
Champ Clark's
Letter

(Special Washington Letter.)
WHEN Senator Aldrich considers the opposition of Lyman J. Gage to his financial bill through his mind there must run the famous "Et tu, Brute!" The prospects for what Uncle Joe Cannon denominated "rubber currency" do not seem particularly bright at this writing. If they are not going to tinker with the currency what is the necessity for the Republicans, poor things, to have an extra session? The latest news is to the effect that Governor Cummins of Iowa declines to be considered as a vice presidential candidate. Wonder if he ever heard of the girl "who vowing she would never consent consented?" Evidently the St. Louis Globe-Democrat believes in the old adage "Better late than never," as it is just now announcing that John S. Wise has moved from Virginia to New York, a thing that happened some twelve or fifteen years ago. There is some hope, therefore, that some time or other in the sweet by and by the G.-D. will learn that the civil war closed in 1861 and will cease to wave the bloody shirt. General Nelson A. Miles must be surfeited with "mentions" for high political places. He was first mentioned for president, then for vice president, then for governor of Massachusetts. Oh, what a fall was there, my countrymen! The political growth of Hon. John D. Long, ex-representative in congress, ex-governor of Massachusetts and ex-secretary of the navy, appears to be after the manner of the growth of a cow's tail—downward. He is now being mentioned for the Bay State legislature, or general court, as it is called. Now comes also Mr. Representative Overstreet of Indiana and John C. Secretary of the Treasury Gage and Uncle Joe Cannon, the speaker predestined, in opposition to the president's suggestion as to reformation of the currency. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." If it be true that the early bird catches the worm then the boomers for Secretary of War Eilhu Root for president in 1908 will be riotous in it—that is, they would be if there was not another set of political "sooters" also booming Governor General William H. Taft for president in 1908. When early birds meet early birds some later comer is likely to get away with the worm. Hon. Frank Wachter, Republican representative in congress from Baltimore, evidently believes that an open confession is good for the soul. At any rate he makes one by declaring that "the entire federal service is honey-combed with corruption. Every one that has been brought in close contact with the departments knows these things." If the genial Wachter does not look a little out the St. Louis Globe-Democrat is liable to denounce him as a Copperhead for "telling tales out of school." Governor Robert M. La Follette, a Republican who is now filling his second term as governor of Wisconsin, is in danger of having the Globe-Democrat hurl at his head the awful epithet of Copperhead for saying: "We are building up colossal fortunes, granting unlimited power to corporate organizations and massing together business interests as never before in the commercial history of the world, but the people are losing control of their own government. Its foundations are being sapped and its integrity destroyed." **Some Opinions by the Next Speaker.** That Hon. Joseph G. Cannon of Illinois, affectionately called Uncle Joe, is destined to be the next speaker if he lives is known of all men. He appears to be in high good humor with all the world. Recently he was in Omaha. A dispatch from that city runs in this wise: Congressman Joseph Cannon was in Omaha today, and when asked regarding currency legislation at the coming session of congress replied: "That's something I'm saying little about. Besides, we're not sure of just what is happening and what is needed. It's true a lot of the eastern fellows think they are in a bad way and need currency legislation to help them out, but I notice that stocks are not down to a low investment basis even now. You see, they've got everything way up too high and things are getting back to normal." On the lynching question Mr. Cannon said: "Why, blank it, I'm an optimist about this. This question will right itself by the uprising of a healthy public sentiment. The American people are fitted for self government. They've proved it on many another occasion. They'll prove it now. Mob violence will be wiped out in this country. It is possible that our judicial procedure is a little slow and technical, that there are too many opportunities for quibble and delay, but it's a mighty good system nevertheless. It is the old English system. It is built on the English common law. It recognizes the principle that it is better nine guilty men escape than that one innocent man be punished, and it is steadily approximating the point where men who are innocent are safe and men who are guilty may expect punishment. I think in the main the people have confidence in our courts. Such things as the delays of the law, its loopholes, race prejudice, drunkenness and the like that excite to mob violence do not imply that the race spirit is to grow and continue to defy our institutions. The causes for mob violence will be gradually lessened at the same time that public sentiment against it increases, and thus the evil may be depended on to right itself. Unthinkable. Nobody with much experience in or observation of criminal trials will be

praise, not criticism. He is a humanitarian and a great ex-Missourian. **Happy Patterson.** One of the most famous passages of Alfred Lord Tennyson's most famous poem, "Locksley Hall," runs in this wise: In the spring a fuller crimson comes upon the robin's breast; In the spring the wanton lapwing takes himself another crest; In the spring a livelier iris changes on the burnished dove; In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love. No doubt all these things happen in the spring, but Lord Tennyson was away off if he supposed that it is only in the spring that "a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." It may be so in effete Europe, but a young man's fancy is not so circumscribed as to time in America. At least Hon. Malcolm R. Patterson, representative in congress from Memphis, Tenn., will make his "after davy" to the fact that a young man's fancy is likely to take such a turn at any season of the year, especially when a Missouri girl is the magnet which turns his fancy. Press dispatches from Carthage, Mo., announce his engagement to Miss Sibyl Hodges of that delectable little city. Brother Patterson is evidently a man of exquisite taste. The bride elect came very near being one of my constituents, her maternal grandparents having resided within my halliwick for years, and her aunt, Mrs. Robert M. White, wife of the celebrated editor, Colonel Bob White, being among my most valued constituents. Colonel Patterson has set a good example to all bachelor and widower congressmen. To all of them I say, "Go and do likewise." It is a scientific fact that marriage leads to longevity, especially marriage with a Missouri woman. There are several eligibles on the congressional roster—General Harry Bingham and Hon. Robert Adams, Jr., of Philadelphia, for instance. Marriage with Missouri women might make Democrats of them and land them in the senate. A Missouri wife might land Hon. William Sulzer of New York in the White House. There are others who are missing an opportunity to be happy for life. **Good!** The St. Louis Globe-Democrat talks arrant nonsense when it talks politics. On most other subjects it is sane. It is a pleasure to find in its editorial columns anything commendable. When a thing of that character is discovered it ought to be exploited to the fullest extent and given a wider circulation than that of the G.-D. in order to encourage it in well doing. Discussing the Republican policy of abandoning the Missouri river, the G.-D. says: It is a mistake on the part of the government to abandon the Missouri river commission. It should rather be strengthened for engineering work. The Missouri has an important future in irrigation, and its navigable uses are by no means to be regarded as ended. In building the great irrigation dam on the Nile the British government has aided the craft that regularly navigate the river. Missouri's delegation in congress ought to work together to induce the government to study the possibilities of the broad stream that winds through so many states and is destined to be of untold advantage to all. Continuous investigations ought to be carried on by engineers under the direction of the national authorities until the best comprehensive plan for its improvement is fixed upon. A river of continental magnitude cannot be abandoned as unmanageable. What the Missouri river needs is to be fully and scientifically interpreted. **Important if True.** General Frederick Dent Grant, commander of the department of Texas, has made two discoveries which are important if true—(1) that we should hasten to fortify our Mexican border because, as he alleges, the Mexicans are fortifying; (2) that the cañon ought to be restored to the army as a temperance measure. This latter suggestion is respectfully referred to the professional temperance folks with the statement that General Grant is himself a teetotaler. As to the necessity for fortifying our Mexican border, that is all moonshine. We can't have a war with Mexico unless we are the aggressors, and unless we lose our senses we never will have a war with her. If she is fortifying against us it is because our newfangled jingo policy has caused her to fear that we have sinister designs on her northern states. **A Center Shot.** One of my constituents, Frank N. Frost, editor of the Vandalla Leader, remarks: Postmaster General Payne is said to have informed his friends that he will resign his position as soon as he completes the investigation into the postal frauds. Lord, what a job he's got! **Losing a Great Opportunity.** The bullheaded course of Colombia promises to lose for her the benefits of the greatest opportunity that has ever knocked impatiently at her doors. The result will probably be that Nicaragua will get the canal and leave Colombia forever just a little to one side of what will become the greatest of maritime highways. Property, life, traffic and trade will mark the terminal points of this canal. Civilization and progress, both infectious, will go with it. Colombia, just outside the zone of its vivifying influence, will continue to sleep in comparative seclusion from the busy world so near to it. It is stupid folly on her part. **Champ Clark.** "Do you enjoy going to the theater?" "Very much," answered Mr. Cannon. "The only thing that worries me in connection with the drama is the task of finding something I really enjoy sufficiently high priced to suit my wife and the girls."—Washington Star.

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