

Organize for the Fight

Now is the time for democrats to throw their influence into the contest and assist in establishing that great democratic principle of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none." Both through The Commoner and on the stump Mr. Bryan is urging the people to announce certain principles with an emphasis that will settle the questions so far as democracy is concerned.

First—That political platforms are binding upon those elected upon them.

Second—That tariff laws should be levied for the purpose of raising revenue and not for the purpose of distributing protection among such special interests as may be able to enforce their claims by coercion or by campaign contributions.

Third—The election of United States senators by direct vote of the people, and

Fourth—The adoption of the income tax amendment to the federal constitution.

Now is the time to discuss with your neighbor these questions of vital importance to him while there is no partisan clamor to prejudice his mind. The Commoner sent to an unprejudiced man during the coming year will convince him that it is his duty to himself, and to his fellow-man, to take up this battle in the interest of the whole people. All congressional candidates should be pledged to the principles above stated and all state legislative candidates should be pledged to the income tax amendment. The Commoner invites you to assist in an earnest effort to secure a victory for our party and our principles. No victory is possible without effort. Are you willing to make the effort?

Hill C. Moore, Phoenix, Ariz.—I am with Mr. Bryan on all questions except the wool question. I am with him on the wool question so far as he goes—"that it is no benefit to the mass of the people" (the tariff). One would suppose that it was a benefit to the wool growers. I am a wool man and I have always insisted that it is no benefit to the farmer that raised the wool. I sold wool for 50 cents and 60 cents when there was no tariff on wool. What do we get now? Every time the tariff was put on the wool it made wool sell for less and at the same time made wearing apparel go higher. Why? Easy enough, for you see that the American manufacturer has to have the fine foreign wool or they could not compete with the English manufacturer in the fine fabric. Consequently, when they pay a duty on that wool they come out to the farmer and take that of him and it is not all as it is like other tariffs that are above a revenue basis. It only protects the one man. Please think of it as I am with you all the time. Yours for better government.

Thomas H. Slaven, Calif.—Enclosed please find draft for \$12.60 to pay for twenty-one subscribers for another year. From a democrat "going on" 78 years. I wish you a prosperous year.

T. L. Borom and H. W. Ballard, Alabama—We enclose herewith cashier's check for \$19.80 which is 60 cents each for the above subscribers. With best wishes for The Commoner.

Judge Truman E. Ames, Shelbyville, Ill.—Appreciative democrats in this county are proud of The Commoner and its editor. The article in the last issue, entitled "The Marriage of the Oceans" is the best and most descriptive article that has ever yet been written about the great canal. It is worth many times the subscription price of the paper.

J. Stevens, Eureka, Kan.—I wish to suggest that it would be a good idea to raise a fund and have The Commoner distributed to from 300 to 500 republicans in every county in the United States. Mr. Bryan has been the greatest educator we have had during the past twelve years.

Each of the following persons have sent in subscriptions to The Commoner in number as follows: F. H. Bickle, Pa., 5; H. S. Ritter, Kan., 5; C. A. Taylor, Ariz., 25; Wm. R. Duke, Va., 5; A. M. Way, Wash., 5; D. A. Young, Mo., 5; J. S. Silvey, Kan., 10; W. M. Hill, Mo., 7; W. W. Chesly, Ia., 7; Geo. S. Greene, O., 5; Arthur Sears, Pa., 5; Welton Winn, Tex., 5; A. E. Snodgrass, Kan., 5; W. H. Putnam, Wis., 16; James Cronan, Nev., 5; J. E. Conner, Wash., 5; J. S. Weiser, N. D., 5; J. A. Jayne, N. Y., 6; P. D. Sturdevant, Neb., 5; John Larson, Wash., 5; C. C. Cronbough, Ia., 7; M. P. Hayes, Cal., 6; Thos. McNeal, Tex., 5; N. Nish, Ia., 5; A. K. Van Horne, Ill., 14; H. H. Sappington, Mont., 5; John Wampfler, N. Y., 5; George Straw, Pa., 6; Emil Understock, Cal., 5; C. J. Donohue, Ind., 5; F. C. Showerman, N. Y., 7; S. H. Lowe, Kenmore, N. D., 5; D. W. Smart, Ia., 5; S. Brownell, Cal., 5; E. B. Robison, Utah, 5;

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A GRAND OLD BOOK

Writing for the Nebraska Teacher, Mr. N. C. Abbott, superintendent of the Nebraska School for the Blind, pays this beautiful tribute to the Book of Books:

"The pioneers were fortunate in that they had few books to read. One of the curses of our present day is the multiplying of volumes, ninety-nine out of a hundred of which would be better burned than bound.

"Books were not plentiful in those days and they could not have been transported over hill and mountain and valley, even if the eastern states had then been glutted as they are today. But they did bring one book with them and this one book gave bone and sinew to their moral character. They brought with them the book that impressed upon John Ruskin its own pecu-

liar style and that made Agrabam Lincoln the clearest and most beautiful writer America has thus far produced.

"As to older people, no words of mine can add to your appreciation of our Bible. But to the younger ones I put some questions: Where can you find narrative more vivid than the 'Book of Joshua?' What love-story more touching than 'Ruth?' What philosophy more profound than that in the 'Epistles of Paul?' What poetry more beautiful than Solomon's? What tragedy more vital than the 'Book of Job?'

"Seek profane history where you will and I am ready to maintain that the Bible has a character and scene equal to any that you will find elsewhere.

"Achilles has his equal for fortitude and endurance in Samson; David is a more appealing character than Ulysses; and Paul exhibits more eloquence than Demosthenes.

"Some time ago the retiring president of Harvard, Dr. Eliot, recommended to the American people five feet of books that in his judgment contained all the reading one would need in order to acquire a liberal education. We looked in vain for the Bible. It may be presumptuous for an insignificant pedagogue in a western state to offer criticism upon the most distinguished scholar in America; nevertheless I am here to maintain that no list of books will ever receive standing among our people which omits the name of the one book loved by all.

"There are two short bits of prose that seem to me to reach the heights of eloquence. One of them contains but ninety-eight words and was uttered by our martyred Lincoln on the battlefield of Gettysburg. The other contains one hundred and eighteen words and was written thousands of years ago by the divine singer of Israel:

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

BEYOND THE GATES

We often wondered, she and I,
What thing might lie behind the wall,
Whose gate stands open when we die,
Then sudden, shuts beyond recall.

We longed and looked, and dear ones past
As if on wings in viewless air.
No path they left, nor shadow cast,
They sailed and sailed, we knew not where.

Sometimes when twilight gathered round,
Each spake to each when lamps were low,
And never yet God's answer found;
We only said, We do not know.

Then came a promise each to each,
Our thoughts still on the gate divine,
Beyond the wall, if one has speech,
Who enters first shall give a sign.

One summer day she left my side,
A struggle and the angels won;
And that sad gate that stood so wide,
I heard it close and all was done.

And then I waited for the sign;
If love could pierce the mighty wall,
Then she would speak, this lost of mine;
I listened, but no word at all;

Till once, with Nature all in tune,
I walked beneath the myriad stars;
The breath of night was on the June,
And God seemed letting down the bars.

And all at once I seemed to hear
Celestial music in the sky,
And her sweet voice, so soft and clear;
And then I knew we do not die.

—S. H. M. Byers, in The Independent.

All new and renewal subscribers to The Commoner during the month of April will receive a year's subscription to the national farm paper, the American Homestead, without additional charge. Give your friends an opportunity to join you in accepting this offer.