

Daily Standard.

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CONCORD, AUGUST 13, 1896.

GEN. GORDON ON THE SITUATION.

It is difficult for many of our true and tried Democrats who sincerely believe the wellbeing of the people would be best subserved with the gold standard to reconcile themselves to voting for free silver candidates for President and Vice-President. We commend the position taken by that model patriot, Gen. John B. Gordon with his forceful reasons for his course and wish most heartily that all our gold standard Democrats could find reconciliation in the thoughts suggested. It is now an assured fact there will be a gold standard Democratic ticket, but let it have the effect in the North to hold that element from McKinley while it should not take Southern men from Bryan and Sewall. This is the most probable and most desirable effect of the new Democratic ticket. In the meantime let no free silver advocates be surprised or enraged at such

course, as a bolt from the Chicago convention was threatened, and was probably inevitable. If the gold standard sentiment had dominated at Chicago there would probably have been a bolt also with Mr. Bryan at its head.

After this storm of political demoralization passes over we will probably settle down again to the good old fashion Democracy.

BALTIMORE, August 3—Senator John B. Gordon, of Georgia, whose name has been mentioned for the Vice Presidency on a gold Democratic ticket, says that he would not accept a nomination for any political position. While remaining a sound money man, he will support the nominee of the Chicago convention.

Senator Gordon is opposed to a second ticket being placed in the field by the Democratic party. In explaining his position he said:

"The political situation in Georgia, while similar to that in other Southern States, is not thoroughly appreciated in the North. The Democracy of Georgia is always threatened with the accession to power of an undesirable element. This is made up of a radical agrarian element, holding to very unusual views on financial and other questions. With the assistance of the negro vote this element might at any time secure control of the State.

"To keep this element, a most dangerous one, in the background the Democrats find it necessary to stand together. There are hosts of sound money Democrats in Georgia who, before the Chicago convention, talked as if they would not support any silver nominee, but now most of these recognizing the alternative are one by one deciding to vote the ticket. Republican rule in my State would be a calamity, and the rule of the element I have mentioned would be as bad. I deem it my duty, under the circumstances, to vote for the nominees of my party. I have been asked to take the stump in Georgia for Bryan and Sewall, and I may make a few speeches in their behalf."

"Why do you not consider a second Democratic ticket desirable?" was asked.

"Because I do not think it could muster material strength. In our section of the country there are few, very few, who I think would support such a ticket. There is little disaffection from the Democratic ranks owing to the silver platform, this being largely due to the causes which I have mentioned. Those who say they will vote for McKinley rather than for Bryan would likely vote for McKinley if a gold Democrat were nominated, as they would believe that McKinley would have the better chance of election."

Senator Gordon added that after thirty years of public life he was growing tired of it. He said that he must in the future give up more time to his own affairs, which politics in a measure compelled him to neglect.

"No one," he continued, "has consulted me about this rumored nomination for the Vice-Presidency. All I know about it is what I have seen in the newspapers. I do not even know who is at the head of this gold Democratic movement, though I have seen the names of Palmer, of Illinois, and Vilas, of Wisconsin, mentioned in connection with it.

"Shall I be a candidate for reelection to the Senate when my term expires? No. I have al-

ready been approached by a number of political friends in regard to this, but I have already declined to allow my name to be used. When I say that I am going to get out of politics I mean what I say."

Regarding the pending financial issue Senator Gordon said that he favored the gold standard, "though, after all," he continued, "the free coinage of silver may not prove as disastrous as we gold bugs now believe it will be. I believe in having these great questions settled once and forever, just as the great slavery question was, and we might as well get the silver matter out of the way. If it be tried and does not plunge the country into a panic, the gold standard men will see that they were not altogether right in their reasoning, and if it be tried and proved a failure, the silver men will see the error of their ways.

"I know Bryan intimately, and I consider him a well balanced, honest, upright man. In spite of his radical currency views, I do not believe if elected he would allow the ultra-silverites in his party to control his actions. He is a man who would feel profoundly impressed by the sense of his responsibility, and he would, I think, be much more conservative than he is widely considered."

General Gordon expressed surprise at the acquisition to the ranks of Bryan's followers since the Chicago Convention, whether they result from conversions to the silver idea or not, and he said that he believed that the "Boy orator of the Plate" would be elected.



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