

are longing—a fancied recognition, even from an opposite view, of the means of deliverance from industrial oppression. And it is not at all inappropriate that on Boston Common, where, before the United States had taken its place among the nations of the earth, the common people agitated the cause of political freedom, they should be found at this time upholding the constitutional standard of silver as well as gold for the nation's money.

EARLY ELECTIONS.

Of the so-called "early elections" which are to take place this year—that is, elections in advance of the great presidential, congressional and state struggle in the beginning of November—that in Alabama which is in progress today, August 3, is the first. The next is the Vermont state election on September 1st; then comes Arkansas with an election for state officers on the 7th of September; and one week later, September 14th, the people of Maine will do their voting. These preliminary contests are generally of much interest as showing the popular drift for the more important contests that come along later. This year they will naturally be of unusual interest because of the altogether new issue, silver, which has forced itself to the front, not only as affecting the position of the great parties in the nation at large, but also in every commonwealth and district thereof. Yet in three of the four states mentioned there are internal complexities and combinations which will rob the result of the balloting of much of the significance and value which it has formerly possessed as an indication of the trend of sentiment among the masses.

For instance: At the last election in Alabama there was no Republican party in the state; the contestants were the Democrats and the Populists, who cast 110,865 and 83,283 votes respectively. Such Republican ballots as were cast were merged into a "scattering vote" of not quite two thousand in number. This year, however, the Populists and Republicans have effected a fusion on the state ticket, and present a solid front against the Democrats. The latter party and the Populists are agreed upon the candidate for President to be voted for in November, but are as widely apart as possible on the choice for Vice President. It will be seen, therefore, that it will require much ingenious figuring and imagination to draw from the election today any tangible indication as to how Alabama, and more especially the rest of the country, is going to go in November.

On the other hand, in Vermont there is no such element of confusion. In 1894 the Republicans outvoted the Democrats about three to one—the figures being 42,668 to 14,142. Whatever change is shown this year in the strength of the parties in the Green Mountain state may be fairly claimed as evidence of the extent to which the silver question has affected the status.

Commenting on the Arkansas contest, in which state at the last election the Democrats had 74,809, the Republicans 26,084, and the Populists 24,541,

votes, the New York World affects to believe that there is not much of instruction likely to come from this year's election, except in so far as it may indicate the extent of fusion between Democrats and Populists and the obliteration of party lines that have already become indistinct there.

The election in Maine, on the contrary, is sure to be of special interest, for the complications existing if for no other cause. In 1894 Gov. Kent's state gave 69,599 Republican to 30,821 Democratic votes and 5,321 Populist. The Chicago free silver nominee for Vice President is a Maine man, rich and influential, but the Democratic candidate for governor refuses to run on a free silver platform. All this is sure to make the fight lively and puzzling to the last degree.

The reader who is inclined to take interest in such matters has in the foregoing paragraphs material for as much calculation and speculation as he cares to bestow upon the subject.

IT PROMISES BAD.

The news from the Brown strike at Cleveland, Ohio, places the labor union members in a very unenviable position, besides promising no end of serious trouble before the business is finally settled. There has been a strike on for a long time, and recently an agreement was entered into by which the strikers returned to work. On Friday the union men met and decided that the terms they had acceded to were not suitable, and another strike was ordered. Then when the union men went out and non-union employees were accepted, the latter were assailed by the union strikers, and retaliated, one of the strikers being killed on Saturday. On a former occasion when a similar disturbance was in progress another union man on strike was killed by the officers.

Thus far the unfortunate cases of killing have been the fault of the strikers. They were not satisfied with the terms of employment, and quit, as they had the right to do. Other men took their places, and when argument and persuasion failed to induce the non-union men to espouse the cause of the strikers, the latter resorted to the use of unlawful force to compel submission to their desires. Then the assaulted men, or the officers in their behalf, acted in self-defense, and blood was shed. The strikers had forced the issue to that extent, and are responsible therefor.

Now comes the additional information that some twenty thousand men will be called to aid the strikers, by sympathetic action and financial support, while the strikers themselves are arming and organizing with a view to maintaining their violent attitude by weapons of war. If this story is true, there is the setting up of an unlawful armed organization, composed of members of trades unions, in antagonism to the regularly constituted official and military force of the state, with a good prospect of further bloodshed. If the labor unions called on for assistance furnish the same, the act will be virtually aiding men who are in rebellion against the peace of the commonwealth.

Assuming for the sake of argument that these rumors and threats are true, the business has gone far beyond the mere action of a lot of ugly men on strike. If the latter were the whole case, it would be quickly and effectively settled by overcoming them in the order of law, by force or otherwise; but it is not. The strikers, extreme and unlawful as some of their claims and actions may be, are actuated by what they feel is a common injustice, and they are further irritated by the general feeling of dissatisfaction which exists in the country. They are not content with the terms of their employment, or with the result of the arbitration. They feel that as workmen they are unjustly crowded into a condition of industrial slavery. As a consequence they are angry to the point of fighting. They are imbued with a common feeling among the people upon this point, which is in many respects eagerly seeking a revolution. And whatever may be the immediate outcome of the Cleveland strike, if the fighting, insurrectionary spirit there displayed among the workmen does not manifest itself in a bloody upheaval before long in Ohio and a good many other states, the signs of the times are terribly deceptive. The Cleveland strike is of itself a small thing but it seems to be the sure premonition of a much broader trouble.

LI HUNG CHANG.

Herr von Brandt, German minister to Peking, has an article in the Deutsche Rundschau, in which he describes Li Hung Chang as a genuine Chinaman, notwithstanding the fact that he seeks the society of foreigners and endeavors to grasp foreign ideas.

According to Mr. Brandt, Li Hung Chang is no more a friend of foreigners than other Chinese of the literary class. Circumstances have compelled him to associate with them more than has been consistent with his wishes and inclinations, and he has understood how to use this forced association with foreigners in his own and his country's interests, by applying the ideas he has gathered from them in his own way. The result has been that he has been looked upon with suspicion in China, both among the literary class and the common people. And this fact has made it necessary for him to proceed very cautiously in the matter of introducing reforms, even if the necessary means had been at his disposal.

Li is now 74 years old. It is not supposed that at this advanced age he will play any important role in the remodeling of the Chinese empire as to its army, navy and financial system, but it may be presumed that as long as his influence is predominating, any attempts at reformation in an accidental spirit will have his support, at least until they threaten to touch the sphere of his own power.

Li Hung Chang, during his stay in Germany, is said to have had a few incidental lessons in statesmanship from Prince Bismarck, one of which was that in order to carry out reforms it was necessary to have a reliable army—not necessarily a large one—ready to strike terror in the hearts of opponents.