

DOES A PARTIZAN PAPER PAY?

UNDER this title F. H. Young, of The Genoa Leader, discussed before the Nebraska Press Association the profitableness generally of partizanship in the conduct of a newspaper. He said the successful business man does not mix politics with his business, and argued that if he did, his business would suffer therefrom. The same, he thought, was true of the newspapers. The partizan publishers drives from his paper much business by an unwise course. He thought it was not necessary, because one ran a partizan paper, to offend people of other political beliefs. Mr. Young went on to say:—

"How many of you have not published columns of what they knew to be political rot? How many have not supported men whom they knew to be unworthy of the support of any honest man, incompetent and unfit to fill any office? How many have not helped for the party's sake to whitewash a public official who had betrayed every principle his party had ever advocated? We have all done this, to a greater or less extent, and must continue to do so as long as we publish a partizan paper. The party bosses demand it, while our readers imagine that we receive yearly a wad of boodle several feet in diameter. Such are the political inconsistencies of the ordinary, otherwise broadminded editors of Nebraska, that we believe we are safe in saying that 75 per cent. of the voters really believe we receive large pay for the vast amount of political rot we publish, and our influence with the masses is lessened by just the extent this belief prevails.

"And, now, my friends, to moralize a little: When the country press of Nebraska ceases to bow the knee to party bosses; when the editors cease to fill their columns with what they know to be political rot; when they cease to support unfit and dishonest men for the party's sake; when they cease to whitewash unfaithful officeholders, then will thieving officials and the betrayal of public trusts of all kinds cease to exist throughout this broad domain of ours."

GRATUITOUS ADVICE FROM WITHOUT.

Nearly everybody not engaged in journalism believes that he could run a newspaper better than those regularly in the business, says The Cincinnati Enquirer. General Benjamin Harrison is not an exception to the rule. To the conductors of a new daily paper he wrote: "You will want to aid in the formation of a sound public sentiment, but will not, I hope, attempt to govern. Do not forget that there are intelligent and well-meaning people not engaged in newspaper work." Great truth. There are also intelligent and well-meaning people who are not engaged in the practice of law or the active running of politics. Of course, a great deal is to be accomplished in almost any sphere of human effort by self-possession and modesty; but cases arise in which it is necessary for the newspaper to use club tactics. There are rascals who can be reformed only by having the political life battered out of them, on the same principle that the only good Indians are dead Indians. Otherwise the gang and peanut politicians will run the newspapers.

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