

cent of venal. Again it has gone down, though with less searching analysis, into seventeen towns and one large city—and brought up fifteen and nine-tenths per cent. According to the first, the number of electors for sale in the open market, or drawing pay from their own side to prevent defection from its ranks, is 18,758 ; according to the second, 26,394—the mean is 22,576. And the sums paid have been found to range from one dollar and a half to fifty dollars. Twenty-one samples out of a possible one hundred and sixty-eight—taken without selection or discrimination—and in three of them not only numbers and prices ascertained, but the political preferences, the personal habits, the national stock, the family relationships ; in two of them the financial standing ; and in one of them the occupation of every purchasable voter, man by man, from lists that in two instances had been actually used in campaigns and still bore all the original signs and memoranda of their owners. And this information, with much more in the same general direction from many other practical politicians, was given in that cool, quiet, good-natured way, which showed that the narrator was no more embarrassed by the consciousness of moral guilt or civic delinquency than the retired army officer is who tells of what he did to outwit or overcome his enemy in the field.

AFTER-ELECTION JOKERS.

And after a campaign of the sort which these facts indicate is over the leaders sit down together, and with abundant mirth swap stories and jokes about their respective experiences, precisely as now happens occasionally with a knot of men at a New York club, who discover that they once wore, some of them the blue, some of them the gray in our late Civil War.

The practical politician effects bribery of this kind through money, flour, cows ; through shooting parties, with free conveyance and free refreshment, both solid and liquid, attached, and like gross rewards.

BRIBERY AT THE STATE HOUSE.

As for the other matters alluded to, one has only to follow the proceedings of a State Legislature day by day, throwing upon the annals the illumination which comes from even a small experience and ordinary knowledge of human nature, to find the evidence of bribery no less real, though perhaps less gross ; while now and then one stumbles over the history of a railroad war or a corporation fight, where corruption is resorted to which differs from that to which our twenty thousand venal voters succumb only in the superior magnificence of the baits employed and the higher standing of the anglers and the fish.

INFLUENCE OF THE THIRD HOUSE.

And between the two groups often the most vital connection. For the fish of the Capitol may easily turn out to be just a developed village angler. I am, of course, far from designing to lay the charge of corrup-

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