

generally is, strictly impartial. His chief duty is to see that in arriving at a decision the jury allow nothing outside the question directly in hand to influence them, and even from the decision of this body appeal may be made to a court of experts. But not so at Athens. There no competent jurist scrutinized the evidence offered or the appeals made, and as a rule the party that could most skillfully work on man's emotional nature won from the assembled jurors a verdict in his favor. While advocates of the modern system claim a great improvement on ancient usage, yet surely few would assert that the jury courts of to-day are to be regarded as perfect machines for the execution of justice.

One result of the popular jury courts at Athens was that all her citizens knew the law of the State, which is saying more than could be said of citizens of modern democracies. But, on the other hand, it is noteworthy that, especially after it was resolved to pay the *dikasts* out of the State chest, the jury courts came more and more to be composed of men to whom the two or three obols a day were of prime importance, while the better class of citizens kept almost entirely aloof from judicial proceedings. Against that, place the condition of affairs to-day, when many of the cleverest and noblest men of the land spend all their time in the administration of civil or criminal justice.

Another claim to superiority which advocates of ancient usages sometimes prefer, is one which was the natural outcome of their system of popular legislation. Every citizen had a chance to be well versed in State affairs, and also had excellent opportunities to become a fluent public speaker and a keen debater. But the Athenian populace grew to be idle; conceited, too fond of petty quibbles and controversies; and often serious

national losses resulted directly from the statesmanship (or rather lack of statesmanship) of apprentices and upstarts.

From such a brief comparison of the prominent features of democracies it appears that we of to-day have just reason to feel that we have profited by the experience and mistakes of our predecessors, but that we have not yet reached a condition of statecraft where we can delight the soul with the thought that we have nothing more to learn regarding national government.

G. E. W.

Mrs. Foley's Views on the Modern Girl.

"The doctor's a fool—a perfect fool! To send that slip of a girl to College, indeed! In my time girls was content to stay to home and do their duty in that state of life into which it had pleased God to call them, and sweep and dust as women have done from the days of Eve down to this present time. If Eve had went potterin' round, readin' books, and jabberin' that there Latin and stuff, wouldn't we have been told about it in the Book of Genesis? She staid to home and tended to her own affairs, and didn't go mixin' up and makin' herself equal to men—which shouldn't be, noway. George used to say that these times was out of joint. He was book-learned himself, but didn't approve of it for women. There's Mary Jane, now. Just because she has them two letters after her name she turns up her nose at every other girl in the village. As if anybody couldn't stick two letters after their name. Anyway, it's just the first two letters of the alphabet, twisted round so as to look more uncommon like. George always said he had no use for letters after people's names, especially women; and I always maintain that it's noth-