicraft, mechanism and dust shall be the people's only portion; they need and must have places within the municipal limits where, in moments of leisure, they can retire, get a few draughts of fresh air and commune with nature in its freest estate. But when it is proposed to utilize a square or part of one in this way, the antagonism invariably begins. And at no time does it show itself with greater violence or determination than when it seeks to grasp the kind of property referred to for mere personal ends, and convert what little may

be left of the public domain within the corporate limits into marts, shops, railway tracks and what not. In such cases a well-disposed, capable and fearless press proves more than ever what a valuable adjunct it is to the community.

It is not to be presumed, however, that the press, no matter how powerful, persistent and determined, could accomplish everything desired without the active co-operation of the better classes of the community. Happily, this conjunction is rarely wanting. In our own city the response of the people to the scheme to deprive them of what is destined to be a needed breathing place was neither slow nor uncertain; on the contrary, it came with a spontaneity which showed that "business was meant."

Our New York cotemporary publishes a series of interviews with leading citizens, exhibiting a similar state of feeling there, notwithstanding the obstructionists, and the chances seem to be that the coveted air garden will be supplied.

PARTY DISTINCTIONS.

It appears that in the opinion of many persons in this city, it is deemed ignorance of national politics not to be able to explain the fine distinctions between a Democrat and a Republican from a party point of view. Is this correct?

Go to Chicago, and ask the Director-General of the Fair Commission what is the difference. He has served a term or two in Congress as a Republican, he was elected treasurer of Cook County on that ticket, he is looked upon as one of the most orthodox of the Republican party, and yet there are large sections which do not recognize him as a party man.

The Chicago *Tribune*, one of the oldest Republican papers in the country, is denounced by numbers of papers and politicians as of no party. When Cleveland was in the President's chair, he was denounced by many good Democrats, as of no party. And really, that is what gives lustre to his Administration, that it was conducted almost entirely on national principles outside of party lines. What caused the break of the Mugwumps? Simply, the desire to free themselves from party trammels. The farmers of Kansas and of North Carolina have been educated in party politics. For generations they have had no religion but party. On the strictest lines they voted. Are they any the better for it? Are they more intelligent than the farmers in Utah on political issues. Read their platforms, study their proceedings and