

The Unseen Power.

In all our business affairs we go rushing ahead as if all depended upon our own exertions and as if Providence did not count at all. When weather is favorable and the crops are good we take it as a matter of course. When there is drouth or continual rain sometimes we pause long enough to inquire what God means by attending to this business so badly. In the oldest piece of world-literature there is a story of a man named Job, and the gist of the story is this, that he and his friends fought out the problem of affliction as if they were the only parties concerned. At the end of the story, however, God appears and reveals to them the fact that He is a party to be considered in all earthly matters and that He was especially concerned with Job's affliction. Now this is just the very lesson we need to-day. If there is a God at all, we may readily assume that He has a very living interest in our country and that He wishes for it the highest lasting good. He knows that it is as true to-day as in the days gone by, that no people ever attained true greatness unless they were above all things good. Material wealth—bumper crops—immense trade—growing bank accounts—these will not ensure greatness, and the sooner people learn to give them their proper place the better. A great calamity may be a blessing in disguise. It certainly will be a blessing if through it the forgotten feelings of dependence and reverence are restored to our people.

A magazine such as this is not expected to do very much preaching but it can, without laying itself open to the charge of being unpleasantly pious, express its very strong conviction that what we require above all things to-day is not primarily better-trade relations, better facilities for transportation, and better economical conditions, but rather a better hold on those qualities that are essential to true manhood and womanhood—godliness, purity, honesty, integrity and true reverence. Not what we have, but what we are determines our place now and in the future. That which ensures permanent national greatness cannot be hoarded in banks, it is always found in the hearts and lives of the people. It is for this reason that a government which concerns itself with national education, with measures looking towards moral and social betterment, is infinitely wiser than one which devotes its energies merely to devising schemes for making money breed more quickly. Viewed from this standpoint, that of the highest patriotism, there are some governments in Canada that could not expect a very high rating, for under their administration the moral life of the community has suffered in countless ways. It will not be difficult for our readers to make the application.

THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS.

The people of Western Canada are always interested in the political affairs of the United States, because many of them are citizens of the republic. Many others feel they are but first cousins, others are always interested in a contest, and perhaps all feel that their own fortune is closely linked with that of the people south of the line. It is a great satisfaction that the convention at Baltimore chose a man who is intellectually so worthy, and who on all economic and social problems is so progressive and yet so sane. Should the fighting colonel recognize in him the national leader of the movement for reform, a force working against plutocracy, perhaps he might well retire from the contest and allow the democratic party to handle the reins of government for a season. On the whole, the Canadian people would welcome such a change, not because the present occupant of the presidential chair has not been friendly to us and favorable to international peace, but because they think the time has come for a change, and because they wish to see some one in power who in a strong way will fight the moneyed interests and restore to the common people at least a little of the freedom they should possess.

The two conventions have not been very creditable to the American people. The uproarious method of conducting campaigns is lacking in dignity and calm judgment. It was bad enough for the two leaders of a great party to stomp the country hurling out defiance at each other. We can well believe that the great majority of enlightened Americans disapproved of the exhibition. They felt ashamed and somewhat disgraced. Nor could they feel particularly proud of the methods of conducting their great conventions. Surely by this time a satisfactory plan of selecting delegates should have been devised. Though the fighting colonel did not cut a very gallant figure, he was probably well justified in his belief that the representation was not by any means fair to him, and that the credentials committee stole several of the States. Perhaps the most unseemly display of all was that of the shouting, hooting mob of spectators and delegates in convention hall. In a civilized community, civilized methods of electing representatives and of nominating officers should be followed.

Yet on the whole Canadians have no right to cast

stones. The choice with Americans is after all with the people. With us it lies with the machine. Theirs is essentially a democracy; ours is essentially a "machinocracy." Now and again as in the choice of a republican leader the machine assumes control; and now and again with us as in some rural communities the common people determine their own candidate. Speaking generally however, we are ruled by the few men at the capital, and often these are controlled by the capitalists whom they have created. And no doubt we are as fond of our form of government as the Americans are of theirs.

One of the most hopeful signs in American politics is the disintegration of party. Roosevelt may be all wrong in his ambitions and his methods, but the idea behind the third party, the idea of a square deal for the people is eminently sound. Strangely enough the same movement is on foot in Canada, and only the swiftest action on the part of political leaders to align themselves with the progressives will prevent the formation of a new party that will not only hold the balance of power, but control national destinies forever. The slogan of "Equal opportunities for all; favors to none in religion, politics or trade; referendum on all great public questions and possibility of recall"—this extended and made more definite will arouse public sympathy, and when once the idea of the new gospel is put into effect there will be no possibility of reversion to an older order of things.

BE CANADIAN.

The following paragraph from the Montreal Witness is to be commended for its good sense:
"We have in Canada too much of 'I'm a Scotch-

What Do You Think I Am Worth !

By J. H. Kenyon.

What do you think I am worth?

My money is reckoned in dimes;
But I've two good legs on the earth,
Not running about after crimes.
And I've built up a body so strong
That money could not buy it out;
I still own a heart that hates wrong,
Although I love a good bout.

What do you think I am worth?

Now listen a moment to know.
I am worth as much as the earth
Multiplied by all that I sow.
And my riches are not in the sod;
My castles are not in the air;
I'm richer because I've found God
Than the greatest millionaire.

man, 'I'm an Irishman,' even with the sons of men who emigrated in the early part of the nineteenth century. And here are those who are Canadians of the Canadians being urged to determine that there should be no Canadian nation. Go to the United States, and whoever you speak to, no matter what his origin, is boastful of being an 'American.' It is carrying the nationality sentiment too far when it makes it its object to prevent nationhood."

BANISH THE BAR.

There are three or four things regarding which we must fall into line if we are to make home life in the West sweet and beautiful. First of all we must banish the bar. The only thing that keeps it in operation to-day is the energy and wealth of those concerned in the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors. It is such a good paying business that brewers and vendors have become immensely wealthy. More than this they have combined their forces and on occasion act as a unit. In legislation they can hold the balance of power. With one exception they are the strongest political force in Western Canada. Therefore the bar will be retained unless those who have growing girls and boys are determined to guard them from the most insidious and ruinous form of evil that faces them.

Why should there be treating anyway? It is nothing but a semi-barbarous custom, this of hauling a friend up to a counter and spending a quarter to warm his stomach. Why not take him into a hardware store and buy him a chisel, or into a men's furnishing establishment and buy him a collar? The generous impulse will surely find equal satisfaction. Or if the thing must appeal to the stomach then why not buy him a ham sandwich or a half-dozen bananas? The custom is as ridiculous as it is harmful. And surely it is harmful enough. It develops in young men appetites that they are unable to control; it

drains the home of money to which it is rightly entitled; it robs the wife and children of a companion and protector and frequently gives them instead a monster whose home visits are dreaded. It transforms men who are clean in language, honorable in their dealings, capable and industrious in their labor, into useless, garrulous, non-dependable creatures without friends and without hope—leaders in all forms of crime. Just think it over and name a few who have gone down hill. Probably you have some in your own family. And nobody knows what will happen to your own children. So it is our first duty to get the thing away, and the only sound method just now is to banish the bar. It will go if we all say so. It will go in every one of the four provinces; and it should go, because it has done more than its share of evil, and it has no argument in its favor.

Yet the liquor interests are buying up the press and filling the columns with advertisements intended to prevent such a wise and necessary proceeding. That is the policy now in the United States where the anti-saloon sentiment has conquered half the territory. This is how the thing is done according to a reliable journal:

"At critical moments space is bought for its arguments and insinuations in the papers, but as a rule this is unnecessary. The advertising business of the trade is sufficient to make a partnership between it and a large portion of the newspaper press, and to defend the traffic is in the interest of both. The insertion of whiskey advertisements is sufficiently compromising to make every defence of the drink business that comes to hand welcome, without critical investigation. A paragraph that appeared in a city daily was meant to show that no-license was injurious to a city, by telling how a certain city in Iowa had a drink bill of \$2.67 per capita. How our neighbor, or his remote informant, got this figure we cannot see, as no register is or can be kept in any city we know of—of the amount of liquor consumed. It would be especially difficult to keep tally on it in a city where the sale was against the law. A laborious compilation from the ledgers of the whole wholesale trade would seem to be the only source available. At all events, supposing the figure to have some foundation, instead of being a condemnation of no-license, it is a remarkable testimony in its favor, as the general drink bill of the country amounts to somewhere between seventeen and eighteen dollars a head. In another number of the same paper, which number, by the way, contains some five columns of liquor advertisements, we find a statement that since the shortening of the drink selling hours there have sprung up a number of restaurants wherein the girls, whom the enquirer finds behind screens, serve after closing hours a quarter of a bottle of pop for twenty-five to fifty cents. So far, this is a tribute to the efficiency of the closing law. But was that all the reporter saw or surmised? Our contemporary suggestively heads the discovery—'A New Development,' but the police will tell it that these midnight mantraps flourished quite as much before the early closing law as they do now. They did as good business then as now—probably better, as the more drink the more of these. It was in one of these places that the proprietor was shot the other night."

TARIFF REFORM.

There is a second duty that lies close at hand. Somehow or other we must join forces to aid ourselves. We are paying too much for our manufactured products. In the name of a national policy we have bolstered up the industries of the East a little too long. We have created a few very wealthy manufacturers of implements, sugar, tobacco and the like, but we have nearly all remained in poverty. If it were not for the very natural increase in land values we should be poor indeed. There is no justification for the enormous tariff. Had the government less it would be more careful in its expenditures. Direct taxation is in every way preferable to the present system. If any man had to pay his tax directly rather than indirectly as a duty on all he wears and uses in his home, he would examine a little more closely into the expenditures of the government. He would know just exactly where his money is going. Why should a man pay fifty cents for three collars when the American pays fifty cents for four of the same make? Why pay One hundred and sixty dollars for a machine that on the other side can be purchased for one hundred and ten? The only reason why we endure this is that manufacturers have power with legislators, and legislators are only too pleased to have vast sums to spend. Nothing could be more unpopular with a government than a reduction in tariff. It would limit patronage at once. But why should we suffer in the meantime? We can fix this thing if we will. Are we to be men enough to take a stand or shall we be content to let things remain as they are? I take it that the men of the west know what they want and will get it.