

THE PUBLIC LEDGER.

By JOHN T. BRITT.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

OXFORD, N. C., JULY 31 1896.

NATIONAL TICKET.

FOR PRESIDENT :



WILLIAM J. BRYAN,
OF NEBRASKA.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT :
ARTHUR SEWALL,
OF MAINE.

STATE DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

- GOVERNOR,
C. B. WATSON, of Forsyth.
- LIEUT. GOVERNOR,
THOS. W. MASON, of Northampton.
- SECRETARY OF STATE,
CHAS. M. COOKE, of Franklin.
- TREASURER,
B. F. AYCOCK, of Wayne.
- ATTORNEY GENERAL,
E. I. OSBORNE, of Mecklenburg.
- AUDITOR,
R. M. FURMAN, of Buncombe.
- SUP'T. PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
J. C. SCARBOROUGH, of Johnston.
- ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF SUPREME COURT,
A. C. AVERY, of Burke,
GEO. H. BROWN, of Beaufort.
- CONGRESS—FIFTH DISTRICT,
W. W. KITCHIN, of Person.
- JUDGE—FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT,
J. S. MANNING, of Durham.
- FOR ELECTOR—FIFTH DISTRICT :
AUBRY L. BROOKS, of Person.

"You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns, you shall not crucify man on a cross of gold."—W. J. Bryan.

While the personal feeling of many may be molested, it is the principle of Democracy as eternal as the hills that a majority should rule. It behooves us as Democrats to lay aside personal views and work for the best interests of the party as upheld by Thomas Jefferson.

Four years ago the New York Sun repudiated the Democratic platform and said the campaign should be waged on the Force Bill. Now it stands shoulder by shoulder with Henry Cabot Lodge, the author of that bill, and advocates the election of McKinley, who championed the measure and voted for it.

The Atlanta Journal, Secretary Hoke Smith's paper, has come squarely out for Bryan and Sewall. The Journal announced that after careful deliberation, "while we cannot endorse all of the platform adopted at Chicago, we have determined to give an earnest support to the Democratic nominees."

Here is another Republican convert, "Honest John" Davis, of Providence, a former Republican Governor of Rhode Island, says the country must soon accept the silver standard. His opinion of what would happen in the event of the election of Bryan and Sewall is thus expressed: "Foreign capital would unload all of their holdings, undoubtedly, and there would be a great business panic in this country. But when it was all over there would be a readjustment of values and much greater prosperity."

During the last two years Republican leaders like Mr. Reed and Mr. McKinley, to say nothing of the salaried high tariff stumpers, have been dodging the silver question. They have had confidence in the power of McKinleyism to gain a victory for them this year. But a change has come this year. They are now dazed to find themselves in the midst of a political revolution; they are ill-prepared to grapple with the defection in their own ranks; and it is doubtful whether their party management is competent to deal with the emergency intelligently and effectively.

THE POPULISTS CONVENTION.

From beginning to ending the proceedings of the Populists' convention held at St. Louis were unique. It was a body composed of many discordant elements and the members were pulled hither and thither by various agencies, but from first to last Mr. Bryan was the popular favorite.

Not all that McKinley's representatives could do in the way of advancing "persuasive arguments"; not all the shouting and threatenings of the "middle-of-the-road" men could budge the mass of the delegates from their devotion to him. And yet curiously enough they expected him to do a dishonorable thing when they suggested that he should accept nomination on a ticket which ignored his running mate, Mr. Sewall. Mr. Bryan's answer to this proposition is what we expected of him, and the position that he took was precisely right, says the Richmond Dispatch.

Even if the Populists' platform were all that it ought to be, Mr. Bryan could not have done otherwise than he did in refusing to be divorced from his associate on the Democratic ticket.

As to other things pertaining to the Populists' convention, there is much doubt and confusion, but it is certain that the great bulk of the Populists wish to aid in the election of Mr. Bryan. Between McKinley and Bryan, between Bryan and anybody else, they are for Bryan by a large majority. This is an important fact and it seems to be about the only thing that is clearly settled by the St. Louis convention.

The Republicans may sneer and jeer at these Populist voters as much as they please, but they would be only too glad to have their aid in the coming election. They have combined with them frequently in State elections, and Hanna's agents were at St. Louis ready to bargain with the disaffected element there for help in November next.

Now, the question will arise. How is the Populist strength to be made serviceable to Mr. Bryan? If the Populists have a set of electors in each State different from the Democrats, the votes cast for the Populist electors will be thrown away; certainly they will do our candidate no good. Knowing this, we should think that all Populists who really wish Bryan elected would vote for the Democratic electors. We have heard it, suggested that in some States, where the Populists are almost equal in numbers with the Democrats, fusion tickets might be agreed upon. But Bryan could no more consent to this than he could consent to the St. Louis proposition. Possibly, however, Mr. Sewall himself might make the way clear for such an arrangement to be made.

It will be a good while yet before the tangle that the St. Louis convention made will be unravelled and meanwhile the Republicans will be found to be very actively at work in creating new troubles and revising those which had a place in the St. Louis convention.

Nothing done at St. Louis will weaken Mr. Bryan with the Democratic masses—but the contrary. His course with reference to Mr. Sewall, all must agree, was most commendable. In this he showed himself a man of honor and decision of character as well. In no way that we can see has he sacrificed his self-respect or the confidence of his countrymen. All the votes at St. Louis showed that his candidacy was approved by the majority of delegates, and it is admitted even by the McKinleyites that if the Democratic and Populist votes of the West can be combined in November it will be impossible to defeat Bryan of election.

Free silver is the issue that has given new life and blood to the Democratic party, and the battle must be fought and won. With this issue, the new Democracy appeals to the toiling masses all over the land. It presents a candidate who is the choice of the people. Its platform enunciates the gospel of the new Democracy, vital with issue and principle, and on it they have placed William J. Bryan as the leader of the new crusade. Free silver will win.

The people should and must be free in a free government. Herr Most and other Anarchists are for the gold standard and will vote for McKinley. The income tax clause plank of the platform commends itself to all right thinking men. Taxes should be laid, not on the necessities of life as they are under Republican law, but according to what a man has and gets.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

The Republicans seem to think, and their thoughts find emphatic and exuberant expression in many of their organs just now, that the Democratic party is nearing its death, which they affirm will take place in November next. When the people cease to love and revere the patriotic principles upon which this government was formed then will the bells toll for the funeral of the Democratic party founded by Jefferson and not till then. The party has breasted worse breakers than those which appear to assail it now and has come out stronger than ever bettered by the discipline of battle. So it must ever be with the party that has always stood up for the interests of the masses and which has been a bulwark of safety against the attacks made upon the people by disloyal schemers who wrought for their dismay. For a time the enemies of Democracy may have prevailed, but the Jeffersonian banner was never furled for good, nor the hope of the people crushed by a partial eclipse of the Democratic party prevailed. Always and ever the party came out of the shadows that temporarily surrounded it, its flag attracting by its renewed beauty and its captains greeted with popular acclamations of welcoming delight.

The Democratic party is needed today and will be needed more and more in the days to come. Its generals and its filial followers will fight on against monopolies and trusts, against scheming disloyalists, and against class legislation. It will be heard from in the future 'when its guns will be trained on those who threaten to override the rights and privileges of the people at large, and in defense of those principles which have guided us from the beginning, and which the patriots of the early day proclaim as the fundamental basis of an enduring Republic. The Republican leaders have always hoped for an early dissolution of the Democratic party. They sung its dirge during the dark days of the civil strife, and laughed when the first signs of its returning power were given. Drunken with their own success, and rioting in the council chambers of the nation, the Republican leaders for a time hugged to their breast the delusion that their party would be perpetuated in authority forever. But when they least expected the people spoke and hurled from power the professional patriots who were running the government in the interests of gigantic speculators.

Have no fear that the Democratic party is nearing its sepulture. Its mission is by no means ended. It holds out today the only hope of patriotic perpetuation. It is of the people and it welcomes all alike, the rich and poor. It may run amuck under the guidance of foolish leaders now and then, but it quickly gathers itself together and finds the right channel. The Democratic party is the bulwark of national safety. When it dies the Republic dies.

CRITICISING MCKINLEY.

The Chicago Journal, a stalwart Republican paper, is dissatisfied with the situation. It criticises Mr. McKinley's persistence in talking tariff. It asserts that "there would be no sense in overhauling all those tariff schedules again, and thus keeping the country in an unsettled state, and it adds: "Mr. McKinley ought to recognize this, and he ought to accept the real challenge that has been hurled at him. If he keeps on as he has begun, he will be the only man in the country by November who has failed to understand the issues. The people are eager for a trumpet call and are tired of solemn palaver." The Journal can hardly fail to realize Mr. McKinley's maneuvering on the silver question during the last 20 years has unfitted him for the duty of making trumpet calls. It is probable that if the Republicans had the opportunity of doing the thing over again, they would nominate another man for President.

HENRY CLEWS ON THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

We fear that some of the Wall street folks are lacking in a sense of humor. Here is Mr. Henry Clews giving to the people who read his weekly circular a long argument against free coinage. In the first place nearly every person who receives this circular is as strongly opposed to free coinage as Mr. Clews himself. In the next place it may be regarded as certain that no argument or communication having a Wall street heading is likely to have the slightest influ-

ence on opinion in those sections where free silver is raging. Read what he says:

"At the present moment, the feeling excited by these Chicago performances is much less that of concern for the fate of the gold standard than one of alarm at the seeming spread of hostile sectionalism, of socialistic sentiment, of deliberate repudiation and of populism in an exaggerated form. Not a few people have drawn from these revolutionary planks of the platform the most pessimistic conclusions to the future state of the country; and that sort of alarmism has found its sympathizers, and is used by the professional 'bears' for disturbing confidence. These however are mainly the conclusions of shallow observers or hasty judges of events; who have not fairly weighed the question whether the millions of loyal citizens of the South and West have degenerated to the type of reckless revolutionists pictured in the rural resolutions of the Chicago platform. These alarmists have not seriously weighed the alternatives whether such a mass of people have become suddenly transformed into red revolutionists, or whether the men who got themselves surreptitiously chosen to represent them as delegates have sought to make them such for their own despicably selfish purpose."

ARE DEMOCRATS ANARCHISTS.

Is the Democratic platform adopted at Chicago really anarchy? It would really seem to any ordinarily fair mind that a charge that it is in the interest of anarchy or leads to anarchy, is not only absurd on its face, but purposely false and misleading. It is a democratic platform adopted by democrats. When has there been gathered more of experience, character, ability and statesmanship in any similar body that has met since the great war? It was indeed a body of very extraordinary ability. The platform adopted may not please every man—even every true democrat who understands our complex form of government and is familiar with the leading principles now agitating the public mind. When was there ever a platform adopted of any party that was acceptable to all of its members? The platform of 1892 proved not only unacceptable to the present revolting gold minority, but it has sought for three years to ignore, and even thwart the purposes of the platform, and to make opposition to it a test of true democracy now.

And yet these recalcitrants are denouncing the new platform of the party as a league with anarchy and a bid for hell. This, too, in the face of the fact that the monster Herr Most and other anarchists, and the socialists in the north, are for the gold standard.

Is the new platform a democratic platform? It is so for two good reasons:

1. It was framed and adopted by genuine, true-blue, unwavering democrats.
 2. It contains the fundamentals of democracy.
- The platform doubtless could be amended, enlarged, improved, and so could the republican platform now so sweet and precious and dear to the hearts of the Cleveland-Whitney-Herbert set of kickers.
- If not a democratic platform it is not so because it was not the work of democrats. The Washington Post, that is often acute and right and fair, says this:

"It was composed of democratic delegates, duly elected in compliance with the call of the democratic national committee, and in conformity with democratic usage. The currency question, on which a hard factional fight had been waged for many months, was the pivotal issue in the election of those delegates. The silver faction won because it was the major faction. It won the right to dictate the platform and name the candidates. It controlled all the states from which the democratic party could reasonably expect support, and it also controlled states that in recent elections have gone republican by immense majorities. For the major faction to have surrendered its convictions and laid at the feet of the minority all the results of its long and hard fight would have been un-democratic and pusillanimous."

That is very sensible and sane talk for an excellent newspaper suspected of republican, gold leanings. The platform necessarily contains principles that are new and not of the past. So do all the platforms of all the parties. Times change and new issue are evolved and made prominent—made leading principles. Silver is a question of this kind. Jefferson nor Andrew Jackson had to fight goldbuggery, an unborn and unheard of principle or power in politics in their day. It is altogether probable, from their known antecedents, wisdom, patriotism, confidence in an friendship for the people, that these great and wise men would be found battling for the people in 1896, if they were still in the arena. The old, true democrats of the first half of the century, if alive today would not be fighting the battle of the single gold standard.

The Post gives some history—not ancient—but strictly modern, and concerning Cleveland's course in

1885. He wrote a letter just before his first inauguration as president that was anti-silver and for the gold standard. It created a great excitement in the congress, and he was very severely denounced by the democratic members of the house for his course. Mills, of Texas, now of perhaps doubtful politics, led the assault against the incoming president. The Post says that "thus, at the very threshold of the democracy's return to power after its long exile, this silver question began to divide the brethren. But before the next presidential campaign Mr. Cleveland unfurled the banner of tariff reform, and thereby stood off the inevitable split."

Thomas Jefferson was so rigid a constructionist of the federal constitution that he held that the congress had no power whatever to charter a bank. He was even to a great extent a free trader. If he was living now it is not hard to tell where he would stand as between McKinley and a high tariff tax and a gold standard, and Bryan and a tariff for strictly revenue and the money of the constitution, which the great Jefferson himself had much to do in securing.

But the rabid and reckless opposition organs to the people and then candidates say the platform adopted at Chicago is simply and purely a populist and anarchic bid and production. We verily believe that this is absolutely false in conception and statement. The New York Sun and the other alleged democratic sheets that have flopped, are saying that the platform is the deliverance of anarchists and assassins—"a league with larceny and covenant with murder." This is the style of assault and deliberate lying resorted to now. The New York Journal, that has recently espoused the Bryan cause, well says this:

"In a letter to the Journal, written immediately after his nomination, Mr. Bryan declared that the campaign would turn 'upon an issue demanding only logical, scientific and fair-minded discussion.' He and most other people who believe that out of the clash of honest argument comes truth must be woefully surprised by the fashion in which the anti-democratic newspapers approached the question. They substitute epithet for argument, scurrility for reason, and wanton slander for decent controversy."

The New York Sun, an old assailant of the true democracy is a traitor to the party it pretends to serve. It has kicked out of traces before. It came very near electing Blaine. A change of less than 600 votes in New York state would have accomplished its end. In assaulting Bryan and the nominating democracy the lying organs that charge anarchy ought to hide themselves in shame. Calling their betters anarchists and conspirators and assassins and other offensive, false, obnoxious names is not the way to change honest and self-respecting men's opinions, but is sure to deepen their dislike, increase the spirit of retaliation, and if the worst should come to the country, make the places of the slanderers particularly warm. Referring to the editor of the Sun, the Journal says:

"But he does know that the southern democracy to a man was and is for the nominees of the Chicago convention. Are southern democrats anarchists and associates of assassins? He does know that the democratic delegates from the middle west and the far west were united in accomplishing these nominations. Are we to class the democracy of these regions as a band of bomb throwers? If he be not wilfully blind, he must recognize the fact that right here in New York, in Massachusetts and in Maine are democrats by the hundred thousand who will vote for Bryan and Sewall. Does anarchy, therefore, raise its horrid head among us?"

Mr. Bryan is not an anarchist. The democrats are not anarchists, but their traducers and abusers are miserable falsifiers and public enemies. Let the "campaign of education proceeds," and let the rampant liars and mud slingers get in their holes and remain there. Senator Walsh's paper, the Augusta Chronicle, says well of Mr. Bryan and what he really represents in his candidacy:

"His public life has been in the highest degree patriotic. His private life is beautiful and lovable. He appears in the political arena as the free silver knight of America. He stands before the public without fear and without reproach. He bids defiance to the money power of the world. He proclaims the true doctrine of American industrial and financial independence. As the United States are politically independent of all nations, so shall they be now forever financially independent. He challenges the admiration and support of American freemen of every party and every section, who love liberty and equality and justice and right when he defies the plutocracy in their demands for the gold standard, and proclaims to the money power at home and abroad: You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns. You shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold."—Wilmington Messenger.

Administrator's Notice.

HAVING BEEN DULY QUALIFIED AS Administrator of the estate of Henry W. Harris, Jr., deceased, by J. M. Sikes, Clerk of the Superior Court of Granville county, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to come forward and settle the same at once. Persons holding claims against his estate will present them to me for me for payment on or before June 13th, 1897, or this notice will be filed in bar of their recovery.

J. D. HARRIS,
Adm'r of H. W. Harris, deceased.

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