

to discern between what is false and what is true in that which she now without discrimination condemns.

### MAKE WAR ON THE BOSSES.

Money rule and boss rule in politics received a smashing defeat in the election contests of last week, and the occurrence renews many symptoms of joy and health in the body politic throughout the nation at large. The only thing to be desired is that the same fate is in store for, and may be meted out to, every money ruler and boss in the politics of states which this year did not have elections or in which the necessary rebuke could not be administered.

The country is sick politically, and in its various chills and retchings it may occasionally vent displeasure upon real friends who come with offers of help in its distress. But patients are always curiously misnamed, in that they are not patient at all, but the most petulant of mankind. Such a reception, however, does not anger or estrange true friends; and those who possess a tried and certain cure are content to let the medicine work out its effects in its own time. Those who, on the other hand, administer nauseous nostrums with no purpose save expediency or chance, and who play the quack generally, cannot afford the delay which the disorder needs for its eradication; they force the sufferer into extremities of disgust or death, either of which results in time is disastrous to their own hopes and record.

If the people of the United States properly feel the relief that has come through spewing out a few of the state bosses, and will make the cure complete by spewing out the rest of them next fall—town and county bosses going with the rest—the republic in all its departments will be revived for a cleaner, healthier and more gratifying growth than it has known for years. Leaders there must be, but not leaders by reason of wealth used in improper ways, or of domination of unworthy elements or influences. In a word, the boss as a political institution ought to go. He is an excrescence to be treated heroically, to be cut out and destroyed. His influence is a menace to honesty, a mine beneath patriotism, a dangerous element in the affairs of the state. Regardless of name or party, past performances or future promises, when he assumes the odious character of boss he invites the enmity of all good citizens, of every creed and description, and only to the extent that he receives what he merits is there hope for the perpetuity and integrity of American institutions.

### POTATOES IN POLITICS.

The professional ticket fixers of the country, and the newspapers for whose dancing they furnish the piping, have sought to have a great deal of amusement with Mayor Pingree of Detroit, who was practical enough to devote some attention to the raising of potatoes for the poor of his city. He has been called "Peachblow" Pingree, "Small-Potatoes-and-Not-Many-in-a-

Hill," and various other names of flippant and insulting suggestiveness. There has been no attempt to deny that he showed himself a genuine benefactor to the needy by his potato scheme; that in obtaining the use of vacant lots and having them well cultivated by unemployed and deserving people, he succeeded in securing a large crop of this staple article of food, and good potatoes, too; that when the hostile newspapers of his city refused to publish his communications and orders, he reached the masses of the people quite effectively by using the billboards and the dead walls and fences; and that through all this unusual and eccentric program he has won a place in the hearts of his people from which neither ridicule nor more tangible attack can shake him. For the fourth consecutive time his fellow-citizens have honored him with triumphant election to the mayoralty—a rare tribute to his popularity in these days of swift political changes and dizzy ups and downs.

The incident gives force and emphasis to the view that eccentricity in a public official is not always a bad thing, and that as between what is called peanut politics and potato politics there is a wide and ominous gulf. Among public servants throughout the land there are not enough Pingrees, just as, among the poor people of our larger cities, there are not enough potatoes.

### CUBA'S WAR OF INDEPENDENCE.

The latest news from Cuba—from rebel sources presumably—state that the insurrection has assumed so formidable proportions as to give reasonable ground for the expectation that a crisis is at hand. The patriots are moving, it seems, from four different directions upon the city of Santa Clara, and they levy tributes as they advance upon the supporters of the government, thus obtaining a better supply of funds than the Spaniards. The government troops seem to be unable to prevent this procedure as to keep insurgent expeditions from landing on the island.

From the province of Matanzas, equally important advices come, and a combined attack is daily expected upon the principal cities of Santiago de Cuba, where the insurgent army five or six thousand men.

That the situation is considered more serious at present than at any time previous may be concluded from the fact that Captain General Campos in a letter to Minister Ultramar urges that autonomy be granted to Cuba. He says: "I urge that autonomy be granted to the island, believing this to be the only means of ending the struggle without the loss of many lives and a waste of the immense wealth of the island."

The captain general was sent to Cuba for the express purpose of suppressing the rebellion, which at first was looked upon as an easy task. His pleading at this date for home rule for Cuba can have no other basis than a conviction slowly arrived at that Spain will be able to hold the island in subjugation no longer. The general virtually admits the failure of his mission. It is interesting in this connection to

notice the alleged ground on which he urges concessions to Cuba. He says that in his opinion if the war in Cuba is not brought to a speedy termination by granting home rule, the United States will surely give aid to the insurgents and espouse their cause sooner or later. And it is still more interesting that even in Madrid the cause of the patriots is being looked upon as beyond the control of the Spanish government, for Minister Ultramar says the question of autonomy is being considered, and then adds: "But we fear the Cubans will not accept it," which undoubtedly is true. Promises of home rule will no longer satisfy the native Cubans who have enlisted in the cause of Maceo and Gomez. They are fighting for independence now, and will accept nothing less, unless defeated.

The argument of the captain general that Spain must grant Cuba home rule in order to prevent the United States from interfering in behalf of the insurgents is one that will not bear the test for a moment. It may be true that there is in this country a great deal of sympathy for the Cubans as for any people heroically struggling against oppression. But so far there is no ground whatever for the unfortunate general's apprehension. He already has had ample time to conquer a whole empire, had he the ability and means at his disposal to do so, and this attempt to throw the blame on any position the United States may assume in the future is not far from puerile. It is plain that he considers Cuba as pretty near lost to Spain, and that he wants to retire with as much grace as the circumstances will allow.

### THE NEW STAR.

The effects of the elections in Utah upon the complexion of the United States Congress are set forth by the Republican San Francisco Chronicle in the subjoined editorial comments:

Utah is to come into the Union as a State, adding another star to the flag and taking rank with states which had an existence when she was only part of what used to be called the "Great American Desert," as though it were a second Sabara. Of course that myth was exploded long ago, the desert having been pushed westward and southward, until all that is left are certain Mojave and Arizona tracts, which are desert only because the water runs the wrong way.

The interesting feature, however, of the admission of Utah is the political one. Utah comes into the Union with a Republican Congressman and two Republican Senators. There is no special need for an extra Republican Congressman, since the complexion of the coming, or Fifty-fourth Congress, is already settled, the Republican majority being so great as to be a source of apprehension to the warmest friends and adherents of the party, but the Senate is a different matter.

The admission of Utah will increase the Senate to ninety members of which the Republicans will have, at the coming session, forty-five, or just one-half. The Democrats, Populists, Independents, Free Coinage Senators, or by whatever name they may be known, can, in the aggregate, only equal the full Republican vote, and it is fair to assume that on purely partisan questions such senators as Stewart and Jones, of Neva-