

Is it conceivable that intelligent men—as the leaders of the Chicago movement undoubtedly are—can lift the flag of secession and anarchy and yet be men of honor and good faith? Or, does the archbishop see the expression “honorable men” in the same sense as Mark Antony applied it to the assassins of Julius Cæsar?

There is no fault to find with the prelate of the Catholic church for voicing his views and sentiments on the issues of the present campaign. As a citizen of the United States his right to do so is indisputable. The fact that he is an eminent theologian may, perhaps, in the minds of many, give to his financial theories less importance than they would have, were he engaged in secular pursuits, but his high standing entitles him to a hearing. When, however, he makes of the political issue a question of morality and even religion, charging his opponents with revolutionary and anarchistic plans, with all that it implies, he removes the dispute from the strictly political circle and seems liable to the suspicion that he aims at throwing his influence not merely as a citizen but as a religious teacher in the balance. This, however, he expressly disclaims, and his own religious associates must, therefore, feel at liberty to examine his statements and the grounds on which they rest and form their own conclusions.

The statement of the archbishop is another proof of the deep hold the present campaign has taken upon all classes of the people. This is, in anything, a good sign. There is less danger of a serious misstep when everybody is aware of the consequences it involves than when the guidance of public affairs rest only with a few.

SEWALL AND WATSON.

The way matters are going now, if Mr. Bryan is elected President of the United States, there is some doubt as to who will be its Vice President, as in the event of the success of the Democratic ticket in its fusion with Populists it is probable that for Vice President no one will get a majority in the electoral college. Democrats and Populists have fused in twenty-six states, the division of electors being as follows, the first column in each instance indicating the Democrat or silver Republican who is expected to vote for Mr. Sewall, and the second figure opposite each state the Populist who will support Mr. Watson:

California.....	5	4	Nebraska.....	4	4
Colorado.....	3	1	New Jersey.....	9	1
Connecticut.....	5	1	North Carolina.....	5	6
Idaho.....	2	1	North Dakota.....	0	3
Illinois.....	20	4	Ohio.....	18	5
Iowa.....	10	3	Oregon.....	0	4
Kansas.....	10	0	Pennsylvania.....	28	4
Kentucky.....	11	2	South Dakota.....	2	2
Louisiana.....	4	4	Utah.....	2	1
Michigan.....	10	4	Washington.....	2	2
Minnesota.....	4	4	West Virginia.....	6	0
Missouri.....	13	4	Wisconsin.....	9	3
Montana.....	2	1	Wyoming.....	2	1

Of course all the states named will not elect the fusion ticket; but of those who will, if there be enough for Mr. Bryan to select him, there also will be sufficient for either of the vice presidential candidates to defeat the election of the other one. The election would then go to the Senate, where

the same condition as that in the electoral college is presented, with this difference: The Senate can go to a compromise candidate on whom Democrats and Populists could agree, dropping both Sewall and Watson. As it is now, neither Republicans, Democrats nor Populists have a majority in the Senate; and there probably are enough gold Democrats to defeat any pronounced free silver candidate as a fusion nominee for the vice presidency.

FLOODS AND EARTHQUAKE.

The record of disaster by disturbance of the elements continues to grow apace. News now comes of a frightful catastrophe in Siberia and in Japan. The telegraph made brief mention of floods in Siberia in August, and of storms and another earthquake in Japan on the last day of that month. Now some details are arriving, which give a faint picture of the calamitous visitations.

In Siberia the plains bordering on the Ussuri were the scene of terrible devastation. The rivers Siphon, Mor, Santa Chasa and Iman were all out and the plain for hundreds of miles was turned into a lake, in some places twenty-six feet deep. The Siberian railway was flooded for 120 versts from Iman, the last station on the road, and in many places washed away, and for some days telegraphic communication with Vladivostok was cut off. The grain crops were being gathered and were stacked in sheaves in the fields, and the winter stock of hay was being housed in stack. All these were carried away, as were the stocks of the farmers as well as their houses, and many lives were lost. Rescue parties were out in all directions taking the farmers and their families to places of safety in the few boats to be found in the district, and the governor-general at Vladivostok dispatched a party of soldiers, with two light draught steam launches and four lifeboats, to assist in the work. As the settlers have lost their all, even their stock of foods unfit for the winter, there will almost assuredly be great distress and famine in the region during the coming winter, and, further, the vast piles of firewood so absolutely necessary during the long terrible winter have all been washed away by the raging waters, and to the pangs of hunger will be added the terrors of the proverbially severe Siberian winter with no provision for keeping warm.

In Japan some towns were destroyed and many severely damaged, and there was great loss of life. The widespread terror which prevailed after the earthquake was heightened by a typhoon which lent its aid to the work of devastation. This was followed by disastrous floods. Official reports say that 18,957 houses have been flooded above the floor and 5,950 below the floor, 225 washed away, 115 totally wrecked and 321 partially destroyed. Numbers of people were drowned, besides great loss of property by the bursting of embankments, etc. Landslides have taken place in 1,083 places.

These disasters are becoming so common that interest therein is comparatively dull in some quarters. But in others where events of modern times are being closely watched for the

trend of their bearing, these occurrences are noted with a consciousness of the influence they will have upon the nations and peoples whose destiny is involved in latter times.

IMPORTANCE OF NOMINATING CONVENTIONS.

The developments under the new law in force in this State ought to impress upon the minds of the solid element in voters the great importance of their taking part in nominating conventions. The present statute provides the way in which candidates for office shall be placed before the people, and how certificates of such election shall be filed. Already there has been a necessity for recalling the nominating convention because the law has not been complied with by the officers of the first meeting. This second convention is a necessity in order that the nominees should be on the ticket. The inactivity of the convention officers has caused this extra trouble, besides rendering themselves subject to a severe penalty for violating the statute, which makes mandatory the filing of a certificate inside of ten days.

The nominating convention is now a part of the election machinery of this State, as much, in its place, as is the voting. There have been, and are, many people who are disgusted with politics to the extent that they will not attend primaries and nominating conventions. It is a fact also that these same people will continue to be disgusted, disappointed and oppressed with unsatisfactory political administrations until they recognize the important truth that the way to get decent officers is to come out to the primaries and conventions and place suitable candidates in nomination. Grumbling will not do it; expressing disgust at politics will not do it; holding to the principle of voting for the best men will not do it; even reducing salaries will not do it. For, unless the better class of citizens get to the primaries and make them and the conventions respectable and responsible, affairs will go on the way politicians direct. Grumbling will not improve the quality of the candidates; disgust will not remove bad ones from the ticket; low salaries will be “made up” by unprincipled office-holders; and inactivity till election day makes the chances ten to one that when the voter comes to mark out his ballot he will have no “best men” to select and vote for. He has only those the nominating conventions give him; and it is the duty of every reputable citizen, partisan and non-partisan, radical and conservative, to secure representation in the nominating department of selecting officers.

It is to be hoped that hereafter the solid citizens of the State, and of every election precinct thereof, will view this matter actually as it is. Then they will go to conventions, or send representative delegates thereto, instead of permitting this work to be performed by schemers and irresponsibles, as is too often the case now. Then nominating conventions will not be howling mobs, and the choice thereof will be representative of the better class of