

The proposal to define the duties of the curator was a timely one. The appointment of the editor-in-chief could well be left in the hands of the Society. Again a few changes in the rules of Order as given in the old constitution might likewise prove beneficial.

Democracy, Ancient and Modern.

Ever interesting and instructive is it for a people busily engaged in every day pursuits of life, taxing to the utmost their best abilities, natural and acquired, and deeply engrossed in the bustle and hurry of business affairs, to call a halt for a brief time and in a calm and quiet mood to reflect on just where the present generation really stands as compared with peoples and nations of former times. No doubt in most respects we of to-day take pride in the belief that we stand head and shoulders above any and every generation that has preceded us, and with a boastful and self-satisfied air contemplate the future, and chuckle with delight to think that our successors will have no easy task left them when they try to maintain the level to which *we* have raised the world—while to undertake to make a step in advance would be almost sure to entail a total collapse of the structure *we* have reared. But let us not be too confident. More than two thousand years ago the wisest man of his day thought that almost everything had been discovered, and that the best of the revelations made had been put into practice; hence future generations could make but little change, while the chances for improvement were very small. Yet, in spite of Aristotle's opinion, great and fundamental changes have arisen and mighty strides have been made in relieving man's necessities and in

raising him to a higher and purer life. Numberless habits and customs, rigorous and all-powerful among men of the times when Greece and Rome were paramount, have long since fallen into abeyance, and have been succeeded by others of entirely different characteristics, which in turn have been supplanted by newer and better manners of life. Thus it ever was—thus it ever will be.

While broad and general considerations of this kind are always helpful and tend to deepen and strengthen the spirit of charity and humility, it is equally interesting and profitable to limit the outlook and confine the attention to a more narrowed field of thought. In such a spirit this brief comparison is made between ancient and modern democracy.

The remarks here made will be classed under three heads, dealing respectively with the legislative, executive and judicial systems. Various other topics suggest themselves, but time and space will prevent anything beyond a mere cursory consideration of those selected.

If we could get a glance at a meeting of the Legislative Assembly at Athens—the typical democracy of ancient times—great would be our surprise at the number of its members. Every citizen of the State had the right to be present at every meeting of the *ecclesia*, and when there he was at perfect liberty to express his views on any question before the House. An Athenian would have thought his citizenship of very little value if all he could do in matters of legislation was to vote for some other man to attend the meetings of the Legislative Assembly and do *his* work. But to-day a possessor of the franchise is well satisfied if the candidate of his party wins a seat in the House, and he—poor soul—is carried even beyond Elysian fields if by favor of his representative he can obtain a ticket of admission to the Speaker's Gallery.