

Daily Standard.

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Editors and Proprietors.

OFFICE IN BRICK ROW.

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CONCORD, OCT. 17 1897.

NOTE IN THAT COLUMN, PLEASE.

THE STANDARD believes that much good is done by the proper discussion of measures on which honest, fairminded men differ. Discussion, too, should have for its object and aim, the accomplishment of unity, if possible, but by all means an enlarged mutual respect for the opinions of those who differ. We wish to engage in no discussion where these ends cannot be hoped for. The Fayetteville Observer seems to have discerned this fact and we feel quite complimented by his kindly reference to us in this respect.

Before proceeding to note errors into which our contemporary has fallen, we will stop to ask him whether he does not agree with us as to proper discussion? He says, "It is a great pleasure to find in the Concord STANDARD an exception to the rule of conduct which seems to govern some goldites." If so we ask our esteemed contemporary whether it would not be better to eliminate such terms as "two-faced-Clevelandites," "Republican-Cleveland-Skinner-Pritchard," "Ransomism" etc? from our discussions. They seem to THE STANDARD to smack more of reproach than of argumentation.

Least, in our efforts to discuss these matters smoothly and amicably, our contemporary should suspect that we lack the moral courage to speak our impressions of men whose names are freely used, we simply say that we are impressed with Grover Cleveland as a man of sterling integrity, a fair amount of sagacity, broad statesmanship and noble patriotism. As for Mr. Ransom, we have studied him for many years and we are unable to form a decisive opinion for lack of proof of charges. Mr. Pritchard, in the late campaign, we believe, purposely and studiously misrepresented facts for effects sake to secure his office. We believe further, that he promised both the Ramsays the Salisbury postoffice and that his excuse to the Charlotte Observer about referring the matter to others while his brother was in a precarious condition, was an unmanly subterfuge. We have little faith in Mr. Pritchard's doing his duty when self interest dictates the opposite. Mr. Skinner was also an agitator trying to alienate Democrats and getting a following by some novel scheme.

But to return, the Observer says it feels justified in transferring THE STANDARD to its column of papers which declare for co operation with

the Populists in preference to suffering a continuance of Negro domination. We do not know why the Observer should put it that way. We declared positively against fusion with the Populist party and we did not say or mean to say "negro domination." We said the present disgraceful government. We are opposed to the Negro in office, unless it be where the Negro only is concerned, but the Negro in office in the State is not a tithe of the evil of the officials that could only get into office by their votes combined with white men's whose better judgement was beclouded by designing agitators of which Senator Butler is of the worst type we ever heard speak.

Our friend, the Observer, thinks we would not have to sacrifice principle to co-operate with the Populists, led by Mr. Butler. We think just the opposite. What principal is there in the act of Butler's delivering the 30 odd thousand Populist votes to the worst element that has popped up in the State since the days of reconstruction? If he sought the good of the State how could he deliver over that vote to a party whose principles were diametrically opposed to the party to which he first made overtures? Who wants to fight shoulder to shoulder with a Captain who will deliver his company bodily to fight with the enemy against you if you don't accept his terms? Why talk of Democrats' "knifing" Bryan when as individuals they voted for some other candidate when Mr. Butler is condoned for delivering 30 odd thousand votes to bring about our deplorable condition in the State, including the Negro in office? Does not Butler know his power, and does he not stand ready to deliver over to the enemy as soon as his terms are rejected?

Any attempt to co-operate with the Populist party would mean to accept Butler's terms with a menace that it is these or we will go to the Republicans, negro and all. Mr. Butler's terms would be such as insured the greatest possible aggrandizement of Mr. Butler. We hope this is not prejudice but is born out on the face of facts.

Our contemporary fears that we (as Democrats) will not demean ourselves so as to draw to us a sufficient number of individuals to render our chances good. We think so too, if we offer co-operation with an element that co-operated with our political enemies to wrest the government from good, wise and safe hands to the worst that the State could well have. Surely, with the record of Democracy in the State contrasted with the last two legislatures and our Governor and his kind, we can draw enough of the better class of Populists who wish to wash their hands of the combination and return to unconquered ranks to overthrow this evil domination.

We believe we would lose our self respect and that of the men we wish to win by any effort to fuse with Butler.

We beg our contemporary's pardon, yielding to the expediency forced by the existence of a third party in '96 does not apply for '98. Then we played hush about their misdoings in order to fuse as much as possible (no choice of THE STANDARD'S) but now we propose to go into the fight as we did in '74, to regain the legislature and hold the governor to his place, and in 1900 clear the State of the incubus as we did when the noble Vance led us so boldly, independently, aggressively and victoriously.

(We are sorry that any one should be so reckless as to call our gallant

Vance a traitor.)

One more point by our contemporary, we think, not well taken. He reminds us that most of the evil done in the last legislature was done by the Republicans and Skinner Populists. We answer that in '94 Butler had his own sweet will and way. The record was bad, but he got the highest office within the gift of State by Republican co-operation and we understood, and fully believe, with the positive bargain that when Pritchard's short term was ended that Populists would help to elect him for the six-year term. Pritchard's financial sentiment did not justify Butler's going back on the bargain. When the coalition was formed they announced to the world that "We hold our principles in abeyance." It left no room to kick about Pritchard's financial professions. (Pritchard on finances is like Butler on the tariff, "put your finger on him and look and he is not there.")

This great split in the Populist ranks, so utterly foolish and inconsistent on the part of Butler, must be due to innate perfidious scheming that missed its mark and rebounded on his own head, and through his spiteful, vicious hate he opposed some evil that was done in the legislature, but he was not above any of it as his general lack of principle shows. Our governor is easily the most objectionable product of fusion creation and Butler is thick with him. (But watch and see that break come ere long, when Butler is about to be overshadowed.)

THE STANDARD believes it has a strong case. It claims nothing for adroitness or skill but all for facts and reason, which it offers for Democratic unity and victory, and asks the hand of its esteemed contemporary, the Fayetteville Observer, "as we go marching on" to victory without fusion, sacrifice, compromise or abeyance of principle, with Vance and '76 as our watchword.

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