

of property to be under the direction of court; a severe penalty is imposed for those who engage professionally in the divorce business.

Such a law would be of great importance in fixing the legal status of parties to divorce proceedings in the various states, so there would be no conflict as now; it would also prevent many snap-judgment divorces. In these regards it would be an advantage over the chaotic proceedings of the present. But as to its social effect, there is hardly enough of that to call for consideration. It is not even intended to check the divorce business as a rule, the purpose being only for uniformity. As a legal proposition it seems all right to that extent. But those who have urged uniformity in divorce laws as a matter of social reform will find none of the latter in this, if, indeed, they can in legislation at all. The divorce evil of itself is a symptom of the moral disintegration that is going on, and which will require a force deeper than any superior to statutes to check it. That force exists only in the practical application of religious principles.

THE COMING ELECTIONS.

Interest in the fall elections is beginning to be quite active, foreshadowing that prior to the coming of the idea of November matters political will have attained to the condition of a regular ferment. In Utah we are narrowed down to merely municipal contests, which properly have no political issues to be settled, despite the struggles of a certain interested class to make it appear otherwise; but in some of the older states the regular old-fashioned party fight is on. The greatest interest is centered in Ohio and Iowa, where a repetition of the struggle of last year, so far as leading issues are concerned, has been inaugurated and is growing to intensity day by day. In both states the Democrats are squarely for independent free silver coinage and the Republicans are squarely against it except by international agreement; and, while there are numerous local and "side" issues, this one alone is the cynosure, raising as it does a national question, and thus placing the contest somewhat above and beyond the regulation State election.

In Ohio, as elsewhere, the Democrats and Republicans are both somewhat affected by a scabim, the latter apparently to a greater extent than the former, for obvious reasons, it all being over the financial question. There are undoubtedly more Republicans who are for silver than Democrats who are for gold, and this has a tendency to even matters up somewhat as compared with last year's result; and if the Populists were solidly with the Democrats, as was expected would be the case, the Republicans would have a fight against heavy odds on their hands. This, however, is not the case. The Populists have a straight ticket of their own headed by the inextinguishable "General" J. S. Coxey, and the magnitude of his vote may mean a great deal—in the other, scarcely to himself. It is claimed by many,

among them prominent members of the People's party, that his vote will be so small that little could exist between it and a blank, but this remains to be seen.

Iowa, like the hen that was set on two dozen eggs, is spreading herself this year, having five complete tickets in the field. The first one to be nominated was a combination, known as the fusion, which was selected on the 23rd of June and is composed of two Democrats, two Silver Republicans and one Populist, a Democrat being placed at the head. The platform was that of the Democratic convention held in Chicago in 1896, so far as the financial question is concerned. The gold Democrats held their convention July 7th and put a full list of candidates in nomination, the platform being an endorsement of the one adopted at Indianapolis when Palmer and Buckner were nominated. Then came the Prohibitionists with a convention held July 28th, at which a complete ticket was named, the party occupying the same ground it did in 1896. The Republicans placed their ticket before the people on the 13th inst. and the tariff and financial questions were dismissed with the declaration that the Republicans of Iowa "declare for protection and honest money." They were followed by the Populists on August 19th, a straight ticket being put up and the Omaha platform endorsed.

In the Iowa election of 1895 the Democratic candidate for governor received 149,433 votes against 208,689 for the Republican and 32,118 for the Populist nominee, an enormous plurality and a considerable majority, which are tolerably certain to be cut down this year, though to what extent is the question. Last year the gold Democrats, Prohibitionists, Socialists and Nationalists pulled a vote which united amounted to less than two per cent of the whole, and in view of the overwhelming interest centering in the struggle between the two leading parties because of the national issue involved, it is not probable that other parties will make a heavy showing this time.

ALAS! FOR SILVER.

Japan will formally adopt the gold standard in October. An enormous pressure is being brought to bear upon China to have her do likewise, and if the efforts of the Sound Money League of New York to have Col. F. D. Grant appointed as minister to that country shall be successful, it is not at all improbable that the celestial empire will yield ultimately, if not very soon. This would leave only the South American republics as supporters of the white metal as basic money. The outlook is far from flattering to those who still refuse to join the procession of gold standard advocates, and who still adhere to the doctrine that silver is as imperial a metal in all things save venality as its all-along associate of ruddy hue.

The work of demonetization has been conducted with insidiousness and persistence which in a more meritorious cause might be commendable. Where it has been impossible to place

the seal of dishonor upon the white and delightful offspring of Mother Earth by direct and open-handed methods—as in the United States—indirectness and trickery have been resorted to. One by one have the nations of the earth adopted the standard set by Great Britain until at least none who control there can very nearly dictate terms to suit themselves. The hardest part of the work was accomplished and all things necessary for a completely successful outcome of the conspiracy sooner or later gained when this country was brought into the combination. As previously suggested, this could not have been accomplished by legitimate methods any more than if the victim proposed had been gold instead of silver. But it was accomplished, and that was all that was desired; thereafter the debased metal might fluctuate and flurry, its advocates labor, contrive and win an occasional vantage ground, but the inevitable trend must be downward. It would be gratifying to the advocates of bimetalism to know that the nether movement had reached the lowest point and that silver would still be available for table ware, coffin trimmings and such like, but they have no such assurance. On the contrary, the evidence is that white currency must take the place which copper once occupied and be used only for purposes of change in very limited amounts; if it can be brought to or a little below fifty and kept there this plan can be accomplished. At such prices of course the metal cannot be mined profitably except where it exists in unusually great quantities or is associated with some other metal more popular. Silver would, in short, under such circumstances, be an absolutely debased metal which the very rich would not use for even articles of utility because of its being so common, and the very poor could not afford because the expense of its production being added to the cost of manufacture would still amount to considerable as relates to them.

What will the harvest be? No one can tell. We have all seen how easy a thing it is to roll a barrel down hill; you have only to start it and it will thereafter proceed and gain speed through its own momentum—but getting it up again is a vastly different proposition. So it may prove to be in the case of silver. Having reached the bottom, the chances favor its remaining there indefinitely. However, it is as well to wait and see, especially in view of the fact that we have to wait anyway.

A ROBBERING of Mormon Elders is reported from South Carolina. As the alleged victims of the whitecappers have made no report, such as they are in duty bound to do to their presiding elders, if such a thing occurs, it is not likely that anything of the kind repeats has happened. Utah people will recall that this is the season for a crop of "fake" outrages in the press reports from the Southern States, it being "revival time" down there.

A poor peoman and a poor speller make a sorry combination for the poor printer.