society, but every one would be assured that there would be no danger of his recklessly, rushing into untried and dan-In place of slow and gerous fields. grudging concessions, such as a frightened Republican, Party might make to the spirit of the time, Mr. Davis would offer a disarming sympathy and hearty No one appears better cooperation. fitted than he to do this great work of conciliating classes, appeasing social animosities, and preventing the breaking down of the party system to which three generations of Americans have been bred.

Looking at the whole matter in this way, it is clear that Mr. Davis makes a commanding appeal to independent voters quite irrespective of personal compari-From these he has no need to sons. shrink-quite the contrary. If othe two leading candidates were to be judged solely on the score of individual charm, mental alertness, readiness in debate and courage in making and stating important decisions, there can be little doubt what verdict would be given. But the case can be, and should be, placed on higher There Mr. Davis is not less grounds. strong. He is fit to be President in his own character, and he is also fit in being peculiarly adapted to meet the opportunity held up to his own party and to undertake the various solemn duties certain to be laid without delay upon the Government of the United States.

THE QUESTION OF FITNESS.

The personal fitness of JOHN W. DAVIS to be President of the United States is not challenged by anybody worth serious consideration. Indeed, the attacks upon him individually as a candidate were few and furtive from the first, and have now virtually ceased. All the merely petty and spiteful arrows aimed at him have fallen blunted and broken from his shield. In character, in training, in aptitudes, in experience, in grasp of the largest problems confronting the nation, Mr. Davis has demonstrated to all impartial minds that he is well qualified for the Presidency. His bitterest political opponents do not deny that he is attractive, able, eloquent, well-stored with knowledge, fitted forth with principles which he can both avow and defend.

There are other aspects of his fitness which should be taken into the reckoning. A public man may have admirable personal gifts and virtues, yet not be the right one to press forward at a particular juncture. His past may rise to plague him. His party may be in a condition that would render him powerless even if he were to succeed in the Presidential election. The state of the public mind may be such as to make his inevitable tasks impossible of accomplish-Beyond his personal adequacy, which is admitted, there may rise large and threatening issues which another man or another party might better handle. In short, coming back to Mr. Davis, thoughtful Americans, whose votes are their own, will be right in asking whether they ought not to go beyond the matter of his personal fitness. Is he the man for the particular exigency which we face? Would his election mean the things most desired in government by party? Would he as President be able to bring about order and discipline where others have left confusion, division and insurrection? This is the kind of larger political fitness which must be weighed in estimating the candidacy of Mr. Davis. Viewed in this way, his political avail-

ability would seem, on fair consideration, to be as marked as his personal credentials for high office. He is running for the Presidency at a time when the United States is exposed to two different dangers in the realm of politics. One is that the Republican Party might be led, by a sweeping victory in the campaign, to stiffen and entrench itself in narrow and offensive doctrines which it has professed, with the result of provoking a mighty reaction having a revolutionary tinge. If the idea gets abroad that the Party of the Haves is arrogantly in control of the Government, a tremendous impetus will be given to the formation of a Party of the Have-Nots. This peril already exists on the left flank, and it is the second of the two referred to above. There can be little doubt that the La Follette movement, while directed immediately at both parties, cherishes the ultimate purpose to destroy the Democratic Party, either by breaking it up and itself annexing the fragments, or else by causing it in despair to take a violent lurch toward extreme radicalism in politics, which would make it indistinguishable from LA FOLLETTE and his followers. How does Mr. Davis stand at this part-

How does Mr. Davis stand at this parting of the political ways? At a point, it would seem, where he ought to furnish a centre for the rallying of many troubled and anxious citizens. If he is elected, it will mean not only that he will have behind him a party that is united but a party that has been saved from the fangs of the wolves ready to devour it. He would be the undisputed leader of the Democratic Party, but with the assurance to the country that he would lead only in paths of safety. Undoubtedly, he would feel, along with his party, the impulse to new endeavors in humane legislation and in special care for the least protected and more helpless members of

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