

absolutely above suspicion, the fair fame of the city will be best preserved by setting an example to all the world of prompt and thorough investigation, corruption relentlessly laid bare, and exemplary punishment of the guilty. Every good citizen should insist on this being done speedily, impartially and unflinchingly.

The overwhelming Democratic victory of two years ago in the Presidential, Congressional, and State elections was followed last week, all over the United States, by Republican victories even more signal and complete. The present Congress is Democratic by nearly two to one. The next Congress will be Republican by a proportion even greater. State after State in the north and west will send an unbroken Republican delegation, and twenty-five or thirty Republican Congressmen will sit for constituencies in the erstwhile "solid South." The four States—New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Indiana—which are chronically doubtful, and which all went Democratic two years ago, are this year overwhelmingly Republican and all the other States which the Democrats and the Populists wrested from the Republicans have gone back to their first allegiance, with more than old-time majorities. A greater revolution in public sentiment in the short space of two years probably never took place in a self-governing country. As to its causes there can scarcely be much difference of opinion. The Democratic party richly deserved punishment for its scandalous delays in legislation and for the insufficient and half-hearted manner in which it did finally attempt to give effect to the policy it was pledged to carry out. Doubtless the disgust of tariff-reformers and free-traders with that party had something to do with the result, but it would be futile to attribute it mainly to that cause. The crushing defeat of William L. Wilson, the leader of the fight for reform; of Tom. L. Johnson, the stalwart free-trader of Ohio; and of other consistent and steadfast reformers, as well as the poor showing made by the People's Party, which was nearly swept out of existence, argues a different reason. To the hard times and the unexampled distress that have existed all over the country must be attributed the extraordinary result. These, aided by Democratic dissensions and apathy, enormously accelerated the natural tendency of the political pendulum to swing backward. The people, thrown into a panic, have temporarily lost faith in tariff-reform before it has been tried. Their verdict is an endorsement of high protection. Tariff-reformers will reflect mournfully on how different things might have been had President and Congress shown more haste to carry out the will of the people and had the Senate not surrendered to the trusts. But they will congratulate themselves that, at least, the McKinley Act has been repealed; that, with the Presidential veto power still in Democratic hands, the new tariff act is likely to remain unmolested for the present, and that when the popular panic has passed there will be opportunity for further and greater progress along the path of reform.

One of the most encouraging signs of the times in the United States is the determination the people in some of the great cities are showing to reform their municipal governments. Last year the city of Brooklyn overthrew the ring of corrupt politicians that had long preyed upon it and elected a reform administration by the enormous majority of 30,000. This year New York follows suit, defeating Tammany Hall and electing a reform ticket by between 40,000 and 50,000 majority. This splendid result was directly brought about by the shocking disclosures of the corruption and depravity that have permeated the Police Department. Tammany Hall tried to dis-

claim responsibility for the state of this department, but the notoriously bad character of most of its appointees to Police Commissionerships and Police Justiceships was something it could not deny, and the fact that in some departments of the city government its rule was efficient and business-like could not any longer blind the people to the inherent rottenness of its system, or save it from overwhelming defeat where, a few years ago, it was impregnable. Another result of the elections in our neighboring State, encouraging to friends of good government, was the crushing defeat of Senator Hill for the Governorship. Mr. Hill never before appeared to so good advantage as in the campaign just over, in which his speeches were able, broad, conciliatory, and almost lofty in tone. But his past career as a machine politician, a trickster, and an opponent of all that was best in his party, confronted him and would not "down." Despite a gallant fight, he was ignominiously defeated, and a Republican Governor and Legislature elected by immense majorities. This insures the new administration in New York City all necessary legislation to carry out the sweeping and complete reforms that are expected of it. The people of the State have also voted to adopt the new constitution, which has many features worth noting. To some of these we referred last week. Among them are one separating the times of holding State and municipal elections, one absolutely prohibiting grants of public money in aid of sectarian schools, one embodying the principle of civil-service reform, and one prohibiting pool-selling, bookmaking and lotteries. The last-named, if enforced by the Legislature, should do much to destroy the betting mania which is the source of such untold harm, and which has brought horse-racing into such disrepute.

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The People's Parties.

ONE of the noteworthy phenomena connected with the recent election in the United States is the comparatively feeble part which was played by either of the new parties which have, for a few years past, taken somewhat prominent positions in the field of America politics. Neither the Populists nor the A. P. A. secret societies appear to have visibly affected the result. It is, perhaps, hardly too much to say that both have fallen into an insignificance which seems to presage their final disappearance. With regard to the last named of the two organizations, the result has often been foretold, and is not at all surprising. No organization or league which has its reason-to-be in nothing better than a narrow sectarian prejudice, and which has no broader platform than the ostracism of the members of a sect, can long survive, to say nothing of attaining great influence, in a free and enlightened country, while great national interests are, or are believed to be, at stake. But with the Populists, the case is, or might have been supposed to be, different. The party came into existence as "The People's Party." Its mission was to antagonize the machine in politics, and to make the voice of the people heard in legislation, above the specious pleadings of the professional politicians, and the selfish but well-nigh irresistible clamourings of the trusts and self-seeking manufacturers. That there is in the United States great room and need for a party to represent the people, and above all the farmers, can hardly be doubted by any one who has paid any attention to the manner in which the business of legislation and administration is carried on under the rule of either of the old parties. We do not propose to inquire into the causes of failure of the People's Party across the border, save so far as its history may serve to point a moral for the use of those who are promoting the people's party on this side of the boundary line. Suffice it for this purpose to say that the movement for which the Populists were supposed to