

THE SLAVES OF PLUTOCRATS.

Religious Cant Among Political Pharisees. — History Repeating itself. — Harrison places on the Supreme Bench an attorney for millionaire monopolists. — Harrison and Cleveland vying with each other in groveling before plutocracy. — Governor Pattison's shameful course. — The People's Party the hope of the laboring man. — A suggestion to President Harrison; taxpayers of Pennsylvania have to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars because the steel barons refuse to arbitrate.

BY B. O. FLOWER, EDITOR THE "ARENA."

Religious cant probably never reached such a high water mark in our Republic as when Senator Quay introduced the Sunday closing resolution in the United States Senate, and when Whitelaw Reid, Chauncey M. Depew and Postmaster General Wanamaker of Keystone Bank and Wall Street fame addressed with assumed piety the convention of Christian Endeavor in New York. These spectacles call to mind most vividly the following words of Froude in describing ancient Rome immediately prior to the establishment of imperialism:

"Religion, once the foundation of the laws and rule of personal conduct, had subsided into opinion. The educated in their hearts, disbelieved it. Temples were built with increasing splendor; the established forms were scrupulously observed. Public men spoke conventionally of Providence, that they might throw on their opponents the odium of impiety but of genuine belief that life had any serious meaning, there was none beyond the circle of the silent, patient, ignorant multitude. The whole spiritual atmosphere was saturated with cant—cant moral, cant political, cant religious; an affectation of high principle which had ceased to touch the conduct, and flowed on in an increasing volume of insincere and unreal speech."

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Much has been said about the ingratitude of Benjamin Harrison; but no one can justly accuse him of being untrue to the interest of plutocracy. His loyalty in this respect is shown in his every act, the latest exhibition being his appointment of Geo. Shiras, Jr. to the Supreme bench. The press dispatches say: He represents many large corporations. His income is at least \$50,000 a year.

His father, a wealthy retired brewer, is still living.

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As if not to be outdone by Harrison in hobnobbing to plutocracy, President Cleveland the papers state has promised to visit Frank Jones at his sea side cottage. Frank Jones is the autocrat of the power in New England. He is one of the most dangerous plutocrats, who has long had the reputation of being preeminent among that class of politicians who are in politics for revenue only. Yet he is the kind of man the standard bearer of Democracy delights to hobnob with. With Harrison appointing to the Supreme bench the pet of the iron, steel and railroad barons, and Cleveland chumming with railroad king, Frank Jones, what have the great industrial millions to expect from these two bandings of plutocracy. Still we must not be too severe on Cleveland and Harrison for being the abject slaves of the gold power. The Managers of both old parties are now the most active of the plutocrats. What can be expected from the party of Calvin Brice, Standard Oil Whitney and Payne, and scores of other leading lights and controlling spirits who have no more love for the industrial millions or regard for the rights of labor (except at election time), than a Republican has use for a negro after election; while on the other hand, what can be expected from the party of Quay and Wanamaker, Dudley, of Elliot F. Shepard, Chauncey Depew, Carnegie, Raum and Elkins? Both the old parties are pledged body and soul to the gold interests; they care nothing about the poor; they have a supreme contempt for the breadwinner except during a political campaign when they want votes, and they have deceived the laboring man so long that they believe they always can deceive them. By tacit understanding they each have bogymen with which to frighten the ignorant. As long as it made votes the North waved the bloody shirt; now the Republicans have trans-

Democrats, who have labelled it *force bill*, which already failed to pass a House and Senate overwhelmingly Republican owing to public sentiment; and in the second place they know that the People's party would fight any dangerous centralizing measure as vigorously as the Democrats. *The force bill cry is only the device of the destroyer of the rights of industry, THE GOLD POWER, which hopes by this subterfuge to complete the enslavement of labor.*

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The spectacle of Gov. Pattison becoming the guest of Supt. Potter of the Carnegie works, is one of the most disgraceful exhibitions of Democratic subserviency to plutocracy in its most offensive form ever witnessed, and in its influence, if not in deed, is highly lawless. Think for a moment of the facts. Here is a firm bloated with millions of dollars earned through special protective legislation on the one hand and a failure to give their employes fair compensation for their labor on the other. This firm has grown so strong it feels it can completely enslave its employes by breaking up organized labor so far as it relates to the steel and iron industry. 1st. It transforms its plant into a fort in time of peace; an overt act well calculated to incite riot. 2nd. It fits up (even to the lining with steel), barges for the transportation of hired assassins, which it brings from other States clearly in violation of the laws of the land. Yet this high-handed lawlessness calls for no reprimand from the demagogue Governor who poses as a reformer for votes, courts plutocracy for political influence. A battle ensues in which honest, hard-working and peaceable men are shot down like dogs for repelling an armed invasion of alien Hessians of plutocracy. In this battle plutocracy is worsted. Then the Governor sends the militia at an expense of \$22,000 a day to preserve order. The officers in every possible way display their sympathy for the steel barons, and instead of politely and with the instincts of a true gentleman declining the reception tendered him by the citizens of Homestead Gen. Snowden the Superior officer went out of his way to exasperate the laborer with remarks which under the strained conditions would naturally be construed as insolent.

The next outrage was committed by the Carnegie Co. in having warrants sworn out for the arrest and committal of leading citizens of Homestead on charge of murder; then on the heels of this lawlessness on the part of the Carnegie Company the Governor of Pennsylvania becomes the guest of Superintendent Potter of the Carnegie Company and assumes the tone of a braggart as he notifies the citizens of Homestead that he will bankrupt the treasury of Pennsylvania but what he keeps the troops there until the trouble is settled. Of course the taxpayers and not Pattison pay the bills. Had the wanton squandering of the hard earned dollars of the tax-payers of Pennsylvania come out of Pattison's pocket he would have acted differently. Instead of becoming the guest of one of the officers of the millionaire firm, which, by refusing to arbitrate is directly responsible for this frightful expense to the State, Governor Pattison would have pointed out to the steel barons that they had acted unlawfully, and unless they saw fit to arbitrate they would be held strictly accountable for criminal deeds. This done and the State would have been hundreds of thousands of dollars in pocket while the matter would have been practically settled, but the plutocrats would not have contributed as largely to the Democratic campaign and Pattison would not have had their aid in his further political schemes. Hence we find the public money of the State being needlessly squandered to uphold the steel barons against the just demands of labor, and the governor of Pennsylvania becomes the guest of Supt. Potter. If ever Pattison runs again for governor and a single workingman of the Keystone state votes for him, that man will richly deserve to be a slave.

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If the People's Party had been a factor in the politics of Pennsylvania, Pattison's course would have been different. His contempt for the feelings of the struggling poor as evinced in his becoming the guest of Potter, is evidently the result of his believing that the people will vote for him in preference to Republicans

who are also busy groveling at the feet of plutocracy, and hence he doubtless imagines he has more to gain from plutocracy than the people.

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The hope of the laboring men in Pennsylvania no less than in the North and South, lies in the People's party, which is the sworn enemy of the economic policy which is making an aristocracy of plutocrats on the one hand and millions of industrial slaves on the other. The People's party is the only party which plutocracy is unitedly fighting. As long as monopoly in money, land and transportation exists, plutocracy will fatten on the life blood of the farmer, the miner, and the mechanic, and millions of toiling people will year by year find themselves sinking deeper and deeper in the meshes of hopeless serfdom.

The Righteous Discontent of the People

How does the People's party differ from other parties and how can it purify politics? There are no Wall street thieves or millionaires or railroad kings or attorneys in the People's party. This great party sprang direct from the people, the working people, the wealth-producers of the land, and to-day seven millions of them stand ready to cast their votes with the grandest party ever organized on American soil. It is three months yet until election and the cry is, "still they come."

The voice of a standing prophecy proclaimed with trumpet tongues that the time was ripe for action; that the hour had struck when a people suffering under the cruel persecutions of the organized plutocracy and money power of Europe must act. The people seem to have received marching orders from some source to rally in one mighty army for defense.

We fully realize the strength of the enemy. The money power, determined to control the circulating medium of the world, is a formidable opponent. It is more ambitious than Alexander the Great; more haughty and domineering than imperial Caesar; more unrelenting than the Pharaohs. It lays its hand on legislators and they do its bidding. Courts become corrupt at the touch of its golden wand. Political parties hasten to "fawn before it that thrift may follow."

But the People's party believing "that thrice armed is he who hath his quarrel just," have fearlessly attacked this monster and cordially invite all the loyal sons of America to join its ranks and do battle for the eternal right.

The Demo-Republican papers take delight in saying the People's party "is composed of the discontented." For once in the world they are right. If there was no cause for discontent there would be no need of a new party.

The people of Great Britain were discontented when they threw off the yoke of feudal bondage and started humanity on the long march to freedom.

The Pilgrim fathers were discontented when they landed the Mayflower. The heroes of the revolution were discontented when they issued the Declaration of Independence. Wendell Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison, Harriet Beecher-Stowe, Horace Greeley and John Brown were discontented when they thrust the dagger of freedom into the heart of slavery.

Abraham Lincoln was discontented when he raised his stalwart arm to strike the shackles from the slave. Edward Bellamy was discontented when he re-wrote the book of Revelation, and with a master hand painted the picture of the new earth, soon to be. So to-day the producers of America are discontented with the political corruption that smells to heaven; discontented because our currency has been stolen, contracted and depreciated in the interest of Wall street; discontented because the idler and gambler in wheat and other necessities of life live in luxury while they whose labor produced these products are pinched with poverty; discontented at being reduced to serfdom in this boasted land of freedom. And they have united under the name of the Party of the People to remove the cause of discontent.

Yes, my old party friends, discontent is abroad in the land clamoring for an equitable system of production and distribution, and will continue to make its voice heard until justice shall sit in our halls of legislation and labor is crowned king.

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The Duty of the People's Party in Regard to a Flexible Currency.

Secretary of the Treasury McCullough, in his report of December, 1865, says: "Business is nearly all done on a cash basis, and the people are generally out of debt, those who want work can get it at good wages; all branches of business are flourishing, and the people are prosperous and happy."

This statement very truly represented the condition of the country just at the close of the most expensive civil war the world had ever known. This was a wonderful showing but none the less true, says the Toiler. When the crisis came upon our country and our financial standing was most imperilled, gold and silver sought the vaults of miserly hoarders. The government needed money with which to meet the war expenses, consequently in 1861-2 it issued sixty million dollars for treasury notes which were a full legal tender for all debts public and private. The gold hoarders were chagrined when they saw these notes go on an equal footing with their gold, they had hoped that they would depreciate, and believed they would, because they had no gold or silver behind them. When it became necessary for another issue these gold bugs were on hand and bribed congress into saying this is a full legal tender for all debts public and private "except interest on public debt and import duties." Where was the cause for this exception clause? Any of the sixty million dollars before issued were settling interests on public debt and import duties. A dollar of it was buying anything that a gold or silver dollar would buy, so where was the grounds of complaint? It was made only by the men who were hoarding gold and silver. They desired a dishonest greenback money so they could get a premium for their metals. The exception clause made a special demand for gold or silver in two transactions. This made them go at a premium over those treasury notes which contained the exception clause. Remember it cost the government just as much to issue the exception clause notes as it did the full legal tenders. It cost the people a vast deal more.

By 1866 there had been various issues of "exception clause" greenbacks. While they bore on their face the record of a legislative crime, still they beat no money by a great deal. They served the purpose of the common people so well that in 1866 the gold mongers secured the passage of the contraction act, by which the secretary of the treasury was authorized to issue a note or bond of the government bearing interest and swap it to whoever might present these greenbacks. The greenbacks thus drawn from circulation were to be burned up, and so they were, to the tune of about one billion eight hundred million dollars. And our democratic statesmen boo hoo about the proposition to buy the railroads of the country at the cost of about one billion, when they have failed to condemn this cremation of the people's money—actually burned up more than enough to buy the railroads.

Some say that money was nothing but a debt of the government, that is a promise of the government to receive, and it floated around as money. Why? Because the government said it would receive it. Suppose it was debt, it circulated as money and the debt we change it for does not. It was in small denominations and could be held by ordinary citizens. The bonds we now have are in large denominations and can be held only by those who have money to invest.

A great duty confronts us, it will be the work of the People's party to call in and pay off the bonded debt and give the people a flexible currency with which to do the business of the country.