

# THE OBSERVER.

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E. J. HALE, Editor and Proprietor.

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## THE KEYNOTE OF BRYAN'S CANDIDACY.

The question has been often asked since Mr. Bryan's nomination, "what is the secret of his hold upon the people; how could even such a speech as that which secured him the nomination at Chicago effect that end?" And so on. Perhaps a solution will be found in the following extract from the telegraphic account of Mr. Bryan's visit to Mayville, New York.

Mayville, which is the home of Judge Albion W. Tougee, who is at present stumping for Major McKinley, was reached at 10:30 o'clock a. m. Mr. Bryan spoke here from the balcony of the hotel to 400 people and his reference to Judge Tougee's books caused laughter from the crowd that heard him. He said that Mr. Jefferson had the correct idea when he said that republics were founded in jealousy, not in confidence; that confidence was everywhere the parent of despotism. "Show me a people," said Mr. Bryan, "who are so confident in their leader that they take no part in the details of government and I will show you a people whose leaders look out for themselves, not the interests of all the people. Show me a people who instead of having too much confidence are jealous of their liberties, are watchful of their public servants and careful of the politics proposed by the different parties, and I will show you a people that have a good government." (Cheers.)

It is perfectly plain from this that Mr. Bryan is an anti-machine man. Evidently he despises a Boss. The people, somehow, have discovered this fact, and they turn to him to save them from their worst enemy, the Boss that controls the "machine." As our readers well know, the OBSERVER is almost extreme in its belief in the efficacy of party organization, and it never tolerates disloyalty to such rightful authority. But it is equally opposed to that perversion of party organization which advances the ends of individuals to the detriment of those of the party which the organization was created to serve. That was Vance's doctrine, precisely; and the OBSERVER often had occasion to point it out in the great fight made in his behalf three years ago, when the whole power of "the machine" was exerted to crush him. In short, Mr. Bryan is another Vance, and the people have discovered it by the same instinctive processes that led them to follow almost blindly our Carolinian Tribune.

It was this, also, which led to his nomination at Chicago. When he rose to speak, the case had gone against the majority in the estimation of the audience. Tillman had not helped his side, to say the least, and Jones's speech was devoted to taking the virus out of Tillman's, so that Hill, Vilas and Russell, the champions of the gold minority, had it all their own way. It was under such circumstances, when our side was hanging its head in defeat, that Bryan came upon the stage and snatched a glorious victory from it. He literally filled an aching void. But his burning words and intellectual and oratorical triumph would have been void of effect if it had not been for the unusual character of the delegations composing the silver majority. The majority of this majority was composed of the better elements of the party who had been brought out from political retirement by the anti-machine reaction which accompanied the silver uprising.

If the nominations had been called the same evening, Bryan would have been chosen by acclamation. But the machine element of the silver majority secured an adjournment until the next day, and when the balloting began then Bryan was not

first in the list. The leaders of the anti-machine element—easily in the majority, if united—were, however, not to be diverted from their purpose. They had recognized in the evidently sincere Nebraskan the true head of the people's uprising, they brought the scattered fragments of their side together, and the thing was done.

When Mr. Bryan repeated with approval in Judge Tougee's home Mr. Jefferson's description of a boss-ridden people in contrast with a Democratic people, he simply demonstrated the fact that no mistake had been made at Chicago, and supplied us with the keynote of his candidacy.

## THE BOLTERS' CONVENTION.

What a miserable set the bolting goldbugs are. The other day their head man in this State, Mr. De Lacroix, gave out a list of alleged signers to a call. A number of the signatures have since been proved to be fictitious or unauthorized. Mr. Isaac P. Dortch, of Goldsboro, was among the latter, and he has come out in a ringing letter denouncing the theft of his name.

Now we learn from the telegrams from Indianapolis, where their "National" convention is assembling, that "there is no doubt that the platform will heartily recommend the principle of an income tax, and possibly suggest an amendment to the Constitution in that direction."

Yet their organs, with exception of the World, have denounced the income tax plank in the Chicago platform as an assault on property!

It is no wonder that we are assured in the same telegram that Mr. Cleveland, the time server, will be the strongest man before the convention if he will consent to the use of his name.

## Butler and Tom Watson.

Atlanta Constitution.

Hon. Thomas E. Watson has landed with both feet upon the back of Chairman Marion Butler of North Carolina.

There is a thuddy quiver in the jump which Mr. Watson has made upon the national committee which comes with telling force.

He raises an emphatic protest against the intention of Chairman Butler not to notify him or to let Mr. Bryan know what was done at St. Louis.

Mr. Watson states that it is humiliating both to the party and to himself to let the campaign go on in this unheard-of manner.

He says in his paper:

"If Mr. Bryan is ashamed of the votes which are necessary to elect him, we ought to know it. He cannot carry his own State without our help, and if he is ashamed of our help, he is not the man our people have taken him to be.

"Let us have no dodging. Let the committee do its duty and notify Mr. Bryan. "It is humiliating both to the party and to its other nominee, Mr. Watson, to let the campaign go on in this unheard-of manner."

The Washington Star says:

"The political scientists says that an investigation reveals that Senator Marion Butler and Tom Watson have had a mix-up, and that the color of the feathers scattered around, together with the other fragments, indicate that the North Carolina bird got the gaffs from the Georgia game cock. Those who know him say he will be in the next fight and better equipped. In plainer language, however, there are many indications that Tom Watson and Senator Marion Butler have had a quarrel and that Watson may have got the best of it. To all outward appearances the North Carolina Senator has been for some time, even before the St. Louis convention, the head and practically the tail of the Populist party. Whatever he said went with a rush. This continued at the St. Louis convention, where the North Carolinian won in nearly every contest. He was given further power by being placed at the head of the party for the campaign.

Butler held the reins in everything. He sailed along smoothly until he came in

contact with Tom Watson, whose head is said to be harder than the output of a pottery establishment, and when he makes up his mind that he wants a thing a certain way he never stops until he gets it that way, even though wiser heads want it otherwise.

## BUTLER'S PLAN.

The story of the politicians is that Senator Butler had no decided idea that Bryan would be notified by the Populists of his nomination. He almost concluded that there should not be any such formality, and it was so announced. The political world took it for granted that Senator Butler knew what he was talking about and that there would be no notification. But about this time Tom Watson began to get in his work. He first started by writing letters and sending telegrams to Senator Butler. The North Carolina ruler paid no attention to these. Suddenly, it is thought, the Populist candidate for Vice-President changed his tactics. He evidently notified the national chairman that if he didn't come to time on the notification business he would be roasted in Watson's paper. He would expose him as being a part of a Democratic plot to swallow the Populist party. The chairman couldn't stand this and came to the conclusion, as told in the Star yesterday, that Bryan must be notified.

## WILL PROBABLY WIN IN THE END.

While politicians are saying a great deal on the subject, Senator Butler is sawing wood. He has much more ability and brains than Watson. If he did give way to Watson, it is argued that it was for the sake of the silver nominees. He is more conservative than the vice-presidential nominee, and may have seen that no harm could come out of the Populist notification, and that it didn't amount to much one way or the other. Watson's apparent triumph in one matter, it is asserted, doesn't mean that he will be successful in any more of the conflicts which may take place. No other question can come up in which the Populist party as a whole will be so deeply interested, and then Butler can take Watson by the throat and deal with him without raising a national rumpus, such as was promised should there be a refusal to no notify the nominees.

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