

THE DEMOCRATIC MUDDLE.

To say that the democratic party is completely in a muddle is to put it mildly. What is to be its policy in the coming campaign is something no man can find out. On the silver question, the party took its stand with the money power at Chicago. Its platform was made as nearly as possible like that of the republicans, and both of them are unmistakably against the free coinage of the present silver dollar. It nominated the most pronounced gold standard leader in the party for president. But immediately on the heels of that convention, the Stewart free coinage bill passed the senate with sixteen democrats voting for and only seven against it. Now the bill will in all probability come up in the house with the probability that two-thirds of the democrats in that body will support it. But if it should pass, Harrison will certainly veto it. Then Cleveland and his friends will be called on either to approve or condemn that veto. There can be little doubt that they will approve it. They are compelled to. For Mr. Cleveland to do otherwise would be to violate every declaration he ever made on that subject. Besides to condemn Harrison for vetoing a free coinage bill would blast all hope of democratic success in the northeastern states, and make every one of them solid for Harrison. The only way out of such a muddle is for the party to entirely ignore the silver question during the campaign.

But this is not the worst of it. The party is almost as hopelessly muddled on the tariff question. The platform committee at Chicago reported a tariff plank almost identical with that of the republicans,

one that fully endorses the doctrines of protection, and assured the great tariff robbers of the east that the party would not interfere with their vested rights to continue robbing the people. But when that plank fell on the ear of Henry Watterson, he rose in his might and "smote it hip and thigh." A substitute was reported which went right down to constitutional bed rock in true democratic fashion. It declared that it is a "fundamental principle of the democratic party that the federal government has no constitutional power to impose or collect tariff duties except for the purpose of revenue only."

Mr. Watterson carried the convention by a vote of about 5 to 3, and the substitute was adopted. Nobody seems to know whether this result was pleasing to Mr. Cleveland or not. But circumstances would indicate that it was not. The committee's plank was reported and defended by Vilas, his man Friday, and the free trade substitute was championed by Watterson, his most determined opponent.

The platform as amended goes to the root of the matter by condemning the principle of protection, hence it commits the party to opposition to all protective duties, and doesn't even leave room for "incidental protection." This is the most radical free trade doctrine ever enunciated by the democratic party.

The Chicago convention was followed by an ominous silence of the great leaders and organs of the party. But that silence has been rudely broken. The great protection democrats are now taking their turn at the smiting business, and they are doing it quite as effectively as did Watterson in the convention. The

New York Post-Express says that free trade plank was the one adopted by the southern confederacy, but was never "a fundamental doctrine of the democratic party." Then it goes on to quote Andrew Jackson in a way that is utterly paralyzing to the "fundamental-principle-constitutional" fellows. In fact it shows from Jackson's second annual message that he actually advocated and defended the doctrine of protection. In fact he says in his message that his opinion is "confirmed by the opinions of Jefferson, Madison and Monroe who have each repeatedly recommended this right under the constitution," i. e., the right to levy protective duties. Then the Post-Express gets right down to business and says the democrats must do one of three things: (1) Advocate the entire abolition of protection; (2) Ignore the tariff issue; (3) Call a new convention, adopt a new platform, and nominate a new ticket. And it recommends ignoring the tariff issue as the least of these three evils.

And now comes the New York Sun, the great Tammany organ, and approves and emphasizes what the Post-Express says in an article headed: "Nothing in the tariff question as a present political issue." It refers to the tariff plank as "deplorable and preposterous." The Sun says, however, that it doesn't matter much since the tariff question is "entirely over-shadowed, dwarfed and obscured" by a mightier issue: "No force bill! No Negro domination in the South!"

And so the confusion increases, and the situation gets more muddled as the days go by. It reminds one of the small boy's description of the world when

first created—"Confused chaos."

But as the politicians become more and more confused, the minds of the people become clearer. They see one party in the field that stands for principle, and has the courage of its convictions, and they are flocking to the standard of the people's party, the true party of Jefferson and Lincoln.

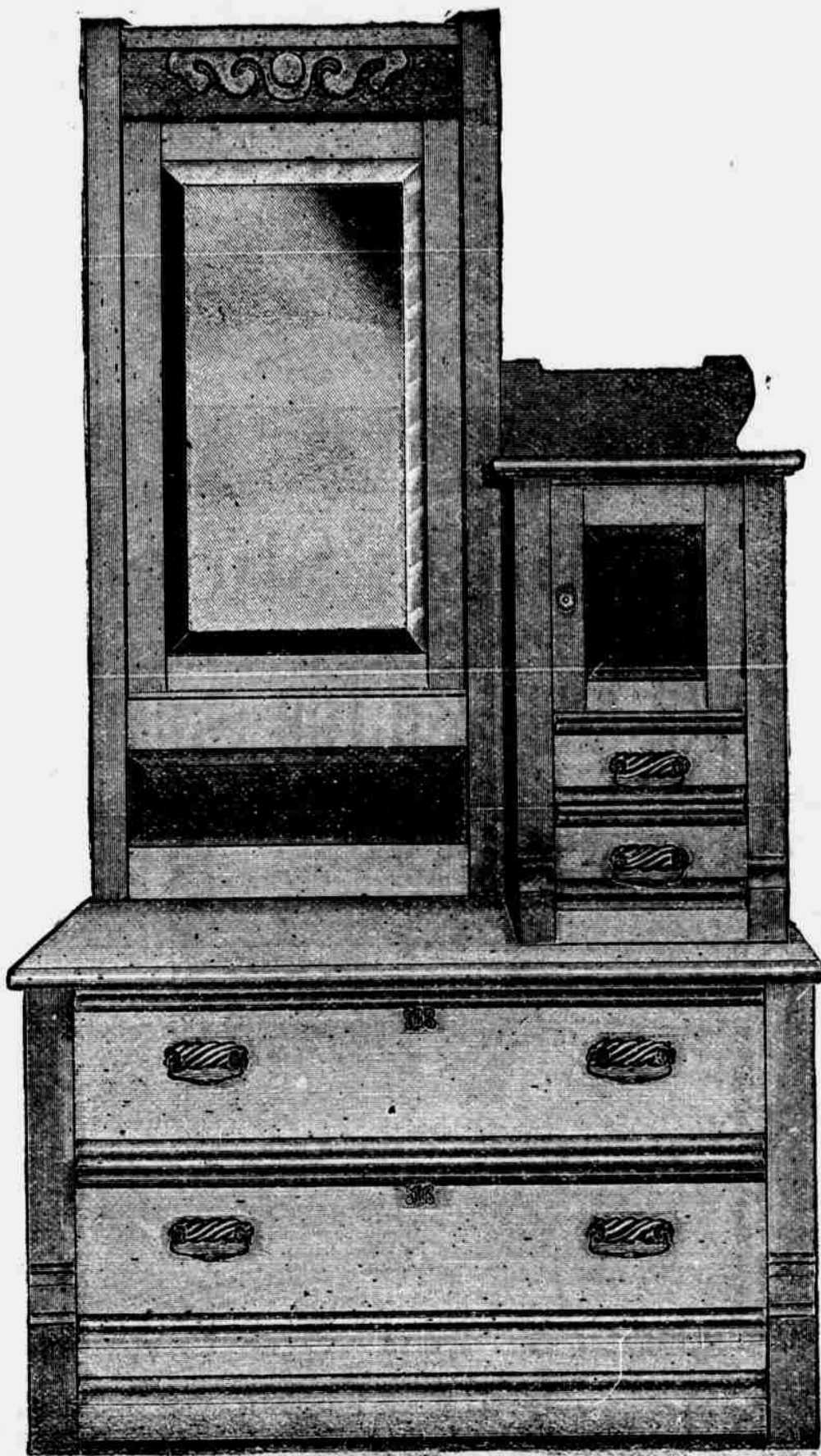
There is but one way out of the political wilderness and that is the way of **THE PEOPLE'S PARTY.**

THE people of England may admire Henry M. Stanley as a great explorer, but they don't care to use him in the house of commons.

ONCE a Lion felt sorry for a poor little Lamb and to protect the poor little animal and its interests, swallowed it at one bite. That's about the manner in which the State Journal protects the interests of the people for whom it now professes to feel such a fostering spirit.

"IN SPITE o' this 'ere 'ot weather, they're keeping good," said Superintendent Goudy to Mrs. Goudy, as he stuck his head out of the cellar door up at the state house after he had examined his household goods, which he has stored in the people's building to keep from paying rent in some storage house.

"FOR God's sake, quote lower rates on apples," was a recent cry of the railroad to its tools on the state board of transportation. "The people are demanding railroad regulation. The apple crop is a failure this year and that piece of regulation may make some votes. It will cost no money, anyway."



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