



It is a pity, from the cartoonists point of view, that the two most prominent presidential candidates look so much alike. When the cartoonist does not tack his butt's name on to his coat, his hat, or his belt, he depends for recognition upon some arrangement of the whiskers or upon some feature, luckily for them, characteristic. Conkling's nose, Grant's square face, whiskers and mole, Cleveland's size, which they have some difficulty in contra-distinguishing from Reed's size and shape, Depew's burnisides, and Peffer's whiskers, are easy marks of identification. Mr. Bryan and Mr. McKinley have regular features, they are smooth shaven, they are neither lean enough or fat enough to be remarkable. Altogether the artists are forced to affix names to their portrait which is a painful though self-delivered blow. The Napoleonic likeness and hat which they have bestowed upon Mr. McKinley identifies him from everybody but Napoleon but the necessities of the composition frequently require that the Canton man wear white flannels or a laboring man's overalls in which the three-angled hat of Napoleon will not harmonize. In such a case the artist copies more closely than ever the lineaments of the great Frenchman. So that with those who look at pictures the rule is: "Wherever you see Napoleon it is McKinley."

The cute, crisp curls in the neck are Mr. Bryan's tag of identification. By this sign shall you know him. There is absolutely no other feature that is common to all the thousands of pictures that the newspapers are printing daily. Any plate a newspaper office may chance to have in stock of a man with regular features and a smooth-shaven face, after having a few curls cut in the neck, is worked off as William Jennings Bryan. Mr. Bryan's youth and newness is accountable for the lack of plates in newspaper offices. As the campaign progresses the likeness in the cartoon designated Bryan will probably improve.

The Chicago Record of July 20th has a picture of Little Billie B. offering a sun flower with sixteen petals which should be of silver around its gold centre to Columbia as Trilby. On the other side is a man,—the counterpart of Little Billie B. only that he has straight hair, offering Columbia a spray of gold on rod. The caption states that the two "Little Billies" are making ardent love while Trilby "ain't sayin' nothin'."

The parallel might be extended. Both men are of Scotch-Irish descent, their private life is unexceptionable, they are artistic politicians; so artistic that the results of their headwork seem the spontaneous expression of a nation's gratitude, they are not rich, neither is pretentious except as they both claim to love the American people more than themselves, whether it is for the kingdom which the people can give, the people can say in November. Mr. Bryan's and Mr. McKinley's freedom from vices large and small, drives newspapers to the discussion of financial questions which, after a year's attention, even the careful and conscientious reader is tired of.

If McKinley should develop a piquancy of conduct, not deplorable like that of the Prince of Wales but idiosyncratic like that of the German Emperor, it would relieve the vision which is fixed with a painful strain upon the dollar. It is a recognized fact in optics that if the eyes be fixed upon a glitter-

ing object long enough the result is a hypnotic state or mental slavery. If the heavy editorials on the relations of silver and gold continue till November, without any diversion into personal channels, the strain on those who think if they vote they must vote intelligently will be injurious. More especially be cause those who have the right to vote in this country are not in the habit of thinking much. The question has been one of spoils and it was easy to tell which side would pay the most. If the masculine mind had been used to intellectual exercise the violent efforts it is making now to understand finance would not cause so much anxiety among the unenfranchised who know also, better than others, how frail and liable to collapse the structure is.

As I intimated before if civil service reform had not tended to make the question one of principles rather than place, men might continue to be gold men or silver men as their individual prospects directed them. It is unfortunate that so complicated a question must be decided on its own merits in hot weather by those whose sedentary habits of mind make very dangerous any sudden and violent thinking.

Last week in mentioning the success of the Crete Chautauqua I neglected to record its financial success. After settling the debts of the association the treasury will have something left over. There is great need of a new auditorium. The floor of the old one is on a level, making it very difficult for the audience, situated back of the centre, to see the stage. The benches are placed on the bare ground. In dry weather the dust covers shoes and dresses, in wet weather there are little puddles, which, when the auditorium is crowded it is impossible to avoid. The benches are uncomfortable. Standing there throughout the change of seasons; the nails frozen till they project an inch from their unprotected backs they deserve more pity than reproach. But after three or four hours of lecture, recital and elocution those settees make anarchists of settlers. The man who made them, or if he is not responsible the man who drew the pattern for them ought to be made to sit on them for a year and listen to Heber Dowling McDonald recite "pieces." No, that would be torture too exquisite to inflict on any one person, especially as lighter forms of punishment, such as hanging up by the thumbs are being disapproved of in these days. Although the year's expiation referred to above would be only a fraction of the punishment Mr. McDonald and the benches inflicted on the Chautauqua audiences, the sinner who made the benches probably did not try them himself until his job was finished, when it was too late. In the case of Mr. McDonald he could not see himself, (lucky lad) though he might have learnt what not to do if he had ever listened to himself, so his punishment is to go on living with himself. If there be money enough in the treasury the floor should be sloped so that all can see, the roof should be raised, the grass should be cut two or three times before the time of the assembly and the water supply should be improved. The well water is very bad and invariably made a new comer ill. There is roof enough for a large cistern, the water from which could be filtered. Nothing could be worse than the present arrangement.

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