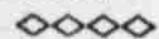


tion compliments those who are honored with it.

The south furnishes most of the electoral votes of the democratic party but it does not furnish a majority of the democratic voters. In 1896 New York cast 551,000 democratic votes, more than Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi combined. Pennsylvania cast 433,000 democratic votes, or more than Kentucky and Virginia combined. Ohio cast 477,000 democratic votes, or more than North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee combined. Illinois cast 465,000 democratic votes—nearly 100,000 more than Texas. These figures are given to show that the selection of a democratic candidate is a matter of interest to the whole country, and in the selection it is not fair that one section should be slighted or that another section only should be considered. There are democrats in every state in the union. In many of the states they have often fought without hope, but they are none the less deserving of consideration. Democratic platforms should be made and democratic candidates should be selected with a view to strengthening the party's position all over the country, not with a view to pleasing any one section or any one element of the party.

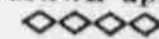
Let us enter the next convention with an eye single to the party's good, remembering that the party can advance its interests only by advancing the interests of the country. Let us enter upon the selection of candidates, not with a view of gratifying any man's ambition or of complimenting any state or portion of the union, but with a desire to select candidates who voice the sentiments of the rank and file of the party and who, if elected, will strengthen the party's hold upon the country by proving the party deserving of public confidence. If the most available man is a southern man, let our candidate be from the south. If the most available man is a northern man, let him be from the north. If the east presents the most available man, let him be from the east. If the west can furnish the most available man, let him be from the west. The real democrat from any section will poll more votes in any other section than one whose democracy is certified to by Wall street whose iniquities have so aroused the public that even many republicans are trying to get away from their influence.



#### JAMES ON ASSET CURRENCY

Hon. Ollie M. James, congressman from Kentucky, made a very strong speech on the money question in the discussion of the currency bill. It was the opposition of men who like James pointed out the iniquities of the asset currency system that frightened the republican leaders into abandoning the project.

Mr. James pointed out the difference also between loaning at a fixed rate to favored banks and loaning at a competitive rate to the banks who pay the most for the money, the security being fixed. Democratic Missouri, by employing the competitive system, secures nearly three per cent a year on the money which it deposits in banks, but the federal government in the hands of republicans is so partial to the banks that it gives them the benefit of public money for nothing and thus lays the foundation for a campaign corruption fund, and the record shows that this corruption fund has been drawn upon.



#### A CHAMPION OF PLUTOCRACY

The Kansas City Journal seems ambitious to win distinction as the most extreme of the defenders of plutocracy. In a recent editorial entitled "The Popular Cry" it gives Harriman, Carnegie and Rockefeller a clean bill of health and administers a caustic rebuke to those who have dared to lay anything to the doors of these benevolent "captains of industry." The following is an illustration of the whole-souledness of its defense:

"The truth about Mr. Harriman is that he has spent more money to make his railroads physically first-class than any other man in the business. His tracks and his equipment are the best that money will buy. He has spent not less than two hundred and fifty millions of dollars in the past ten years making his tracks and machinery what they should be. Kansas people have only to look at the new Union Pacific line between Kansas City and Topeka for an illustration of what we mean. So far as the Alton deal is concerned, the facts are these: The Alton was once a great success. When it was practically the east end of the Santa Fe system it was a great earner, and when the Santa Fe tried to buy it the lowest price it could get was a perpetual guarantee of 8 per cent per annum on the stock at two hundred—or 16 per cent on the stock. The Santa Fe built its own line to Chicago and the Alton got so poor it could not mend its tracks or repair its engines. While it was in this fix Mr. Harriman bought it—or a control of it. He was able to give it business from the Union Pacific,

Illinois Central, and Kansas City Southern, and, presto, it was valuable again. He made it as fine a piece of property physically as there is in the west and he reaped some of the benefit of bringing the property to life."

Here is a champion indeed!

"Oh! What was love made for, if 'tis not the same Through joy and through sorrow, through glory and shame.

I know not, I ask not if guilt's in that heart, I but know that I love thee, whatever thou art."

Some have feared that Harriman had carried his "enterprise" too far; some have intimated that he was unscrupulous, and some have even expressed the opinion that he ought to be in the penitentiary, but the Journal sees in him a public benefactor, putting his strong arms under a weak railway system, lifting it out of the mire, and then modestly contenting himself with "some of the benefit of bringing the property to life." No one has ever drawn a more flattering pen-picture of Saint Harriman, the generous patron of the struggling road.

But the editor of the Journal is not at all partial with his favors. He is a commercial artist and his studio seems to be open to any exploiter who is willing to sit for a portrait. For instance:

"Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Rockefeller began as poor boys and practiced all their lives the rules that are preached in church and Sunday school and by every careful father to his sons and daughters. Economy, thrift, industry, temperance and charity—and the greatest of these is charity. Both these men have given more money for good purposes in proportion to their means than is given by ninety-nine out of a hundred of the well-to-do people of the country—such people as are now making the noise and wearing the badges. They were lucky in getting hold of extraordinary lines of business capable of great development and destined to be greatly affected by the unforeseen events of the time. They have borne their good fortune soberly, unostentatiously, decently. They have been custodians of vast wealth, but they have not tried to eat and drink it all, they have not tried to buy office with it, they have not gambled with it, they have not corrupted politics with it. On the contrary they have given it to good purposes or kept it active in legitimate lines of business, contributing enormously to the unprecedented stretch of prosperity which has characterized the business history of the United States since they became masters in the field."

"They were lucky in getting hold of extraordinary lines of business, capable of great development and destined to be greatly affected by the unforeseen events of the time?" How lucky they were! And their luck has not deserted them for are they not fortunate in having a biographer who can conveniently forget the evils of monopoly and the immoralities of the trust? No reference here to the criminal cases now being prosecuted against Mr. Rockefeller's company throughout the country; no reference to the extortion practiced by Mr. Carnegie's steel trust—nothing of this kind. "They are all honorable men," or would be if the immunity bath administered by the money magnates' mouthpiece of Kansas City, could wash their guilt away. Luck seems to cover as many sins as charity, and generosity in distributing other people's money apparently atones for grand larceny in securing it. Fortunately for the country there are few editorial pages which give such unqualified endorsement to criminal business methods. The Journal boasts an odious pre-eminence in its chosen field. Paraphrasing a proverb of Solomon, it may be said: Many editors have done outrageously but the editor of the Kansas City Journal excels them all.



#### MONEY ABOVE DUTY

We have recently had three conspicuous instances of the fact that money offers to some of our public servants more attraction than the performance of a civic duty. Two of these instances are found in Shonts and Stevens. They were entrusted by the president with an important work. It is to be assumed that they were specially fitted for the work—the president so certified when he appointed them and they admitted their good opinion of their qualifications when they accepted. They were paid salaries which were sufficient to enable them to live in comfort and save enough in a few years to be above want the rest of their lives. While Shonts, at least, is reputed to be a millionaire it is not necessary to consider any fortune they may have acquired previously; the government was paying them enough to satisfy any reasonable ambition. But they resigned to accept larger salaries from private corporations. Why? Because they were either lacking in patriotism or made the mistake of thinking that patriotism is

not involved in civil service. They revealed a low conception of duty and betrayed a sordidness that is inexcusable. If they were qualified for the work they ought not to have been allured away from it by higher salaries; if they were not qualified they ought to have resigned before.

It is going to be difficult for the government to dig the canal unless it finds engineers who put duty above money. This desertion in the hour of need is as reprehensible as the desertion of a soldier on the eve of battle. The railroads opposed the digging of the canal; its completion will mean a loss of many millions a year in transcontinental rates. The roads could afford to buy off every engineer selected, and if they are all as susceptible to a money consideration as the ones who have been employed, what will the government do? Strange that interest in this great public work and the honor of having a part in it does not outweigh money in the minds of these men.

The third illustration is to be found in the resignation of Senator Spooner. If he had given as his excuse that he was not in harmony with the republicans of his state as represented by Senator La Follette the reason would have been accepted, but he gave as his only reason for leaving public life that he could not afford to sacrifice his private interests any longer. The papers that are friendly to him mourn and the president mingles his tears with theirs—that the country is to lose the services of a great statesman. None of them suggest that he should have continued the sacrifice; they seem to assume that no one is justified in serving his country at a loss, and they do not seem to remember that official service has increased his earning power by giving him a national reputation. When a man is given a high official position his prominence can be capitalized at a large sum and many use the position as a child uses a stool in the pantry to reach the jam on the upper shelves. Paul Morton raised himself to the Equitable jam jar; Shaw stood on the treasury safe until he could reach the presidency of a trust company; Stevens raised himself on a spade until he could get hold of the traction company job, and Senator Spooner has his eye on an attorneyship which is as yet  $x$ —an unknown quantity. Why waste sympathy on the man who resigns to add to his wealth? Any prominent senator or cabinet officer could turn his position into more dollars if he would. Let us rather admire those who resist the temptation and let us hope that an increasing number will be willing to serve their country in spite of inducements offered by private corporations. Instead of using these resignations to show that public salaries are too low we can better use them to show the low standard of patriotism among some of our public servants—and the argument loses none of its force even if in some cases the service has been impaired by the resignations.



#### STATESMAN OR FINANCIER, WHICH?

A word to the young men who are entering public life: The first and most important question for you to decide is whether you are going to be a statesman or a financier. You cannot be both and you had better understand it in the beginning than learn it by experience. The mind of the statesman is essentially different from the mind of the financier; the former looks at every thing from the standpoint of the people—the latter asks whether there is any money in it.

The man who enters politics with the idea that he can make money out of his position is apt to yield to the many temptations which surround him. Most of these temptations come in disguise, especially if the public servant is an attorney. It is a very common thing for legislators and executives, if they are also lawyers, to be offered legal business by persons whose sole purpose is to influence them as legislators. One senator was offered ten thousand a year to act as associate counsel for a railroad which had business before congress, the offer being accompanied by the assurance that he need not appear in court. Congressmen are often asked to draw contracts for corporations which are seeking favors—the work to be done in private and the compensation to be liberal. Some are vain enough to think that it is their legal ability that is bargained for but it is a very dull mind that does not understand that these lobbyist could buy all the legal ability they need at less than they offer the officials. A legislator has a right to suspect the good faith of any business offer made by a party who is seeking favors. No protestations of friendship or disinterestedness by such can blind the eyes of the conscientious. If a lobbyist confers a favor upon a legislator he expects a return and the legislator must either subject himself to the charge of ingratitude or pay the debt at the expense of the people.

The chances are that such debts will be paid