

last breath; but ingratitude, neglect, these have been my undoing. No, no! again I cry; they did not know, they did not know! I was foolishly proud and tried to carry the burden alone; my strength was not equal to the task. Well, hundreds before now, hundreds more deserving than I, have fallen in the struggle for labor's emancipation, and thousands yet will fall. Fallen? No! I have just been pushed aside. I must find another way."

The paragraph might indicate a pessimistic view of reforms, but this is not the impression left by Mr. Buchanan's book. While he states the truth when he complains that reformers are not always supported as they ought to be; that those whose interests are most neglected in government often have themselves to blame because of their failure to support those who labor in their interests, yet the tenor of his book is hopeful, and it teaches a lesson that every reformer ought to learn, namely, that those who work for the masses must work for them, as Mr. Buchanan did, not for the hope of reward or even for hope of immediate appreciation, but from a higher and nobler motive. Those who have earned the gratitude of posterity have, as a rule, been men who enjoyed but little gratitude during their lives. Just in proportion as one's work is pioneer work—the blazing of the way for those who come after—just in that proportion must he work alone and find his comfort in the consciousness that he is doing work that is necessary and that will bring benefit to the world.

One of the Latin poets has said that man plants trees whose fruit he does not expect to enjoy—he plants them for his children and his children's children, and so reformers sow seed, cultivate the soil and tend the crop without asking whether they are to live to enjoy the fruits of their labor. They find their reward in the belief that they are doing their duty, and there is no higher reward than the consciousness of duty well performed.

Reasons for Existence.

The Wall Street Journal tells the capitalists that they are to blame if the democratic party shows any tendency to radical action, and it handles without gloves those "high financiers who have seen fit to take the law into their own hands, those speculators who have pushed the prices of the necessities of life to excessive quotations; the adventurers in finance who have conducted criminal promotions and wrecked companies and swindled investors; the bankers and corporate managers who have carried the principle of reasonable combination of capital to unreasonable and dangerous limits." The mistake that the Journal makes is not in the description of the disease, but in assuming that the radical element of the democratic party cannot be trusted to administer a remedy. No remedy can be expected from what Cleveland calls "the safe, sane, and conservative" element of the democratic party, because he never applies that name to any one whose democracy is at all positive or well defined. If the democratic party has any reason for existence it must find that reason in its desire to protect the people from the very evils that the Wall Street Journal points out.

Not an Argument.

Some of Judge Parker's supporters are insisting that the democrats who believe in the Chicago and Kansas City platforms ought to favor his nomination because he supported the democratic ticket in both campaigns. Even assuming, for the sake of argument, that he supported the ticket in both campaigns, that is no reason why the believers in those platforms should favor his nomination. Mr. Hill claims that he supported the ticket in 1896, although he did not publicly admit it for two years afterwards. After the campaign he wrote a vicious magazine article attacking nearly every plank in the platform. Will any one say that the people who believe in those platforms should favor Mr. Hill's nomination, notwithstanding the fact that he, if president, would use the great influence of his office to thwart every democratic reform? If Judge Parker supported the ticket for regularity's sake, without being in sympathy with the platform, why should the people who honestly believe in democratic principles as enunciated in those platforms, favor his nomination? Are real democrats less sincere in their devotion to democratic doctrine than the bolters? Are they less concerned about the country's welfare? The men who bolted are loudly shouting their opposition to the nomination of any democrat who is in sympathy with recent

national platforms. Why should the friends of those platforms shout for the nomination of a man opposed to their political views? In other words, why isn't a sure enough democrat as much entitled to work for the advancement of his principles as a sham democrat is to work for the advancement of his peculiar views?

Until Judge Parker declares to the contrary, we have a right to assume from the character of the men and papers supporting him, that he is antagonistic to the vital parts of the Chicago and Kansas City platforms.

Attempting to Retire Silver.

Congressman Fowler has reported from the committee of the house a bill providing for the recoinage, without limit, of silver dollars into subsidiary coin. Walter Wellman, in the Chicago Record-Herald, speaking of the bill, says: "It is proposed to recoin 578,002,099 silver dollars now in the treasury into fractional currency." It is probable that the bill itself does not express this purpose, but that this is the real purpose no one who understands the subject can doubt. The silver dollar is an unlimited legal tender. The fractional currency is only a limited legal tender. The purpose of this bill, therefore, is to retire \$578,000,000 of legal tender money, thereby reducing the volume of standard money in the country. It is strange that any person, republican or democrat, can ignore so dangerous a proposition. The financiers are determined to reduce the volume of standard money to the smallest possible limit, for they can thereby better control it.

The gold democrats are working in concert with the republicans on this proposition, and they seek to avoid the money question, not because it is dead, but because they want to do by stealth what they dare not attempt openly.

The bill is another confidence game, and in line with the financial measures that have emanated from Wall street. It ought to be vigorously opposed by the democratic minority in congress, if it is brought up for passage, but the chances are that it will lie over until after the election, and then be rushed through, as much bad legislation is.

According to the press dispatches the bill also repeals the law prohibiting the deposit of custom receipts in national banks. This is intended to increase the deposits in the favorite banks. The bill also repeals the three million-dollar limit on bank note retirement. This is also in the interest of the banks and is intended to give them more complete control of the volume of money. Now under the present law the banks altogether cannot retire more than three millions in one month. If this limitation is removed the banks can retire all of the money in one month if they like, and re-issue it when they please.

Every financial measure presented for consideration by the republicans is in the interest of the banks, and of the financiers, and yet there are thousands of democrats who, receiving their information from republican papers—or still worse, from the gold democratic dailies—think that there is no reason for mentioning the money question in the platform. However, there are millions of democrats who have studied the money question and who know what the financiers are trying to do. These will see that the St. Louis convention takes no backward step.

Ministerial Speculators.

According to the Associated press dispatches, Judge Utley of Rochester, N. Y., has been wrestling with a case in which the members of a Rochester church sued their minister for commissions on stock in an old venture. In giving his opinion the judge criticised the speculative deal in hand as "one of the worst schemes of deliberate theft" which had ever come to his attention. In criticising the minister he quoted the Scripture, "My house shall be called the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves."

In investigating one of the "get-rich-quick" schemes recently exposed, it was found that a minister had made a large profit on a small investment and had become so interested in the chance for large gains that he induced a number of members of his church to join him in the speculation. These instances are not cited to the discredit of churches in general, but only as an illustration of the extent to which the speculative spirit pervades society.

If a minister feels tempted to lead his flock into any questionable scheme in the hope of speedy profit, he will do well to prepare a sermon on the subject of service, and by the time he has

finished his sermon he will be so saturated with the idea that one's life is measured by what he gives—not by what he gets—by what he does for others, and not by what others do for him, that the speculative fever will probably have disappeared.

Cedar County, Nebraska.

The democratic convention of Cedar county, Nebraska, was held at Hartington, recently, and the following resolution was adopted:

"Delegates are instructed to secure the reaffirmation of the Kansas City platform and the election of W. J. Bryan to the national convention to be held at St. Louis."

The democrats of Cedar county are not in favor of reorganization and if the democrats in each county convention will see to it that a resolution indorsing the Kansas City platform is offered it will be carried and there will be harmony in the state convention. Every county and precinct should go on record in favor of the reaffirmation of the platform and then there will be no chance of misrepresentation.

A Lively Corpse.

The senate committee on finance has reported an amendment to the sundry civil bill removing the limitation as to the coinage of subsidiary silver, but it is really only a part of the plan embodied in a bill, passed by the house in the last congress, to authorize the recoinage of all silver dollars into subsidiary coin. Not having the courage to do it all at once, they are now doing it by piecemeal, and yet they say the money question is dead.

The Special Offer.

There is no better way of aiding in the dissemination of democratic doctrine than in the circulation of publications that may be depended upon to support democratic principles. This rule, of course, applies to all publications that support democratic principles and oppose the aggressions of special interests.

Every publication that defends the people's cause should be supported and the wider the dissemination of such literature, the greater will be the chance of democratic success.

The Commoner hopes that it may be counted among those publications that may be at all times depended upon to defend the people's cause. This being true every effort to increase The Commoner's circulation widens its sphere of influence and thereby contributes to the people's cause.

In order to make it convenient for those who desire to co-operate in this good work, a special subscription offer for The Commoner has been arranged. According to this offer, cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner, will be furnished in lots of five at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Any one ordering the cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the effort to widen The Commoner's sphere of influence.

These cards may be paid for when ordered or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold.

A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who are willing to assist in the coming contest.

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Application for Subscription Cards

5	Publisher Commoner: I am interested in increasing The Commoner's circulation, and desire you to send me a supply of subscription cards. I agree to use my utmost endeavor to sell the cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each, when sold.	
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Indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this blank.		

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