IS A LABOR PARTY PRACTICABLE OR DESIRABLE?

The wisdom of answering this query in the an mative may well be doubted. It is, indeed -at least to our mind-questionable whether a successful labor party is possible in our generation, or whether, if possible, it would be an unmixed good to all classes of workingmen.

One evening during the late compaign, we found ourself attentively listening to a party orator of considerable colebrity. Around us was a little knot of workingmen, whose politieal creed, we soon found, differed from that of the speaker, and though the arguments advanced were logical, clear, specious and frequently convincing, this little knot of hearers listened merely to distort and not admire or believe. It seemed to us that they came more for the purpose of detecting defects than to hear truth and profit by it. They could see the questions discussed only from their own stand pointthe stand-point of party. With the eyes of their minds seared over with partisan prejudice, they stoically listened to all that was said, and once thought of investigating the falsity what had been advanced. And

> e highest results of partyism! of partisan intolerance has gotry, hatred, prejudice fective assumptions, and oning faculties are almost and perverted. The boy ve, is a party man embryo he political creed of his e becomes a voter his party , less liable to change or be religious faith. This is one eem it almost impossible to tion of a separate labor party, xperience has shown that this ell founded. There are several which might be adduced, but as riously referred to them, we do ssential to do so again.

t place, we have our doubts conadvisability or desirability of such t, and these misgivings are founded tipathy to parties in general when ne a character of permanency. Polies must necessarily exist in all popunments. They have their being in st differences of opinion, as to meapublic policy, and as to different forms imment. But as circumstances are ally changing and effecting changes in pject-matter of opinion, hence opinions vays changing, and parties should change hem. Measures and politics are never nary, because the condition of the state ject to continual mutation, and as the upon which parties are founded changes langes the circumstances and conditions ne country, why should not parties also ge? We firmly believe it would serve best interests of labor and humanity to e parties changed at each presidental elec-As our government stands to-day, it is the will of the people—it is the will of the inant party; it is a government of parties, those who do not belong to the dominant have no more power in shaping its legislathan a native of Japan. Party is king. It ers not which party is dominant—it would ing any way. If a man dares to leave his , he is treated worse than a human brute s a dog; and if he dares to disagree with arty on any measure of policy, he is houndpt of the ranks, whether he wishes to go t. The power of party is maintained by corruption, bribery, and every known s of iniquity, The wrong is not so much people as in the sysiem of party, its conons, caucuses and rings, which have been ng and developing in this country since

ould a great labor party be any purer or er than the parties now in existence? Let meet this question squarely. It might acmplish some good but we fully believe it ould, in a few years, be just as corrupt and tyrannical as any party which preceded it. Public policy and humanity demand that all permanent parties be abolished. They are social despotisms and if they are not abolished they will lead to a political despotism of the worst character. When party expedients are regarded as infallible dogmas of party creed, it is time all men of unbiased minds and untrammeled wills shuddered for the result.

Let us do away with permanent parties and vote, like rational beings, on the issues of the day as we understand them.

The greatest and highest delusive snare in political demagoguery is the stereotyped cry, "principles, not men." If workingmen would invariably vote for good, honest, intelligent men, regardless of their principles, there would be no need for a labor party. If we can find men who combine principles with honesty, character and fitness, it is best to vote for them; but a good, pure man with no principles is far preferable to a man of principles, but corrupt, dishonest practices. A good man will not intentionally do wrong, but principles, as understood in politics, are no guarantee that a bad man will always do right.

Voting for principles and not men is the great stumbling block, over which workingmen, metaphorically speaking, break their necks. If a workingman, whose whole life has been spent in the cause of elevating labor, and whose honesty and morality none can question, was placed in nomination by one party, the workingmen of the opposing party would not support him because he was not on their side they would yote for the devil though if their
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tendency is an outgrowth of party. Party must be destroyed and the people must learn that voting for abstract principles embodied in corrupt personality, means ruin, devastation, robbery and war, while voting for men of honesty, purity and fitness, irrespective of principle and party, means peace, prosperity, and national happiness. We are unalterably opposed to voting for principle per se even if promulgated by a labor party. Let workingmen vote for men who have been tried and not found wanting, who have been weighed in the scales of integrity and honesty and not found light, who have proved themselves, and who they know will legislate for them and not against them, and there will be no necessity for inauguraing a party to which our honor would be pledged, and whose candidates we would have to support no matter how unfit or dishonest they might be.

All great parties are controlled by wire pullers, caucussers, and intriguing, scheming leaders, who never once think of the public good. A labor party would necessarily be subject to all these evils and a great many more, and we may well doubt whether we would be benefitted by such a party even if we could succeed in establishing it .- Coopers'

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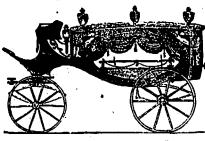
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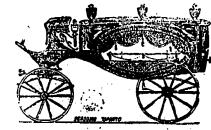
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