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THE ELECTION LAW.

Any measures looking to the lessening of corruption in our elections are of moment to the community as this is an evil that strikes at the root of our representative system. I have, therefore, read with interest the article of Judge Wallace in your January number on "Proposed Amendments to the Election Law;" but as I am of the opinion that his plan of amendment is based on unsound principles, I crave leave to present another view of the question.

There are two well-defined philosophies of life to which, perhaps to a large degree unconsciously, men give allegiance and by which they are divided into two relative classes, the upholders of authority and the supporters of reason. In the religious sphere some men believe in a far away Deity who rules the world through a chosen few, to whom he delegates authority; others believe in the immanence of Deity and that the individual conscience is the sole arbiter of truth. In the social realm some believe in the aristocratic principles evidenced by a social head followed by a privileged aristocracy of degrees down to an obedient commonalty, others again believe in the equality of men before the law and object to legalized distinctions. In the political world there are the corresponding relative classes, the autocratic defenders of authority and the democratic believers in the people, and the difference between them extends to the administration of justice as well as to the substantive laws. The autocrat looks to the elect few as the energizing power in formulating and enforcing the laws rather than to the people, while the democrat regards the people at large as the vitalizing force in forming our laws and enforcing them.

If I do not misread Judge Wallace's article, the spirit of it is, to so amend the election law as to make it an autocratic instrument, an artificial extinguisher of electoral corruption and to place the control of this extinguisher as far as possible beyond the reach of the people and their representa-