

Great Men of Lowly Birth

Most of the great men of history were of lowly birth. Look over the list and see how little the 'bornin' had to do with results and achievements. Lord Wolsey was the son of a butcher, Columbus the son of a weaver, Horace the son of a manumitted slave, Sir Richard Arkwright the son of a barber, Shakespeare the son of a wool stapler, Watt the son of a blockmaker, Virgil the son of a porter, Stephenson the son of a fireman at a colliery, Burns the son of a plowman, Franklin the son of a tallow chandler, Oliver Cromwell the son of a brewer. Aesop was a slave, Beaconsfield was a lawyer's clerk, Thomas Paine a staymaker, Defoe a hosier, son of a butcher; Demosthenes the son of a cutler, Ben Johnson was a bricklayer, Bunyan a traveling tinker, Edmund Kean was the son of a stage carpenter, Dickens a reporter and son of a reporter, Cervantes was a common soldier, Homer was a farmer's son and is said to have begged his bread. The list might be extended through columns.—Kansas City Star.

French Diplomacy

France scores again in the diplomatic field. She is complimented both in London and St. Petersburg on the

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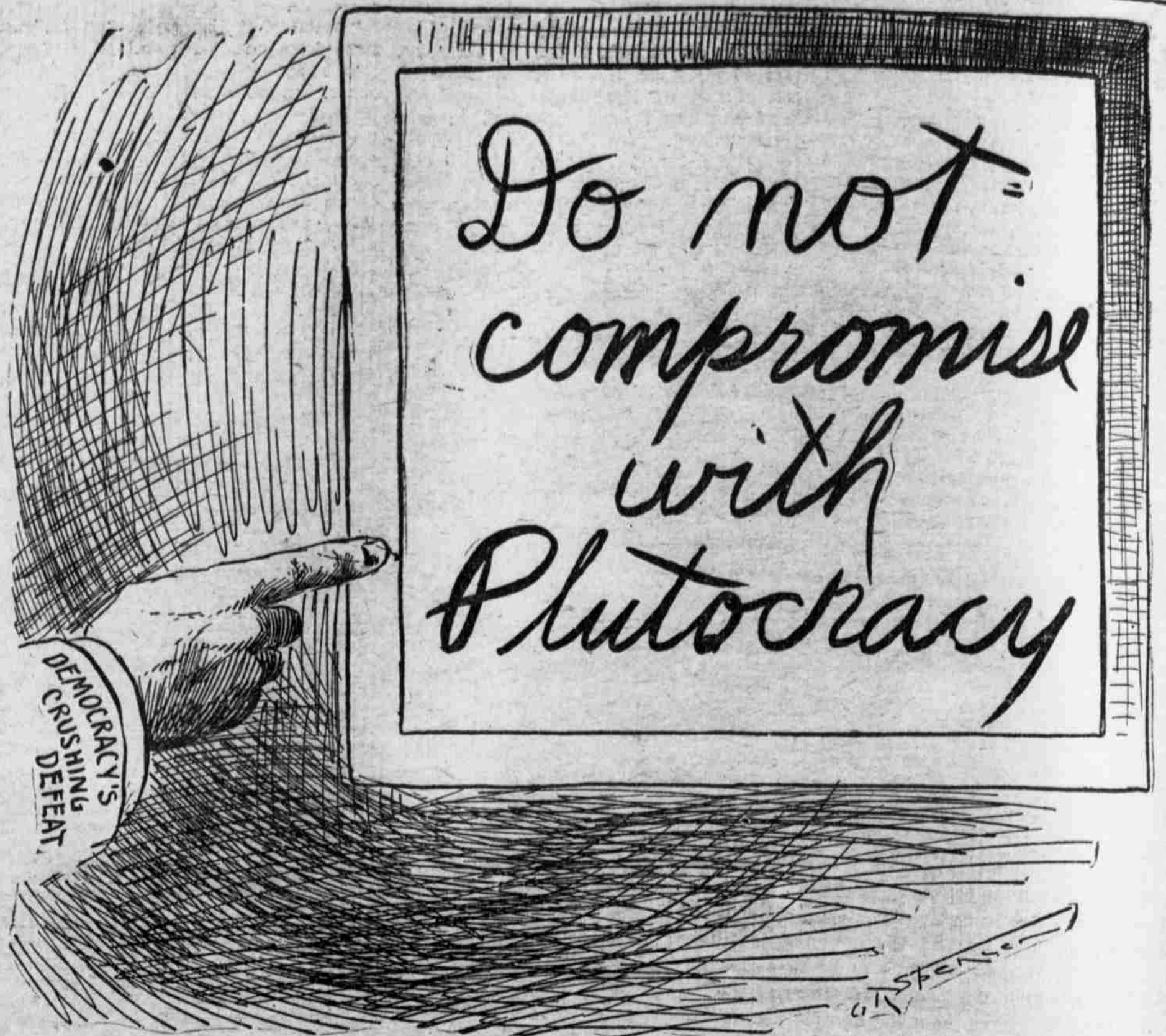
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The Lesson it Teaches

part she played in the negotiations for an examination into the attack on the British fishing fleet by the Russian Baltic Sea fleet. The situation was critical, and called not only for prompt but delicate handling. France possessed the magic touch, and war, largely as the result of her activity, was avoided. We ourselves have had occasion to know her skill. It was the French ambassador at this capital who served both Spain and the United States a friendly part six years ago. He had the confidence of both countries, and he worked for peace to good ends. Mr. McKinley publicly acknowledged the great value of what he did, and when he departed for his new post he left a fragrant memory behind.—Washington Star.

Feminine Finances

A Philadelphia banker began six months ago the custom of giving his wife a book full of blank checks which he had properly signed.

"You are welcome to use these as you see fit," he said, "but I want you to write on the stubs just what each check went for. Then at the end of six months I'll look over the stubs."

The other day the six months came to an end and the husband began his inspection.

"You say here," he said, "that check 272, for \$25, went for church expenses. What church expenses were these?"

"A new Easter bonnet," the woman replied.—Philadelphia Press

Isn't Returning The Money

Of course it will be hinted that had J. Pierpont Morgan been as punctilious about all his properties as he has about the cope of Ascoli, some historic deals might have fallen through.—Washington Star.

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