

Trouble Among the Fusionists.

In a letter, a day or two ago, the Wilmington Messenger's Raleigh correspondent thus describes the dissensions that are beginning to disrupt the Fusionists:

If the people on both sides are to be believed "it is now a fight from the word go," as to their fusion. That is the expression used by leading Populists, who swear they will not fuse unless the Republicans agree to vote for no man who favors a gold standard. The Republicans say they will not agree to this. Their chief men make this statement in response to a plain question by the Populist leaders and the Populists to-day took their stand on this issue. It is no secret that they think they will force the Republicans to come to their way of thinking. The editor of Senator Butler's paper, of course, reflects his chief's views and he assures me positively that if the Republicans do not make the pledge required there will be no fusion.

The Populists declare they hate McKinley and will not vote for Morton. They want to cut loose from any Northern candidate. The stir here is great. It now remains to be seen just what Senator Butler's power is. If he has lost his grip he is gone. If he can hold his own for a couple of months he will be stronger than ever.

There are likely to be some startling political developments within two weeks. There are signs of internal dissensions among the Populists. The latter think they can command many "silver Republicans."

The Coming Campaign.

Correspondence of the Observer.

HERTFORD, N. C., Jan. 28, 1896.

Editor of Fayetteville Observer:

DEAR SIR:—I have neither the time nor disposition to engage in a newspaper controversy. My letter of the 15th was not written for publication. I have no objection to its appearance in the columns of your paper, nor to your making it the basis of your editorial, "Let us get the truth." I will leave to your readers to say whether or not I ignored the "fundamental difficulty which the Democrats labor under," or that this correspondent thought that the State convention of '92 was held after the Chicago convention. Your conclusions are wrong. I know that the Democratic Party is a minority Party, but I do not believe we can get "recruits from the enemy" by "repudiating Cleveland," and if we could, I am not in favor of trying the experiment. I knew that the State convention of '92 was before the national convention and needed no information in regard to that matter. Mr. Butler and Col. Polk expected to control that convention, become the leaders of the Democratic Party in North Carolina and do what Tilden did in South Carolina. Previous to the meeting of the State convention, they held a caucus of the Alliance delegates to the State convention, in which caucus candidates were selected to be voted for in the District and State conventions, as delegates to the Chicago convention. These candidates were pledged to demand of the Chicago convention the St. Louis Platform, and if their demand were rejected they were to withdraw from the convention and go to Omaha as the delegates from North Carolina to the People's Party convention.

"Let us get the truth" and you will find that the "Party was (not) beat in 1894, that is the fusible hostile elements of '92 fused in '94 because it (the Democratic Party) failed to carry out its platform pledges." They had determined to control the party organization or leave it before the platform was made.

In your editorial of the 9th you propose to make Cleveland the issue in North Carolina by "repudiating" him—now you propose to "eliminate him as an issue in our State election." I have no objection to that proposition.

You say Ransom was the issue in 1894 (in voting for the unconditional repeal of the Sherman law.) Senator Ransom voted to repeal a law that was opposed by every democratic Congressman and Senator in 1890, and they said it was more demoralizing of silver than the act of 1873. Its advocates (except the silver mine owners) say the purpose of introducing the bill was to prevent the passage of the Free Coinage Bill, and to prevent putting Mr. Harrison "in a hole." The Democratic platform says: "We denounce the Republican legislation known as the Sherman act of 1890 as a cowardly makeshift fraught with possibilities of danger in the future, which should

make all of its supporters, as well as its author anxious for its Speedy Repeal." If Ransom was the issue in that campaign it was because those who wished to succeed him as Senator, those who "cussed Cleveland," and those who opposed the "carrying out of the platform pledges" made him the issue. "Let us get the truth" and you will find that it was not the friends of Senator Ransom and those who endorsed Cleveland who forced that issue in the campaign of '94.

You say "curiously, almost by the same mail that brought our correspondent's (my) letter came the evidence in Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan's confession that it was the President who made 'false accusations' against the New York World, and not the World against him."

"Let us get the truth." I have that confession and cannot find the evidence that the President made "false accusations against the World."

"Curiously" the same mail that brought the OBSERVER of the 23d containing your editorial, "Let us get the truth," brought the evidence, in an editorial in the World, that the President set aside Mr. Carlisle's secret arrangement and compelled a public loan instead. The World has shown that "Cleveland" was out of the ring. "Let us get the truth" and you will find that Carlisle was never in it.

You say it is the object of the OBSERVER to save the State by showing to the rank and file of these who used to vote with us, and who still claim to be Democrats at heart, that the organization still clings to Democratic principles. A most worthy object, one that I heartily endorse. That is my proposition. "Let us save the Democratic Party by stop cursing democrats and by presenting a united democracy against the combination of republicanism and populism." Invite those who "cling" to democratic principles to leave the combination organized for "spoils"—I mean by populism, those issues put forward by office seekers, because they think they will be popular with the people—issues to fool the people and get votes. Sub-Treasuryism and such like. I believe there is a majority of those who cling to democratic principles and these I would unite under the banner of the Democratic Party and defeat those who would band together for office and "public plunder."

"Let us get the truth" and know what democratic principles are. This can be accomplished better by calm discussion by those who differ, than by bitter denunciations of those who do not agree with us. You say "the public generally do not agree with our correspondent in his (my) view that there was no war in the President's Venezulean Message." And you give an extract from the Rev. Dr. Hoge. I have the highest appreciation of the ability and integrity of Dr. Hoge, the Editor of the Fayetteville OBSERVER and the public generally, but when I read a letter I claim the right to interpret it for myself and I have the same right to express an opinion as any other person has, and because Dr. Hoge's view is precisely that taken by the OBSERVER from the first, it does not necessarily follow that the "facts are against our good friend, Mr. McMullan." There has been a dispute between England and Venezuela for many years. Efforts have been made at various times by this Government to have the dispute settled. Mr. Cleveland, through his Secretary of State, asked England to arbitrate the disputed boundary line.

England refused to arbitrate. That is a fact and because of that declination the President did not, "assume all the way through that England was in the wrong and then ask for a commission to find out whether she was or not." His message was based upon the "fact" that England declined arbitration and he asked the cooperation of Congress in the appointment of a commission to ascertain the "facts" in the controversy between England and Venezuela. There always has been and probably always will be a contention as to what are "facts." Men may have their opinions and may change, but "facts" remain the same. If every democrat in North Carolina said that the Chicago Platform was for Free, unlimited and independent coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, that would not make it so. The question is what is the Platform, not what the "public generally" say about it. It is a "fact" that some people "cuss Cleveland," but why they do it will probably never be known.

Yours truly,
L. W. McMULLAN.

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ASSIGNEE.

FRANK W. THORNTON.

Jan'y 31, 1896.

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