

gested for ambassador, protested to me against the appointment. Sincerely yours,
"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

MR. HARRIMAN'S RETORT

New York, April 2.—E. H. Harriman late tonight gave out the following statement in response to the statement made public by President Roosevelt at Washington today:

"For many years I have maintained an intimate confidential correspondence with my friend, Mr. Sidney Webster. What I wrote him and when he wrote me was, of course, intended for our eyes alone. In the course of a letter which he wrote me in December, 1905, he warned me against being drawn into politics and questioned whether I had any political or party instinct. This drew from me the reply to Mr. Webster's inquiry, which, in a substantially correct form, has been stolen and published. This letter was written on January 2, 1906, at a time when no one could doubt the cordiality of my relations with the president.

"About ten days ago I was told that a discharged stenographer was trying to sell to some newspaper a reproduction from his notes of one of my private letters. I could hardly believe that any matter so obtained would be accepted or published, yet I made every effort to prevent it. When I learned late yesterday afternoon that a New York newspaper had a transcript of these notes, I notified the publisher at once of the facts, and urged upon his attention the gross outrage that the publication of it under such circumstances would involve. While deploring, of course, that the sacredness of a private correspondence should be thus violated, I cannot withdraw anything in the letter.

"I have read the president's statement. I am most anxious to treat him and his other utterances with consideration due to the high office which he holds. Nevertheless I feel bound to call attention to certain things in regard to which he does me injustice.

"In his letter to Mr. Sherman he clearly seeks to convey the impression that the personal interview with him in the fall of 1904 was of my seeking and not his. He says:

"His (Harriman's) and my letters now before me in the fall of 1904, run as follows: On his return from spending the summer in Europe on September 20 he wrote me stating that if I thought it desirable he would come to see me at any time, then or later. (He had been, as you remember, a delegate to the republican national convention, having voted for my nomination.) On September 23 I answered his letter, saying: 'At present there is nothing for me to see you about, though there were one or two points in my letter of acceptance which I would like to have discussed with you before putting it out.'

"Let me present the facts. On June 29, 1904, the president wrote me the following letter, which he does not include in the correspondence published today. It reached me in Europe:

"White House, Washington, D. C., June 29, 1904.—Personal. My Dear Mr. Harriman. I thank you for your letter. As soon as you come home I shall want to see you. The fight will doubtless be hot then. It has been a real pleasure to see you this year. Very truly yours. (Signed)

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

"In reply to this I wrote him on my return from Europe the letter of September 28, the opening sentences of which he eliminated in his publication:

"New York, Sept. 28, 1904.—Dear Mr. President: I was very glad to receive your note of June 29 last while I was in Europe. I am now getting matters that accumulated during my absence cleared up, and if you think it desirable will go to see you at any time either now or later. It seems to me that the situation could not be in better shape. Yours sincerely. (Signed)

"E. H. HARRIMAN."

"Then followed a series of invitations from the White House both from the president and his secretary urging me to go to Washington. On October 10 the president wrote:

"In view of the trouble over the state ticket in New York I should much like to have a few words with you. Do you think you can get down here within a few days and take either lunch or dinner with me?"

"On October 14 he wrote:

"My Dear Mr. Harriman: A suggestion has come to me in a round-about way that you do not think it wise to come to see me in these closing weeks of the campaign, but that you are reluctant to refuse inasmuch as I have asked you."

"A funeral in my family prevented a prompt response to the president's repeated invitation, but finally, about October 20, I was able to go to Washington and see him. There is some difference of recollection as to what transpired at that interview. Fortunately the president himself in

his 'strictly personal' letter to me of November 30, throws some light upon what did take place. He says:

"If you remember when you were down here both you and I were so interested in certain of the New York political developments, that I hardly, if at all, touched on governmental matters."

"Again in the same letter he says:

"As a matter of fact, as you will remember, when you did come down to see me, you and I were both so engaged in the New York political situation that we talked of little else."

"The invitation of October 10 bade me to the White House to have a few words with the president 'in view of the trouble over the state ticket in New York.' I had replied on October 12: 'I am giving a very large part of my time to correcting the trouble here, and intend to do so if any effort on my part can accomplish it. I will take occasion the first of next week to run down to see you, and I think by that time the conditions will be very much improved.'

"Whether I was seeking his aid to secure adherence of the state of New York to the state ticket or he was seeking mine is proved or disproved by this correspondence, and I cheerfully submit to the public whether the inference clearly suggested by the president is the proper one. I did not so understand it from the invitation, nor from the interview.

"The president dwells at length on the assertion that he did not ask me to contribute 'for the presidential campaign' nor for 'his personal benefit.' I don't deny this statement, nor is it all consistent with the assertions I made in the Webster letter respecting the interview. Therein I distinctly said: 'The president sent me a request to go to Washington to confer upon the political conditions in New York state. I complied and he told me he understood the campaign could not be successfully carried on without sufficient money, and asked if I would aid them in raising the necessary funds, as the national committee, under Chairman Cortelyou, had utterly failed of obtaining them and there was a large amount due from them to the New York state committee.'

"If that means anything whatever it must that he was urging me to help the New York state committee and not the national committee or the presidential campaign, except so far as the success of the state in New York would contribute to the success of the national ticket.

"What the condition of the finances of the New York state committee and of the national committee at that time was is well known to everyone. That the national committee did owe the state committee and that the state committee was in financial straits is notorious. I was not a political manager. I was asked to go to Washington by the president in the interests of the state ticket. I could help to raise money. That I did help in this regard; that I did raise funds immediately upon my return from the interview with the president is undeniable, and to this fund I contributed \$50,000. My interview with the president covered a wide range of subjects connected with the New York state campaign, and I did not pretend to go over the whole matter in the Webster letter.

"The president's letter of October 14, and his comment thereon, are interesting. In that letter, he suggested that I might think there was some danger in my visiting him during the closing weeks of the campaign and suggested that if I thought so the visit be postponed until after election, when he would ask me to 'discuss certain government matters not connected with the campaign were distinct invitations to discuss two different subjects. I could see no danger in visiting him to discuss New York politics before the election, and therefore went, and discussed the subject alone, and after the election took up the other subject for consideration with him.

"I think if what concerned me as the object of the visit had been the government's relations to the railroads, the interview would certainly not have been entirely confined to politics.

"I am not responsible for what Mr. Sherman may have said to the president with reference to the conversation he had with me. All that I have to say is that I did not meet his urgent requests that I contribute to his campaign fund, and that the statements alleged to have been attributed to me by him were false. The president was assured of this fact by a mutual friend who was present at the interview."

A Cincinnati dispatch to the New York Herald follows: The Enquirer today prints a dispatch from New York to the effect that E. H. Harriman has recently been exhibiting to his financial friends a photograph, picturing the following:

1. A letter dated in October, 1904, signed by Theodore Roosevelt, inviting Mr. Harriman to a conference at the White House.
2. A letter from Mr. Harriman to Mr. Roosevelt, accepting the invitation.

3. Checks to the national republican committee from each of the Harriman roads, aggregating a total of \$268,000.

Mr. Harriman, the Enquirer states, asserts that these checks were exclusive of his personal check toward the special \$200,000 fund and were given as a result of what he believed to be an understanding reached at the White House conference.

On April 3, the following statement was given out at the White House: "The real reason for Mr. E. H. Harriman's interest in the election of the state ticket in New York in 1904, reference to which was made in the communications which passed between him and the president, was that he desired to advance his own ambitions. It is asserted that Mr. Harriman wanted the position of senator, now filled by Mr. Depew, and that this was the reason why he was anxious to have him appointed ambassador to Paris. The inferences from Mr. Harriman's attitude was that if Senator Depew could be induced to go to Paris that Governor Higgins was prepared to appoint him to the vacancy."

A statement was given out from the White House April 4, to the effect that a conspiracy was on foot between E. H. Harriman, William R. Hearst and Rockefeller for the purpose of defeating Mr. Roosevelt in the republican national convention and otherwise injuring him. It was said that the secret leaked out at a dinner recently given, when a prominent politician somewhat the worse for liquor declared that a fund of \$5,000,000 had been raised for the purpose of carrying out this alleged conspiracy. Later newspaper dispatches said that Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania was the man who gave away the secret but this is hotly denied by Penrose who says that he is a partisan of Roosevelt. A later statement given out from the White House says that the president will not at this time designate the party who gave away the secret. Mr. Roosevelt's opponents openly laugh at this charge and say that he is suffering from "exaggerated ego."

INCANTATION

Hyah dem frogs a talkin' funny
Yonder by de crick?
Dem is all magicians, honey,
Practicin' a trick.

Dey is conjurin' out de bloomin'
An' de butterflies,
Things new shapes will be assumin'
Right befo' yo' eyes!

Mutterin', singin', scoldin', screamin'—
Hahd to understand—
But dey'll have dis ol' place seemin'
Jes' like fairy land!

—Washington Star.

SPECIAL OFFER

Everyone who approves the work The Commoner is doing is invited to co-operate along the lines of the special subscription offer. According to the terms of 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 these 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 educational campaign.

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 desire to participate in this effort to increase The Commoner's circulation:

The Commoner's Special Offer		
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.	
10		
15		
20		
25		
50		
75		
100		
BOX OR STREET No.		
P. O. STATE		
Indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this blank.		
If you believe the paper is doing a work that merits encouragement, fill out the above coupon and mail it to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.		