

The gathering shadows of the night  
Are shrouding in the day;  
And, through the reddened dying light,  
A voice is heard to say:

"Let the prisoners kneel and pray."

Let the prisoners kneel and pray,  
For God's forgiveness pray;  
Because they wickedly choose to die,  
Rather than lead the way  
Their comrades to betray;  
Ere the word go forth to slay,  
Let them kneel and quickly pray;  
For their grave is gaping nigh.

The crash of blows upon shattered bone;  
The shriek that follows the bayonet's  
thrust;

A broken gasp and a dying groan,  
And the dead lie prone in the bloody dust;

And who shall kneel and pray?

Oh, who shall dare to pray?

As the corpses into the red pit roll,

Oh, who shall pray for their murderer's  
soul?

And who shall "Amen!" say?

BERTRAND SHADWELL.

#### ARE WE LESS HUMANE THAN THE ANCIENT GREEKS?

EXTRACT FROM A PLAY OF EU-  
RIPIDES, ACTED IN ATHENS ABOUT  
FOUR HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE THE  
CHRISTIAN ERA.

Before quoting the lines, it will be  
well to narrate the events in the play  
leading up to the quotation.

Alcmena, with her three children,  
to escape the murderous intentions  
of Eurysthenes, King of Argos, had  
fled for refuge to Athens.

While pleading to the Athenians  
for protection, an envoy arrives from  
Argos, demanding her surrender  
with her children. This being re-  
fused, an army is sent to take her by  
force; a battle is fought, and Eurys-  
thenes is defeated and taken prisoner.  
A messenger brings Eurysthenes  
before Alcmena, who then upbraids  
him with all the cruelties he had  
practiced on Hercules, her dead hus-  
band, and his wicked intentions to-  
wards herself and her children, and  
concludes by telling him,

"It were just that thou more than once  
should die."

The messenger, who had brought  
Eurysthenes to Alcmena, then tells  
her:

"You must not kill him."

Alcmena replies:

"Then have we in vain taken him captive?  
But what law forbids his being  
slain?"

Messenger: "The rulers of this land con-  
sent not."

Alcmena: "Is it not by them esteemed a  
glorious action, to dispatch our foes?"

Mess.: "Not such as they have seized alive  
in battle."

Alc.: "Is Hyllus [her son] satisfied with  
this decree?"

Mess.: "He, in my judgment, will forsooth  
not act rightly if he oppose what Ath-  
ens shall enjoin."

It is impossible to read these lines

without thinking immediately of  
what is taking place across the wide  
Pacific ocean, where a major of the  
army of the United States is being  
court-martialed for ordering seven  
prisoners of war to be shot to death.  
When we consider that the men who  
listened to the play were the assem-  
bled citizens of the city, who had but  
a few years before taken part in a  
desperate struggle for their city and  
their liberties—Euripides himself be-  
ing born on the island of Salamis,  
where his mother had gone to es-  
cape the dangers of the possible de-  
struction of Athens by the over-  
whelming herd of Persian barba-  
rians, the day of his birth being the  
day of the battle of Salamis—the hu-  
manity of the Greeks of that day, is  
most remarkable.

No doubt there was in Athens a  
party who would not have spared  
Eurysthenes, as there are now some in  
the United States who palliate and  
excuse the killing of the seven Fili-  
pinos. It is said by Mr. Morley, who  
writes the preface to the translation,  
that Socrates would not go to hear  
any plays but those of Euripides. I  
imagine that Socrates, if alive to-day,  
would be an anti-imperialist.

The humanity of the Greeks must  
have been of home growth. The plays  
of Euripides were written over 400  
years before the Christian era, and  
it is a sad reflection that after so  
many hundred years of Christian in-  
fluence, men representing this great  
Christian commonwealth should be  
guilty of deeds that the worshipers  
of Jove and Pallas Athene would  
have scorned to commit. I cannot  
believe that President Roosevelt will  
not see to it that those who have  
been guilty of such cowardly and un-  
soldierlike deeds are adequately pun-  
ished, and thus save the honor of  
the army and his country.

COLIN S. EASTWOOD.

#### MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY. THE VALUE OF A CITY PERMIT.

John P. McGuire, manager of the  
Variety iron works, ran up against  
an unexpected obstacle at the meet-  
ing of the board of control yester-  
day morning, whither he had gone  
with a request for a permit to lay  
a switch track in Hamilton street,  
adjacent to the plant of his company.

Mr. McGuire recited the need for  
another switch track, and presented  
his case in such a manner that it  
did not seem probable that the board

would refuse his request. Mayor  
Johnson, however, became reminis-  
cent.

"Let's see," said the mayor, "just  
how the case stands with your com-  
pany. As I remember it, when the  
three-cent fare street railroad was  
attempting to obtain control along  
Hamilton street the Variety iron  
works refused to sign. No amount  
of persuasion was of any avail. Mr.  
Webster, the receiver of the company,  
declared that there were too many  
tracks on Hamilton street already,  
and that he would never give his con-  
sent to have another. There seems  
to have been an interesting change  
of opinion upon this matter. If there  
are too many tracks on the street  
already, I do not see how this board  
can consistently grant a permit to  
lay still another switch track."

Mr. McGuire looked annoyed at the  
turn the matter had taken. He  
would not deny, however, that his  
company had opposed the three-cent  
fare railroad. Mayor Johnson then  
attempted to extract a promise from  
him to the effect that after next  
May, when the injunction of the su-  
preme court is dissolved, the Variety  
iron works would not refuse its con-  
sent. This promise Mr. McGuire said  
he was not prepared to make.

"Then," said Mr. Johnson, "I am  
opposed to granting this permit for  
the switch track. If the street has  
too many tracks to permit of laying  
another for public business it is cer-  
tainly too full to allow of an addi-  
tional track for merely private busi-  
ness. I ask that the board refer this  
matter to me. Perhaps I may be  
able to make a bargain with these  
people."

The application for the permit was  
then referred to the mayor. From  
the attitude which he took upon the  
matter it is evident that the switch  
track will not be permitted unless  
the Variety iron works agree not to  
oppose the three-cent fare railroad  
on Hamilton street when the next  
attempt is made.

The action of Mayor Johnson yester-  
day morning was significant of  
the fact that he has not given up the  
three-cent fare fight, which has from  
the first been his pet municipal hob-  
by, and that he expects to renew it  
with vigor as soon as the city is re-  
lieved from the injunction of the su-  
preme court.—Cleveland Plain Dealer  
of Jan. 3.

The application of the Variety iron  
works for a permit to lay a switch

track on Hamilton street was favorably acted upon by the board of control yesterday.

The application was returned to the board yesterday morning bearing the approval of the mayor.

"Yes," said Mr. Johnson, "I have got everyone connected with the Variety iron works pledged to help us the next time we try to put the three-cent fare railroad through Hamilton street."

And the permit was forthwith granted without an opposing vote.—Plain Dealer of Jan. 6.

#### THOUSANDS OF FILIPINOS DYING OF HUNGER.

The once prosperous Philippine Islands have come to a sad pass. After war, murder, torture, rapine and fire had devastated the greater portion of these islands, the inevitable plague, pestilence and famine have followed in their train. Two hundred and fifty thousand Filipinos are said to have been killed in the war, and a like number have perished from the plague. How great is the number of the widows and orphans that have no providers is problematical, but the number must approach two million of helpless ones. These are now dying of hunger and the number is added to daily, for the plague has not been stayed.

So desperate are the conditions that President Roosevelt has transmitted to Congress a message inclosing a letter from Secretary Root, describing the terrible conditions that prevail, and asking that a special appropriation of \$3,000,000 be made for the relief of the destitute. The Secretary of War says:

It seems to me that the conditions resulting from the destruction by rinderpest of 90 per cent. of the carabaos, the draft animals of the islands, and the consequent failure of the rice crop, followed by an epidemic of cholera, are so serious and distressing as to call for action by Congress beyond that for which the commission specifically ask. . . . I think the occasion for relief in the Philippines is now greater than it was in Cuba, when Congress appropriated \$3,000,000 for the payment of the Cuban soldiers out of the treasury of the United States, or than it was in Porto Rico when hundreds of thousands of dollars were contributed by the people of the United States, and more than a million of dollars paid out of the national treasury for the relief of the sufferers from the hurricane of August, 1899.

Never before has a message of a president to Congress presented such a sad and disastrous condition as existing in any part of the territory of the United States. Worse than Cuba, after the iron despotism of

Spain and the brutality of Weyler had devastated that fair island. Could any parallel be worse?

The great heart of the American people freely gave relief to the Cuban distress and now will respond with even greater liberality, for Cuba was only a neighbor in distress, but the Filipinos are our own people, whom we have undertaken to provide for. We bought them with a great price and have spent hundreds of millions to force our government on them. We have been told we are there to stay whatever betides,—the more reason they should be cared for. There should be no delay in making this appropriation to relieve this distress for which we are at least partially responsible. If three millions is not enough, let it be doubled or even tenfold appropriated.

The government we have instituted in the Philippines collects all the revenues, and, sorry to relate, most of it is expended on our own officials who have been sent there to administer it. The Filipinos are helpless; their fate is in our hands.

Whatever disposition is to be made of the Philippine Islands will be settled hereafter. The present is no time for quibbling on political conditions when thousands are dying of hunger and disease.

The Republican administration of benevolent assimilation for the islands is a failure—our chief officials acknowledge it. Instead of the pictures of contentment and good government, that have been the constant theme of the Imperialists, they are now forced to portray impoverishment and distress.

Is it to be wondered at that ladrones are organized into bands, even for plunder, with gaunt hunger stalking through the land, up to the gates of Manila?

Government of the people without their consent, has always been disastrous to the governed, and has usually brought misfortune to those who have attempted it.

B. W. H.

#### WHAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CAN AND SHOULD DO.

The opening portion of an address delivered by Western Starr before the Henry George association, of Chicago, December 28, 1902.

The Democratic party is ostensibly the agency through which the interests of the people are safeguarded. It is the popular organ of democracy; it is the representation of the

unprivileged, as opposed to the privileged, in governmental policies.

The various forms of privilege group themselves into a few classes, each of which bears with heavier weight upon some specific class or group of people; and this gives rise to various theories of defense.

The victims of tariffs and the victims of railroad discriminations, as classes, each have a separate remedy to propose. The victims of municipal franchise have still another. Those who suffer from the abuses imposed as a result of competition in the labor world, offer still another. Each of these classes, sincerely, honestly believes that if only its peculiar grievance was removed, life and labor would again become a smiling summer holiday for the whole world.

All of these classes look to the Democratic party for relief; and each class demands that whatever may be done for others, it shall by no means be neglected. This has made the Democratic party an agglomeration of discordant factions, each striving for a special object, and indifferent to the consequences to all others.

Added to these classes is still another class which makes use of all the rest—a class the exponents of which speak oracularly of the fundamental principles of Democracy, without venturing to state in explicit or concrete form what these mysterious principles are, or what they could produce as results, if once established. This latter class is virtually the "usufruct" element of the Democratic party, and is, in fact, more incumbrance than help to its councils or field operations.

The great party opposed to this party of the people, is that great association of the cohorts of privilege—the so-called Republican party; a party composed of a vast number of lesser parties, each dominated by the fetish of its own special interest, and cooperating with all the other advocates of special interest, because of the identity of purpose animating each.

Every beneficiary of special interest or privilege is enlisted to preserve the principle of privilege, fully realizing the disastrous consequences to his own little tin god if some other tinsel deity should be dethroned.

The practice of the devotees of privilege ought to be sufficient example for the opponents of privilege.