

[COMMUNICATED.]

NOW FOR BETTER ACTION.

It is always a matter of congratulation to progressive minds when the press voices a righteous cause, when it calmly looks upon caviling criticism as a passing cloud which in no way supersedes the sun or prevents the final shining forth of any sterling principle of faith.

The attitude of the "News" on the late contest as to the true basis of local rule, was a case in point, and all observers must see the difference between the calm, dignified presentation of its position in comparison with the attitude of its opponents.

The object now is to belittle the movement and its results before the public, but when it is realized that all the odds were against anything approaching a sweeping change, every admission yet made proves that the opposition sees that it was a victory indeed.

Politics will have less to do with the government of this city than for some time past, and even the so-called political element in the City Council will be put upon its good behavior, for the vigilance of the Reform party will assuredly see that its aim and object are not lost sight of in verbiage or overthrown by acts.

The entering wedge is as satisfactory to those who drove it as can be, and if only partially a success at present even the politicians may yet confess that an extension of independent or people's rule is an advantage beyond anything the old parties could possibly institute.

A truce however to moralizing or to comment on the situation. The people as a whole will scan as never before their servants, and it will be known which can be most fully relied on for absolute or final deliverance from the present undesirable and irritating conditions. At the same time public anticipation will have to moderate its demands, inasmuch as the evil growth of many years cannot be overcome in a few brief years; much hard work and deep consideration will be required to preserve the city from repudiation and the placing of its financial and moral status on an independent and self-sustaining basis.

The victory is yet barren (so to speak), the real battle is yet to be fought; conservatism, economy, retrenchment are as imperative, nay, more so than on the day of election, and unity among the members-elect will be as indispensable as is the sun to verdure in the season thereof.

Let there be no acrimony between the defeated and the successful; the citizens—the real citizens—are jealous of the reputation of their beloved city; the founders thereof with saddened hearts have looked upon its surrender to elements entirely foreign to their patriotic dreams and thoughts; the penalty which has been and is now being paid for departure from a cherished ideal is enough to secure a pause; and if really needed, a revolution through the ballot, in order that all the forces of prudence, wisdom and determination may make for this municipality all that prestige for order, cleanliness, good regulation and quiet non-spasmodic progress, which is the spirit and aim of the best men and women everywhere.

If partisanship should ever be needed again, let it be as to who or which can best subserve the interests of the whole, whether in regard to water service, lighting, transit, the fostering of projects for employing the population, the taking care of the poor, and increasing the number of citizens who make this their home, so they can lay the foundation for family, social and true religious life, to the suppression,

if possible, of every thing contrary to a high and lofty morality, to purity and virtue, to peace and quietude, to unity of intent and lasting love for the reputation of their adopted city.

Marvellous effort has been made for the education of the present and yet to come of our increasing children. Preserve this effort from alliance with politics in any way whatever. Keep this sacred from any such control; let all the influences and appliances of education be strict, honest and beyond all taint of suspicion in every respect; give local ability the preference when this can be done without impairing or preventing the desired efficiency, and restrain the tendency to lavish expenditure for either buildings, or teachers. Economy is the watchword of today, and true education rests upon a false foundation if it is presented to a pupil from a standpoint which fails to take cognizance of all environment circumstances and conditions; it surely is not too much to say that even a very desirable thing can be purchased at too great a sacrifice and so defeat itself.

These institutions are sustained by general taxation, the poor equally with the rich are interested; both are prepared to favor this drift. But when so large a percentage of the revenue is absorbed in one direction, there are those who think that a little mania is enough, and that professional exactions should be scrutinized as is done with paving, lighting or water.

This is in no sense deprecatory of education, in no sense opposed to the increase of true intelligence. It is not good to inflict excessive burdens upon a willing yet weary community, and the protest of today is so far-reaching that all expenditure becomes amenable to both criticism and correction.

These are local issues on which we can afford to linger in discussion. They are more important than silver or tariff, than politics or political parties. They are home questions, and the people suspect those who make unreachable topics the burdens and claim for action, when there are at their very door things and conditions which can be remedied and improved, if "dust is not thrown into the eyes" of the interested people by demagogues, office-seekers, and parties professionally interested or otherwise in any special change.

CONGRESS OF HEBREWS

The readers of the "News" are aware that in the latter part of August a conference of Jews were held at Basel, Switzerland, for the purpose of discussing the question of a national organization among that scattered people and the colonization of Palestine. Hebrew journals in this country were, from the time the invitation to the congress was sent out, disposed to treat the matter as a Utopian dream not worthy of serious consideration. There was only one representative from the United States, Dr. Schaffer of Baltimore, but Russia, Austria and other European countries were well represented, there being in all 204 delegates present.

Dr. Schaffer's account of the proceedings of this most important gathering is the first detailed information on the subject brought to this country. To a representative of the New York Sun he said:

"It is, perhaps, easier to explain the object of the congress in the words of our vice-president, Dr. Max Nordau, than in any other way. Addressing the congress on the first day he said: 'There exists in every part of the world a specific condition of Jewish disaster. In the countries of Europe the Jews, in great part, are suffering from the oppression of potentates.

In other countries they suffer from the mockery and ridicule of the anti-Semites. There is no friend to the Jews to rise up and protest against the cruelty and ridicule to which our race is subjected. We are friendless among the races of the world, and that fact leaves us but one course. We must stand together and help each other by all legal and loyal means. It is the prevailing sentiment of the race, I believe, that the best course to be pursued is to colonize Palestine, so that those who have been driven from their homes by the cruelty and persecution of tyrannical rulers can find there the land to build houses on and the implements with which to till the soil. It is to start this work well on its way that you delegates have been called from every corner of the globe to assemble here in convention.'

"The colonization of Palestine is no new thing, as you probably know, but the present advanced condition of the work is not appreciated at all in America or England. Recent events, continued persecutions in countries like Russia, where millions of Jews are forced to lead lives like dogs in a gutter, have made it wise to push the work as fast as possible. It cannot be accomplished in one year, probably not in two, for there are tremendous prejudices and obstacles that seem almost insurmountable to be overcome. But the Zionists came to one conclusion, the effect of which will be felt all over the civilized world. That was to go ahead steadily from now on never stopping until Palestine is colonized with millions of Jews or it becomes apparent that the consummation of the work is impossible.

"There were 204 delegates from all parts of the world at the congress. Russia had the largest representation, sixty delegates being present from that country. There were thirty from Austria, and ten or fifteen from each of the other European countries. The Russian delegates came to Basel very quietly and as tourists. They could not come as representatives from Jewish organizations in Russia, because our race is not allowed to organize in that country. It would be scarcely wise for them to publish their intentions of going to Switzerland, so they came as ordinary travelers to Basel and took their seats in the congress without any announcement. There were three delegates from England and myself from America. The Rev. Adam Rosenberg, formerly a rabbi in this city, but for the last two years a worker in Palestine, was also a delegate and a representative of America, but I was the only delegate to go direct from this country to the congress.

"I must say that rarely has a body of men so distinguished in letters and the sciences been brought together in Europe. The delegates were men high up in the various walks of life. men of intelligence and courage, who can scarcely fail in the work they have undertaken. There were professors, doctors of medicine, lawyers, engineers, clergymen and men of literature, all met together for one purpose, the rescuing of the race from the oppression it has suffered for so many years.

"The reason for the small representation from England and America is the satisfaction of the Jews in these countries with their present condition. They are in sympathy with the Zionist movement, however, as the sending of their delegates indicate.

"Of course the money necessary for the colonization of Palestine, how to get it, and the best means of using it after it is raised, were among the important questions taken up by the congress. It will take nearly \$100,000,000 to carry out the work, and the money is to be raised from the Jews them-