

THE MERIT SYSTEM DEMANDED.

BY THE HON. THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE INDEPENDENT:

I HAVE always believed that the Republican Party was really in sympathy with the reform; I think that Mr. Cleveland himself would have liked to favor it, tho he was unable to withstand the great Democratic pressure. I do not expect to see the reform built up in a day, and I appreciate fully that in some Republican eyes it has been somewhat discredited, less by Mr. Cleveland's actions than by the contrast between them and his professions, and likewise by the violent and extreme Democratic partisanship of some of the most prominent Civil Service Reformers who were nominally Independents. Nevertheless, I think that we have a right both to expect and to demand that under General Harrison's Administration there shall be a distinct and substantial advance in the direction of extending the Merit System as contrasted with the Spoils System, of making minor Governmental appointments.

I think that under Mr. Cleveland the public service fell off as compared with what it was under Republican rule; but I think that he did better than most other Democratic leaders would have done; and I wish to see Mr. Harrison do markedly better than Mr. Cleveland.

Yours truly,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

OYSTER BAY, L. I.