

THE OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1896.

E. J. HALE, Editor and Proprietor.

E. J. HALE, Jr., Business Manager.

A STRAIGHT ISSUE.

The New York World says that Major McKinley has made a grave mistake in his Ohio straddle on the money question. It adds:

"The money question is one of the utmost consequence just now. The people at last understand it. They are divided into two bodies. The issue is simple enough. The people on both sides of this question are asking parties and candidtes the categorical question, Are you or are you not in favor of free and unlimited silver coinage at the ratio of 16 to 1 and without waiting for international agreement? No attempt to answer this question with equivocations is likely to satisfy the men on either side of the controversy. We have passed beyond that stage."

In the main the World is entirely right. The issue has come just as any student of politics must have known that it was bound to come, ever since the elections of '94 rebuked the Democratic President and Congress for misusing their great opportunity. Descending to details, a better statement of the issue than that given by the World is that it is bimetalism against the single gold standard.

Many advocates of free coinage would be content, perhaps the majority of them, with a different ratio from 16 to 1, if they only knew how to ascertain what the true ratio should be. In the absence of such knowledge, they demand that the *status quo* before the unconditional repeal, be restored; and that their servants at Washington then proceed to open the mints, as required by the Democratic national platform, to gold and silver on equal terms.

As the alternative provided for in the platform—that of a settlement of the ratio at the then impending Brussels conference—has failed, the other alternative remains, viz.: to restore free coinage by legislation. As the legislation referred to is domestic (American) legislation, and the American ratio, already established by law, is 16 to 1, 16 to 1 is the ratio at which it is necessary to resume the coinage. If that turns out not to be the commercial ratio, after a reasonable time, it is very easy to change. But the platform is mandatory. It leaves no alternative on that point. The alternatives laid down in that instrument have reference only to details. The administrationists say, in effect, that they can't carry out the main point—the platform's command to restore the equality of silver with gold at the mints—because they are uncertain how the details should be treated. It is to meet this wretched dodge that the definite cry of 16 to 1 has arisen. As we have said, the cry is for that specific ratio because it is the only ratio known to our laws—a very natural thing to call for, one would say.

But the most interesting feature of the World's statement is the fact that—in common with the rest of the single standard papers—it abandons the pretense that the "silver craze" has died.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

This is St. Patrick's Day, the day of the Patron Saint of Ireland, and is held sacred because on the 17th of March, A. D., 469, St. Patrick died. Various other dates are given as those of his death year, but the best authorities give the one we have mentioned.

It is not surprising that circumstances connected with the life of a person who lived 14 hundred years ago should be

clouded with uncertainty. So it is natural that even his existence should be doubted by some, especially as tradition calls for three Patricks: Succat Patrick, Patrick Palladius, and Senn Patrick. The better authorities agree that Succat was the Saint Patrick who christianized Ireland.

Other accounts ascribe the birth-place of St. Patrick to Gaul (France), to Cornwall, to Wales, to Ireland itself, and so on. The best authorities say that he was born in the province of Valencia, which was the territory comprised between the walls of Antoninus and of Severus in the southern part of Scotland. He was of noble Roman ancestry, as his name (Patricius) would indicate. He was the son of the deacon (magistrate) Calpornius, who was the son of Potitus, a priest. When he was about 15 years of age, and in the year 411, he was carried off, with a number of his neighbors, by the Scots and Picts, who made then one of their incursions into Valencia, and sold as a slave on the opposite coast of Ireland. Here he remained in hard slavery, tending cattle, for six years, when he made his escape. After his escape, he conceived the idea of devoting himself to the conversion of the Irish to christianity, and prepared himself for the priesthood at *Candida Casa*, St. Ninian's monastery in Britain.

He was probably 30 years of age, that is, it was in the year 425, when he returned to Ireland as a priest and began his mission. He was made a bishop in 441, and from that year to his death in 469 he preached and administered his sacred office throughout Ireland. He found there 3 millions of pagans, and left them at the end of his 44 years of work, christianized if not christians.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Our administrationist friends are not coming up to the rack in the way their recent brave words would require them to do. They say they won't bolt if the national convention adopts a free silver platform. What we need first to know is whether or not they will submit loyally to the action of the State convention if it should decide not to send delegates to Chicago. The State convention comes first, and the first test of loyalty may occur there. Again: they should be more specific with reference to free coinage. Will they remain loyal, or will they bolt, if the Chicago convention adopts a 16 to 1 platform? They must not take our pertinacity amiss, but the fact that they have no condemnation for the Kentucky Carlisle bolters renders them open to criticism.

Campbell and McKinley.

Washington Letter.

Ex-Governor Campbell, of Ohio, who is regarded as in line with the democratic presidential lightning, if he doesn't get struck, is in Washington on business. He has been observing the McKinley boom and thus sizes it up: "It's a pretty strong boom, very healthy and vigorous right now, but whether it will pan out next June is another question. I hardly think it will. If the convention were held to-morrow or next week, doubtless Gov. McKinley would be the nominee, but there is a lot of time for the other people to develop counteracting booms. Then there are the Southern delegates that some people think will bear watching—they are a factor in the St. Louis convention."

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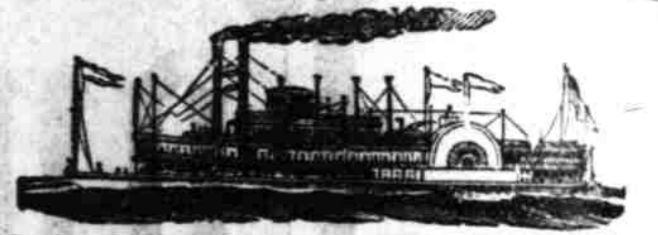
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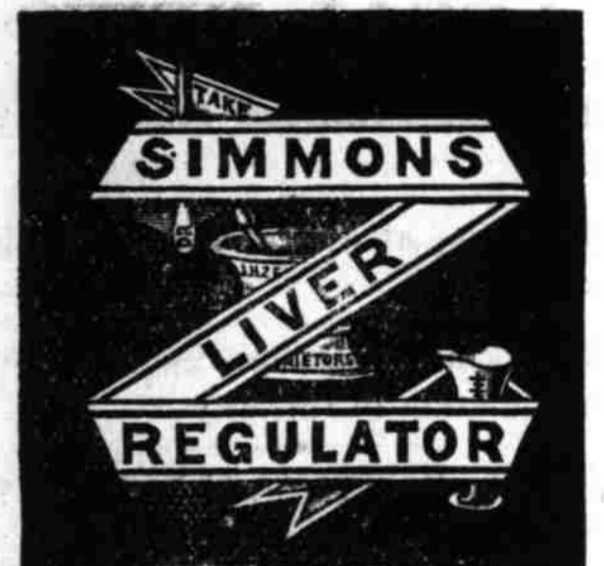
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