

Ex-Governor Deer Sur:—
Texas, prafing the dadgum-
"everythi upon the Nob you
this word tell of. Politics
He sazin hot and heatin hot-
merevery minute. Every
Emily in the neighborhood,
including the women folks
has lined up on one side or
the other of the political is-
sues, except Ike Hornpipe's
family, and it has split on
the question and stands on
both sides. Ike is a democ-
rat and believes in free sil-
ver, and free trade, and
howls about "nigger domina-
tion," imperialism and trusts
while Hannah, his wife, is a
republican and stands up for
sound money and Protection
and favors McKinleys admin-
istration and bitterly de-
nounces the amendment. Ike
and Hanner talk politics
nearly every night. The
neighbors often gather in to
hear Ike and Hanner discuss
the issues. Hanner is a close
observer of things. She
reads both sides of the ques-
tion, and can talk on politi-
cal matters very intelligently
and never seems to get
mad. But Ike is just the re-
verse. He never read any-
thing but a democratic pa-
per, and flies all to pieces
every time he hears Protec-
tion, sound money or any
other republican policy men-
tioned. He delights in boast-
ing that he never voted any-
thing but a straight democ-
ratic ticket in all his life.
Ike says he has good reasons
for being a democrat. He
says his father was one to
start with and that during
his boys days dad always
made him go three miles to a
democrat's mill and six miles
to a democrat's store when
there was a republican own-
ed a mill and a store just a
mile from home. This early
training put the fixins on Ike
and they have staid on him,
for to-day he would coon a
rotten rail across hades to
get to buy a pound of coffee
of a democrat before he'd
buy of a radical that lived
at his door.

I went over to Ike's the
other night and had the
good luck to hear him and
Hanner yoke in a political
discussion. Pete Moony and
Bill Strong had come to Ikes
to give some music on their
banjos and quite a crowd of
the neighbor boys were there.
After the music was over
Ike got to spouting off about
imperialism and trusts and
shooting into the republicans
in general. I think everyone
in the house were democrats
but Hanner Hornpipe and
myself. Ike had just read
Bryan's big speece at Raleigh
last week and was feeling

good all over. He dumped
out a cood of tobacco as big
as a hen egg, lent back and
let volley after volley of
democratic "argument" roll
forth. He started in by de-
nouncing McKinley as a turn-
coat, a sell-out and a cats
paw for Mark Hanna. He
poured a slop tub of ridicule
on the war in the Philippines
and praised Aguinaldo. Then
he compared Billy Bryan to
Jesus Christ and McKinley
to Judas Iscariot. Next he
came to home matters and
took up the "nigger ques-
tion" and said the democrats
of North Carolina had re-
solved to rid the state of the
nigger issue and give the
people a white man's govern-
ment. He said democracy
ment white rule. He said
the democrats had always
opposed putting the nigger
in office and always will. All
this time Hanner set back in
the corner knitting, but from
the sparkle of her eye one
could tell that there was
something coming. At last
she straightened up and said:
"Well, Eli, as they are all
democrats but us, I reckon
we will have to defend repub-
licanism as best we can,"
and saying this she got up
and went to the bureau and
took out a roll of newspapers
and came and sit gown in
the corner. "This paper,"
she began, "is a 16 to 1 dem-
ocratic sheet and is nearly
worn threadbear. It was
printed in Aug. '96 and Ike
toated it around and read it
to all the boys that year till
the day of the election. I
don't recon any of you would
object to hearing it read a-
gain tonight. Here is the
piece that Ike had marked
and which I expect he had
read over to the boys a thous-
and times. A look of agree-
able surprise ran over the en-
tire crowd, as if to say, Can
it be possible that Hanner
has come over to Bryan and
free silver? "Now listen,"
and she read as follows:

"A vote for McKinley
means more tramps.
McKinley's election means:
Ten-cent corn.
Twenty-five cent wheat.
Eight-cent oats.
One dollar per ton for hay.
Five-cents per pound for
butter.
Three cents a dozen for
eggs.

Two-cent hogs.
One and one-half cents for
fat cattle.
No money at all to carry
on business.

Everybody sold out for
debt and taxes."

"Now what do we find to-
day," she said laying down
the paper and casting a def-
iant looking glance at Ike,
whose jaw had dropped
down as limber as a dead
blacksnake hanging across

the fence. "Let's see," she
continued:

"The tramps are at work
at good wages.

Corn is worth fifty cents.
Wheat is worth eighty cents.
Oats go like hot cakes at
35 cts.

Butter brings 20 cents.
Eggs fifteen cents.
Hogs 4½ cents.
Cattle 6¼ cents.
Wool 28 cents.
Eight dollars per ton for
hay.

Mills are running over time.
Wages advanced.

Plenty of money good in
any part of the world.

And McKinley president
of the United States, a Pro-
tective tariff in force and the
gold standard the basis of
our finance.

Ike, it's no wonder you have
laid aside this old paper and
gone to talking trusts, and
imperialism and 'nigger dom-
ination.' If I was a man and
my party had ever made
such a flash in prophesying
as your party has done, I'd
desert it and crawl under
the bed and play with the
cat before I'd ever join it in
fighting new issues as you
are doing in fighting expan-
sion. Your 'Imperialism'
scarecrow is just like your
'3-cent cotton if McKinleyism
prevailed.' Cotton, you know
is now selling for over 8 cts.

Your party can howl
"white supremacy" till you
bust your galls, but the peo-
ple will not forget the fact
that it was the democrats
who put 107 negro magis-
trates on the people of N. C.
at one pop.

If I had a dog that would
howl at nothing and bark at
the moon I'd kill it and so
would any sensible person.
Yet that is just about what
the democrats are doing.
They are howling about
nothing, or the same as
nothing. They can't use
the argument they used in
'96, so they had to raise a
new yell or get out of the
field." It was getting so
hot for Ike that he asked the
boys to give some more mu-
sic so Hanner's argument
was drowned out by the
boys playing "There's a
hot time in the old town to-
night."

I'm going out to hear Han-
ner talk again and will re-
port some of her points next
week.

Yours to help skin the
dadgummed democrats till
they are all dead or get bet-
ter.

Eli Tucker.

Republican Vitality.

The republican party has
been in power close upon 40
years. It has made mistakes.
It has had some tough lead-
ers, some squalid bosses. It
has occasionally conceded too
much to popular errors. Now
and then the people have got
vexed and kicked the stuffing
out of it. But the estrange-
ment has only been casual
and temporary. The major-

ity has been with it, is with
it still, and is likely to re-
main with it for an indefinite
time to come. The causes
of the prodigious vitality of
the republican party are not
far to seek. It has great
respect for the constitution,
but is not afraid of it. If the
constitution stands across
the path of the people, why
so much the worse for the
constitution. If it wants to
abolish slavery, or make pa-
per money legal tender, it
finds the way. If there are
no precedents it makes them.
It wastes no time for rever-
ie. It is strictly up to date,
and ready for all emergen-
cies. It cares nothing for
consistency. It is not deter-
red from taking a certain
course today because it pur-
sued another yesterday. Suf-
ficient unto tomorrow is the
evil thereof.

The passage of the gold
standard currency bill by the
House was a striking exam-
ple of the habits and methods
of the republican party. It
had boxed the compass on
the money question. It cre-
ated the legal tender green-
back and provided for the
resumption of specie pay-
ments. For 10 years it car-
ried on a desperate flirtation
with silver, and then, at the
end, voted for the single
gold standard with enthusi-
astic unanimity, re-enforced
by 11 democrats, which re-
quired heroism. It may not
be so short and easy in the
Senate, where the procedure
is mediaeval, but the result
will be the same, and the
people will say Amen. The
man who aims at nothing al-
ways hits it, and this appears
to be the predicament of the
democrats. They have no
affirmative policy.

Whatever the republicans
are for, they are against, and
for that reason they voted in
the negative on the gold
standard without offering an
amendment for free silver.
In opposing expansion, the
enlargement of our national
boundaries either by pur-
chase or conquest, they are
acting in despite of the great-
est names on their illustrious
roster, and slurring the tra-
ditions of the most glorious
periods of their history.
While it is true that the ge-
nius of our institutions does
not contemplate the acquisi-
tion of territory whose in-
habitants may not become
citizens, and ultimately be
incorporated into the consti-
tuency, there is no more prac-
tical difficulty in dealing with
Puerto Rico than with the
District of Columbia, which
is neither state nor territory,
and is governed by Commis-
sioners appointed by the
President and confirmed by
the Senate.

The same may be said of

Hawaii and the Philippines.
Or, if this be undesirable,
both could be attached for
judicial and executive pur-
poses to either of the Pacific
States with their consent.
Distance forms no obstacle.
Electricity has annihilated
both space and time. With
telegraphic connection the
Philippines might as well be-
long to California, and Ha-
waii to Oregon, as the Isles
of Shoals is to New Hamp-
shire, Nantucket to Massa-
chusetts or Long Island to
New York. That the insur-
rection of Aguinaldo will be
suppressed and some plan of
government devised by the
Republicans in due season is
established by the summary
disposition of Pettigrew's
resolution to lay on the table
the most insolent motion
known to parliamentary law.
It is the most formidable
weapon of a despotic and res-
olute majority. It cuts off
debate and is a knock-out if
it prevails.—John J. Ingalls.

What Will They Do?

Word comes from New
York that Col. W. J. Bryan
will in all probability be the
democratic Presidential nom-
inee. His recent visit there
seems to have settled the
matter. Four years or so
ago, when he visited the me-
tropolis—in 1896—his pre-
sence sent a shiver through
the financial centers. Prices
were effected in the exchang-
es as if a great disaster or a
colossal failure had taken
place. It was the only case
on record where an individ-
ual visiting New York caus-
ed general demoralization in
the markets. But it is dif-
ferent now. His visit there
a few days ago did not have
the slightest effect in the
exchanges. On the whole,
they were glad to see him,
and will probably be much
more so after he is nominated.
They are, perhaps, fully a-
ware of what is in store for
him after he gets on the
track and more. They have
an idea that the gold democ-
ratic press will desert him
as it did before, so they real-
ly have nothing to fear. If
they don't desert him what
an awful dish of crow some
of them will have to eat.
And if he should be nomi-
nated on a silver platform with
a gold basis, what an im-
mense amount of crow he
will have to swallow. No
matter how it is fixed up,
crow threatens to be a fash-
ionable dish in this country
in November next. Crows
are usually in very good con-
dition during that month,
and when properly cooked
they are not such infernal
bad eating.—Peoria, Ill.,
Journal.