

plan of organization to the end that real democracy may soon prevail.

Noah L. Van Doren, Burket, Ind.—It affords me great pleasure to sign a pledge of this kind, as I am a democrat whose principle is based on the platforms of 1896 and 1900. I have always attended them as far as health would permit and I expect to do all I can in the future to advance the interest of the common people.

John E. Coughlin, Minneapolis, Minn.—I desire to strongly endorse the primary pledge movement as advocated by the editor of The Commoner, because if there is any way to get the proper feeling in a party, regarding national issues, it is the outspoken thoughts of the rank and file; then too, it brings the party "back to the people," where it properly belongs, and not in the hands of political bosses and Wall Street dictators. I will do all in my power to influence my neighbors and friends to sign the pledge, because it is a step in the right direction. Enclosed you will find pledges written by my father and I.

W. H. Taylor, merchant, Exeter, Neb.—As a democrat who always attends primaries and county and state conventions, when possible; as one of the "original Bryan men;" as one whose pleasant duty it was to introduce Mr. Bryan to one of his first political audiences in Nebraska, an audience consisting of not over two dozen people; as one who is proud of the fact that when Mr. Bryan was first elected to congress, I wrote a New York paper saying Nebraska had just sent a young man to Washington—his name is W. J. Bryan; keep your eye on him, if he lives you will hear from him;" as one whose privilege it was to represent the democracy of Nebraska's Fourth Congressional district at Kansas City in 1900 when William Jennings Bryan was unanimously nominated our standard bearer; and as one who believes that most of the corruption in politics is chargeable to failure of honest voters to attend primaries and county conventions, I can cheerfully subscribe to the within pledge.

J. W. Mitchell, Greenville, Ill.—I think all genuine democrats should sign this pledge and aid in bringing about the reforms advocated by W. J. Bryan.

G. W. Leach, Bethany, Mo.—Enclosed find primary pledge duly signed which I heartily endorse. I will do all I can to get my neighbors interested in attending every democratic primary.

J. W. Morgan, Starke, Fla.—Signed pledge enclosed. I am reading with interest, the various words of commendation, of the plan, as appearing in each issue of The Commoner. Speaking of re-organization, the term to me seems misapplied. The party of the people is organized all right, but the rank and file have carelessly allowed a few demo-republicans to steer the good old craft into treacherous waters, where she would have gone down to oblivion as they intended had not the people been roused in time. Let's every man jack of us, help to get the party back to her true course, as rechartered and mapped out so well in 1896-1900. We can roll up a victory that will overflow into half the republican strongholds of the land.

A. G. Porter, Secretary Democratic Committee, Milan, Mo.—I most heartily endorse the primary pledge plan, and will endeavor to do all I can in helping the grand old democratic principles win in 1908.

Geo. B. Jordan, Adel, Ia.—Enclosed find my primary pledge. I am heartily in favor of the plan.

E. Harvey, Boscobel, Wis.—Enclosed pledge duly signed. I am in favor of honest democratic principles.

William Goodyear, Colfax, Wash.—I have been so busy advocating the merits of the primary election pledge to others that I have neglected to

send in my own, but now enclose it with the signatures of a number of loyal democrats. The merits of the plan are obvious to every man who wants the democratic party to be the party of the people in fact as well as in theory. If every democrat will go to the primaries there will be no humiliating fight in the next national convention to secure a declaration for fundamental democratic principles. The platform will be framed in accordance with the wishes of the rank and file of the party and not to suit the pleasure of a small coterie of ambitious leaders who are democrats for ple—not for principle. It will be framed with a view of receiving the support and arousing the enthusiasm of the voters, by frankly declaring for the reforms which they know are needed and for the policies which they believe will benefit the people and not with a view of securing a big campaign fund from undemocratic sources with which to manufacture enthusiasm. Money manufactured enthusiasm fails to enthuse or get out the vote, as was proved in the last campaign. Priscilla, the Puritan maiden, sounded the key note of the argument for attending the primaries when she said to John Alden: "Why don't you speak for yourself, John?" Let every democrat speak for himself at the primaries and the party will immediately become a positive force, relying for victory upon the merits of its cause instead of remaining a negative quality trying to squeeze into power by imitating the republicans so closely that the people cannot distinguish between them. May God bless you in your noble and patriotic work.

H. H. Hamilton, Berlin, Green Lake county, Wis.—Your plan for organization is good. I am with you heart and hand.

E. C. Hicks, Sidney, Mont.—I believe the plan an excellent one and hope every democrat will do his duty and attend the primaries.

AFTER MANY DAYS

(Continued from Page 12)

pace, and instinctively he fell into the measured pace set by the roll of the far-off drum. The morning's feeling of dread was forgotten and many strangers turned to see the gray-haired, erect and proud looking man who fell into line by the side of the widow who was known to them all.

No one saluted the colors with more reverence than this soldier of the gray. No one paid more attention to the solemn ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic as it was read over the graves of the men whom he had once met in the death grapple. And when the decorating squad made its rounds the Virginian saw to it that heaps of blushing roses and wreaths of green were added to the heap of violets and sweet-williams that rested above the two lowly mounds that marked the last resting place of father and son.

The long May afternoon was an afternoon of pleasure to the Virginian so far away from the loved soil of the Old Dominion, and ever and anon his eyes gazed upon the little flags fluttering from the graves on the hillside.

"'Tis a little world, after all," cried a little woman whose happy tears gave assurance that even with husband and son sleeping beneath the flag they fought for, the future was no longer darkened by clouds of poverty.

When the train steamed away with Colonel Poindexter on board, he gravely lifted his hat to the little woman on the platform, and then turned to give a soldier's salute to the old flag that still rippled and waved from the tall staff in front of the village hall.

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