# The Commoner.

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DEMOCRATIC OPPORTUNITY.

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the neck of the democratic party. Grover Cleveland cannot come back to the party unrepentant without driving out ten votes for every vote that he can bring back.

What I say of him, I say of other men who have been conspicuous for their treachery; for their treachery not so much to the ticket as to the principles of the democratic party.

I believe in welcoming the prodigal son, while I have had some little sympathy for the feeling of the son who did not go astray, and who could not understand why when he had stayed at home all the time he had no fatted calf killed for him, but reserved for the one who had wasted his substance in riotous living—while I have had, as I say, some little sympathy for him, yet I recognized that there is forgiveness in the human heart and that it is natural to welcome back those who come back really sorry for what they have done.

I think an old colored minister described this forgiving spirit very accurately. He said that the father saw the son coming back, that he could see as the son came that he was sorry. The son had his head down, and he walked hesitatingly, almost ashamed to look his father in the face, and the father's heart went out to him, and the father hastened forth to meet him, and the son was glad and the father was glad. But, said the colored preacher, if the son had come back swaggering as if he owned the place, and had said to his father, "Wha's dat caff?" do you suppose the father would have killed the fatted calf for him?" That is the way I feel about

I care not what a man may have done against the democratic party, if he will come back sorry for what he has done, come back anxious to help build up the democratic party and make it strong, strong in the confidence of the people and in democratic principles, I will turn butcher and help kill the fatted calf when he returns. But the men who are reorganizing the democratic party through the newspapers that did not support the ticket, these men are not coming back as prodigal sons. They come back boasting of what they have done. They come back, not to enter the father's house, but to put the father's house on wheels, and move it over onto some new ground that they demand the right to select. They come back saying that they are better democrats than the people who stayed at home. They come back, not with heads bowed down, willing to be servants in the building up of the party, but they come back and seize the fatted calf, and attempt to kick out the faithful democrats who remained in the house. That is the way they are coming back. But, my friends, those who talk about reorganizing the party mistake the sentiments of the democrats who have sacrificed and suffered for their principles if they think that they will ever be allowed to take possession of the democratic party again. I believe that the time is at hand when the democratic party can do great things, but, my friends, it is not by aping the republican ways. We have not room for two republican parties in the United States. One is enough. If the republican policies are right, it is presumptuous on our part to rush in and say, "We have just found it out; now let us administer the offices." If they discovered before

cies were good, we ought not to infringe on their patent.

I believe that the democratic party's greatest opportunity, whether you predicate it upon high principles or upon the low ground of expediency, is to stand erect and show what democracy really means. I believe that there is an opportunity in this country to present to the people higher ideals than the republicans are presenting.

I was delighted tonight to see the large number of young men at our public meeting. I want us to go out and appeal to these young men. I want us to show them that the democratic party is their friend: that it is championing their interests; that we are trying to keep the door of opportunity from being closed against these young men; that we are trying to make it possible for them to reach the highest rewards in the political and industrial world.

And I believe you have here in Delaware as good an opportunity as they have anywhere in the United States to show what real democracy means. I have been talking with some of your people, and they tell me that the condition here has not been exaggerated in the public press; that nowhere in the United States have as many people been actually purchased in proportion to the total vote as in Delaware. But, my friends, I am afraid that the democrats have not always been entirely free from blame. I do not mean to say that the democrats have approached the republicans in the number purchased, but I am afraid that the democrats have not always appealed, as they should have done, to the conscience, while the republicans were appealing to the pocketbook.

I believe that the conscience is the only thing that can be placed against money. If you can awaken a conscience, no money can buy it. It was a conscience that made men stand by the stake and smile as the flames consumed them. Awaken that conscience and all the money of all the corruption to greater corruption? Tell me that there is no relief except in furnishing more money than the republicans can furnish? I tell you that that theory looks inevitably to the destruction of this republic. You cannot have a republic long under those conditions, and instead of imitating republicans and giving them no reason to leave their party, set before them a higher ideal, and go and appeal to the consciences of those republicans, old men, middle-aged men and young men.

Organize your clubs, and when a man joins, let him do as the old Carthagenian general's child did when his father brought him to the altar and made him swear eternal enmity to Rome. So when a man joins a democratic club in this state, make him walk up to the altar and lay his hand on it and swear eternal enmity to corruption in politics. Let the world know that the democratic party in Delaware, however small it may be, is a party of principles and convictions.

And I believe, my friends, that you will be surprised to find how many republicans, alarmed at what is going on in their party, will be glad to find some place to go, where they can act with ease of conscience, and where they will not be under condemnation for their own conduct. And it may be, if you will do that, that this will be the turning point in our political history, that out of your controversy here, out of your disgraceful condition here, will come the hope of a better day, and that this corruption having gone to the very limit, will arouse the people to resistance, and little Delaware will lead the way to return to purity in politics.

You are small—and some of the republicans now do not like small states; they do not like to bring in new territories because they are small —but, my friends, virtue is not measured by the size of the man or by the size of the community that exhibits it.

Little Switzerland is not large, but she has given lessons unto the world. Little Switzerland is not powerful in numbers or in physical strength, but she is leading the way in many reforms to the highest citizenship and to the best government.

And so little Delaware, small in

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publicans that there is a party that can be trusted, there will be multitudes of republicans who will turn to this party. They will turn to it and place the government in its hands.

Then this party, superior to the temptations that come from organized wealth, will so revise the laws as to place the burdens of taxation equitably upon the backs of the people; so reform our finances as to give the country a financial system made by the people for themselves; it will drive every private monopoly out of the United States, and open the door of opportunity again to our young men. And it will give to this nation a foreign policy that will make people everywhere lisp with gratitude the name of Democracy, because it will mean justice to people abroad as well as justice to people here.

It was said in olden times that to be a Roman was greater than to be a king. And so I want us to make the word "democrat" so priceless, that to be a democrat will stamp a man anywhere any everywhere as one who has principles that cannot be purchased with money, and purposes that are above the measures of dollars and cents.

world cannot corrupt Delaware!

And instead of trying to "reward people who are democrats for remaining democrats, or trying to purchase republicans who can be bought, let your motto be that you do not want a vote that has not behind it the heart and the head of the voter; that you are going to fight this battle on democratic ground, and that you are going to purify politics in Delaware by setting the example, and showing how a campaign ought to be run.

You cannot surpass the republicans in the purchase of votes. You cannot imitate their methods, and win. You simply estop yourselves from criticising them. Never until you sell the principles of the party, can you get as much money for campaign purposes as they can. They can always offer five or ten or even a hundred dollars for every vote where you can offer one dollar, and if you go into the market and bid against them, they can outbid you every time.

But if you say to them that you have no money for that purpose, that you do not want any person to vote your ticket because he is paid for it, you will make it an honor to be a democrat in Delaware. You may be few in numbers when you start. but if you will go out and preach this gospel you will increase, and when you do get a vote it will be a vote that will stay, and you will accumulate votes and make yourselves an irresistible force in this community.

the offices." If they discovered before we did that those principles and poli-

numbers and in territory, may lead the way to purer politics.

I am glad to have been with you. You owe me nothing; I owe you everything. I never can pay the American people for what they have done for me, for while I do not assume that those who have voted for me have voted for me as a personal compliment or that they have placed me under personal obligations for what they have done, yet I do mean to say that the great struggling masses of this country have given to me all I have, or am, or hope to be, and all my life, whether much or little remains, will be all too short to show them how I appreciate what they have done.

All that I ask is for an opportunity to be in the fight until death takes me from the scene. All that I ask is that where the fight is hottest and the danger greatest I may be permitted to go, for no one has more reason that I to make sacrifice or risk danger for the welfare of the people of this country.

As I have seen men who have been republicans all their lives breaking the bands that have tied them to their party, sacrificing all the associations that have grown up in a lifetime; and order to follow their convictions; and as these men have supported me in my campaigns, they have convinced me that it is impossible to conceive of a situation so bad as to be beyond the hope of relief.

If our party will remain true to its principles, if, without yielding to temptation, it will prove to the re-

## Some Sort of Change Needed.

Something is wrong with our superior civilization. A woman died lately in a New York hospital from starvation. When she collapsed she was standing in a line of prisoners in a police court waiting to be tried for the heinous offense of asking help in the streets for her extremity of need. Professional begging is rightly classed by the law as an offense against society deserving of punishment, but there is some hauling over of the law required when real and abject poverty is dealt with as a crime. —Baltimore American.

Strong or Weak?

Is your pulse strong or weak? Does your heart beat too fast or too slow? Every heart that flutters, palpitates, skips beats, causes fainting spells, shortness of breath, pain or smothering is weak and its owner is in constant danger of sudden death. Strengthen the heart with

Dr. Miles' Heart Cure' Heart Cure is sold by our symptoms. Heart Cure is sold by all druggists on guarantee. Write for free booklet on diseases of the heart, mentioning The Commoner. Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.