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THE ADVANCE,
Wilson, N. C.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Rood deserve much credit for the interest they have aroused in Christian work among the Baptists of Wilson. The social on Thursday night deserves much credit. It was well gotten up and the management was excellent. It was free from those clashes which are often the attendants of church socials. The life and interest along these lines of culture are due in a great measure to the untiring efforts of the pastor and his wife.

In a time when party lines are a small consideration why should we be in such a dilemma? Why should a voter say that I cannot support this man although his views are my own.

We are today endorsing the break up in a measure of all the old party alies. We no longer have the cut and dried ruts along which we have been moving for so many years but instead we have the old lines broken down by the infusion of new blood. But with all this we have in many instances a mad clinging to what was the key note fifty years ago. We have cut loose from those ideas and began a revolution which will eventually free us from the old ideas which, by being misconstrued and misused have become very galling.

A great mass of men now claim that they are now for one principle—silver—yet we see them putting office before what they claim is their own salvation. By such actions they jeopardize their own chances for relief. Often do we hear of Populists fusing with Republicans, the avowed enemies of silver. Such fusion means death to your own ideas. You made the victory for office greater than the victory for silver.

Apropos fusion seems to be the fountain from which most of our townsmen are drinking at present. The action on last Saturday was over burdened with the idea and the indications at present are that the act will culminate on next Saturday.

It is not our purpose to antagonize any scheme which promises success to our best interests. But the leaders should act in unison with the people. They have a right to have a say, and so should be considered before any action is taken in the matter. True, the Executive Committee has charge of the external management of the party, but the present issue is one in which every one should have a voice. The action should be submitted to the voting population to decide whether or no they

desire fusion. If Populists could not decide in a Convention of ninety delegates, consisting of representative men from all parts of the country, how can a Democratic committee of less than twenty men decide or interpret the wishes of the entire Democratic vote of the Wilson county? The one seems to be guided by caution, while the other follows blindly. So we urge that if there is to be fusion at all let it be done in a dignified, business like manner. Both Democrats and Populists have rights; let them decide mutually the course which shall be pursued.

In view of the fact that all of our people are not ante fusionists, the following conversation of one of North Carolina's prominent sons will be of interest to many. The gentleman was approached in this "What do you think of Democratic—Populist fusion?"

"I can not say that there will be the fusion which you speak of, but I know this, that it would be the best thing that has ever occurred in North Carolina's politics. It would more than anything else tend to unite the discordant elements of our people, who are now one in aims and purpose but are held apart by the petty sentiment fostered by some of our leaders."

"What will be the result if fusion is not effected?"

"North Carolina will in November be counted in the Mc Kinley column. Populists can not unite with Republicans because their plans and purposes are at variance. Should such a course be adopted they would then prove antagonistic to the very principle which they have clamored for during the last four years. More than that we can not afford to take any chances on Bryan's carrying the State. If there is not fusion on State and county tickets, there is a possibility of there being Republican fusion. Should this occur it is not sensible to suppose that men will support Bryan electors when they are fighting to beat Democrats every where else."

"What reason is there now of Populist—Democratic fusion when two years ago such a howl was raised over fusion with Republicans?"

"There are two reasons. First, both parties stand on essentially the same platform, both parties have declared for the same President. These elements alone should cause them to work in harmony to bring about what they have officially declared to be the needs of the country. Secondly, they sprang from the same source, or in other words they are brothers. They are actuated by the same desires, they hold sacred the same principles so it is no freak of politics that they should get together."

"How would the Democratic State ticket be disposed of?"

"There are men on that ticket who for the good of the party and for the success of silver in this State will willingly come down. No trouble will arise and no enemies will be made by taking down these men."

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A FARMER'S DREAM.

There was once a time when I was not as I am to-day. Often have I seen the day when all of my debts were paid and I had money in my pockets. It was about five years ago that I began to notice that my revenues were being cut off. My crops were as bountiful as ever, but with all this I had no money in my pocket nor did I have hardly enough to make ends meet at home.

At first I thought this was caused by my own negligence brought on by the prosperous times through which I had just passed. So at the beginning of the next year a new leaf was turned over. And as a result my barns and cribs were full after the harvesting time was over. My first move was to pay the merchants who had furnished my necessities and the guano merchant who had furnished me a means to make my bountiful yield. After this had been done I visited my store houses and found my harvest greatly diminished. I found that I then had barely enough to run my family until the next harvest.

Another trouble comes. My family and myself must be clothed. I have no means to make the necessary provision except to borrow money by giving a mortgage on my land. But this will add another trouble to my living. If I can't meet my needs now when I have no interest to pay, how can I live when this new burden is added to my load.

Ah! yes, good times are coming bye and bye, then I can get good prices for my crops and so can lift the mortgage which hangs over my house and family. The borrow is made, another crop raised with the same result. So it happens that the mortgage is not lifted but instead more money has been borrowed and the load increases.

The outcome is that the farmer's home passes into the hands of the merchant, and he then takes up the life of semi bondsman. He no longer goes at his will; instead he has to obey, on what was once his own premises.

Can such conditions exist without causing our country to lose entirely its yeomenary? These conditions are facts. Anyone who will run over in his mind the farmers of his neighborhood will see that the assertion is borne out by numberless examples. Run over your farmer acquaintances and see how many of them have laid up anything over and above a living in the last five years.

A FARMER.

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Populist County Conventions.

The Convention was called to order by H. F. Freeman, Chairman of the Populist County Ex. Committee. Mr. L. E. Newsom was appointed temporary Secretary.

Permanent organization was then taken up. J. T. B. Hoover was elected permanent chairman and J. D. Means was made Secretary, both of Elm City.

The committee on resolutions was composed of R. S. Clark, A. I. Parker, B. E. Gardner, L. E. Newsom and G. W. Bryant, was then appointed by the chair. A motion was then made by one of the enthusiastic members to keep in the middle of the road. By an almost unanimous vote this was carried. But the more conservative element decided that this would not be wise, so after a hearty discussion by Dr. Freeman, who had just returned to the Convention, Mr. Hoover and Mr. Cherry, this motion was recalled.

The committee on resolutions being called, made a report favoring advocating strict adherence to their party principle. Resolutions were adopted endorsing Bryan and Watson and Guthrie for Governor.

As there was probable fusion on foot a conference committee was appointed to meet a similar conference committee appointed by the Dem. Ex. Com. early in the morning. Mr. Hoover was chairman of this committee.

They retired then to the committee room and met the conference committee from the Democrats. The proposition agreed upon was that the Populists should have Senate, Treasurer, County Commissioner and Surveyor. After quite a lengthy discussion this committee returned to the hall and presented the proposition to the convention. But before they reached they reached the Hall another conference was necessary. There was in waiting a committee of Republicans who had offices to offer. The propositions offered by them was to give the Populists everything except Register of Deeds and one County Commissioner, with the proviso that these places would be filled by white men.

The Populist Conference committee put the propositions before the Convention. Mr. Hoover made a speech advocating Democratic fusion. He stated that the Democratic proposition was a fair one, and that as both Democrats and Populists were brothers and fighting for the same principle it was more becoming for them to fuse with Democrats than with Republicans, the avowed enemies of silver.

Dr. Freeman advocated caution. He said it would be better to wait a while and talk over this question of fusion with the people. They have a right to be consulted in this matter. He has not as yet come forlorned so it would be better to consider the matters for a season.

The motion was then put whether they should postpone a decision or put the question to a vote at once.

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The vote on the motion was taken but the Chairman was unable to divide the result. The roll of delegates was then called and the vote stood 29 to 64 in favor of postponement.

It was then decided to wait until next Saturday before final action was decided on. The convention was then adjourned to meet next Saturday.

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