

CUR PLUTOCRATIC BARONS

A Government by the rich and for the rich.—A Suggestion to President Harrison.—Taxpayers of Pennsylvania have to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars because the steel barons refuse to arbitrate.—The fiendish treatment of Private Iams.—Hamlin Garland on the Outrage.—Stevenson to try to save the Carolinas to the Democracy.—An appeal to thoughtful people in the South.

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

A Republican stump speaker declares that Harrison was greatly grieved at hearing of the massacre of laborers at Homestead. It would be interesting to know whether our pious president's grief was occasioned by the number of votes feared he would lose in the slaughter of laboring men by plutocratic Hessians, or whether it was for the widows and little ones in the hamlet at Homestead. *If the latter occasioned his tears I would suggest that provided he has not yet drunk up the forty-eight gallons of Scotch whiskey his friend Andrew Carnegie gave him last year, he sell the remainder and devote the proceeds to the suffering ones at Homestead.*

The tax-payers of Pennsylvania are paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the militia at Homestead, simply because the steel barons who know they are in the wrong refuse to arbitrate the issue, and Gov. Pattison expresses himself so determined to bankrupt the treasury rather than take away the troops until the matter is settled. Let me repeat the important fact: *If Gov. Pattison paid the bills out of his own pocket, he would without doubt long since have advised Mr. Frick to settle the grievance in a civilized way, intimating at the same time that Mr. Frick proceeded in high-handed manner and laid himself open to criminal prosecution. As a result Mr. Frick would without doubt have been willing to arbitrate, which, according to his master (Jekyll-Hyde-Carnegie), who a few years ago prated in the Forum on how labor troubles should be settled. I say, if Gov. Pattison had to pay the bills himself, this without question is the way he would proceed; but as the tax-payers foot the bills, he permits the enormous expense of upholding the steel barons in their unjust position, at the point of the bayonet. But then Pattison is only acting for the Democratic wing of the plutocratic party, even as Harrison in the role of Republican representative of plutocracy appoints the rich attorney for the steel barons to the Supreme Bench.*

Justice and right to the masses count for nothing with the leaders of either division of plutocracy while the people pay the bills.

Washington dispatches say that the appointment of Mr. Shiras has caused great rejoicing among the iron barons of western Pennsylvania, as they regard him as specially favorable to them. I also notice that leading organs of plutocracy in the East are applauding this nomination of a man to the highest judicial bench, who for years has drawn princely fees and retainers from rich railway and iron monopolies, and it is said that his nomination will render it easy to raise large campaign funds in western Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

The torture of Private Iams by a plutocratic officer, Col. Streator, perpetrated a few days since, finds a parallel only in the atrocities of the Inquisition of the Middle Age and the approval of this fiendish ferocity by Gen. Snowden is a fair hint of what the industrial millions may expect from the servile sycophants of plutocracy, when the aristocracy of the dollar has fettered the laboring man a little more completely, as the gold power hopes and expects to do during the next four years. *Every laboring man who votes for either the Republican or Democratic party this year, votes for plutocracy; nay more, he votes for his own slavery and for the serfdom of his wife and children. The money power for the past generation has by contraction of currency and other legislation, for classes and against the interest of the masses, been gradually bringing about a condition of industrial slavery which will end in the practical abolition of the will of the people and the establishment of a monied despotism more terrible than*

absolute monarchy in the old sense, unless the wage-earner and bread-winner of the Republic act promptly and unitedly against their common enemy—the gold power, ably represented to-day by Harrison and Cleveland and their lieutenants, Depew and Whitney.

Let us look at the case of Iams from another standpoint. If Hugh O'Donnell had been shot down and Officer Green or Col. Streator, or some other officer, who, like them grovel before the steel barons, had shouted, "Hurrah for the man who shot O'Donnell!" would Gen. Snowden have ordered the offender strung up by the thumbs; or would he have approved such fiendish brutality on the part of any other persons who might have been in command? Oh no; it is probable, on the other hand that the guilty person would have been recommended for promotion, for he would have been pleasing to plutocracy. Let us not wilfully close our eyes to the truth until it is too late. *The offense for which Iams was so severely tortured lay in his PRESUMING TO SPEAK AGAINST MONEY BAGS and showing sympathy for the poor. In the eyes of such apologues for men as Gen. Snowden and Col. Streator, to refuse to grovel before lawless gold bugs is high treason meriting torture. And yet this is called the land of the free!*

When Hamlin Garland, of our Arena staff, read of the outrage against Iams, he promptly penned the following letter to the Boston Daily Globe, which appeared on the morning of the 26th:

To the Editor of The Globe: I wish to publicly utter my solemn protest against the mad savagery of the colonel commanding the militia at Homestead. It is inhuman as Russia and despotic as China.

You say in an editorial, this morning, "If Bergman is so blind, that he can not discriminate between the methods to be employed in a republic and in a despotism, etc." I am not blind to the light of our free republic's glory, but as I read this morning's papers I cannot discriminate between the military methods of despotic Russia and free Pennsylvania.

Admitting that Private Iams could not remain a militiaman and state his honest opinion, what excuse is there for the barbarous, inhuman, devilish severity of punishment which the colonel coolly put upon him, while the surgeon held the watch and felt his pulse that he should not die?

He suffered a thousand times a natural death. No Indian burnt at the stake could suffer more.

He practically was murdered, and for what horrible thing?

What atrocity had he committed? What unnamable horror had this young man been guilty of?

Simply that of speaking his mind in a free country.

God of liberty and justice forgive the word! Why? Simply because the power of the militia of the State of Pennsylvania must be vindicated, the authority of its officers must be demonstrated and its ranks maintained intact.

I do not propose to enter into a discussion of the whole question of the lock-out, but I simply wish to say that if the militia of Pennsylvania wishes to destroy itself, to break down the last bulwark of just law and let in the floods of desperate men who stand tense with anger without, let them commit one more such outrage upon the body of an American citizen.

There is no law in the statute books of Pennsylvania that will justify this unspeakable horror.

There is nothing will justify it but the savage selfishness of the ruling classes in Pennsylvania.

I am non-combatant. I would not take life on any account, and I will not be silent in the face of a deed which menaces the liberty of every plain-spoken man and threatens the peace of a people by ringing an alarm bell in the ears of a people already restless with wrong. Yours sincerely, HAMLIN GARLAND.

July 24th. Garland is nothing if not a true friend of the people. He had before him the open homes of the elite, the palaces of the bankers and bondholders; his wonderful power as a writer made him the literary lion of Boston; but he deliberately declined the honors at the price asked. He wrote the "Alliance Wedge in Congress," and "A Spoil of Office" which championed the cause of the Farmers' Alliance and assailed the official corruption, which is prostrating our nation, and lo! one of the great Boston papers which has championed the young author and liberally has noticed his every effort, but which was also a bondholding organ, has not one word to say about him since he wrote the "Alliance Wedge." Neither of his last books have been noticed. This is interesting showing how sharply the lines are being drawn here in the East.

I see Mr. Stevenson, Democratic candidate for Vice-President, has promised to answer the Macedonian cry from North and South Carolina and make a half dozen speeches in these states. That is right; if the Northern Democracy

hope to continue to hold the Southern Democracy in the position of a faithful valet, they must put forth all possible efforts to keep a solid South; otherwise the South would soon become a political factor in the election. Cleveland and Stevenson are shrewd. They belong to the Northern wing of the Democratic party and do not want the South to become a political power. Meanwhile I believe our Southern voters are not the numskulls their patronizing Northern masters imagine. Let the South emancipate herself next November!

Notes From the Field.

Kansas is alive with interest and devotion to the People's cause. The so-called fusion was no fusion at all it was simply a common sense action on the part of Democracy. Knowing that the Democratic party of Kansas could not figure in a National campaign, they came all the distance, accepted all the situation and all the issues of the People's party. The Republican party of Kansas would have given its eye teeth to have just such fusion with Democracy. But the truth is many of the leading Democrats of the State are well informed, superior and patriotic men whose efforts for years have been to bring about juster conditions for the people. Western Democracy has been engaged in a hopeless struggle with the Eastern section of its own party. It has been vanquished by the corporation serving faction every time. This time they make common cause in Kansas, with the people against the plutocrats.

I spoke yesterday at a large and enthusiastic People's party meeting—one of the old fashioned picnics of 1890. Tonight I shall speak to a town audience and shall have less applause but shall make more converts. At yesterday's meeting there was hardly anybody but those who are already in the ark of safety.

I called upon all those who were indignant over the outrage perpetrated upon Private Iams to rise. The entire audience rose and responded to my appeal that the case be not forgotten and that a sentiment of such magnitude be created that the courts would not dare to decide adversely on the righteous claim of the ignored soldier for \$10,000 damages.

The Kansas crops are splendid. The farmers thank God that they will have a little more money to spare for the necessary expenses of the campaign. And oh, how hotly they resent the insult to their intelligence in the oft repeated statement made by Republicans that "the good crop will send the farmers back to the old party."

ANNIE L. DIGGS.

The Topeka Tribune: One can hardly understand why the people, after having kept their eyes closed to this greatest of all questions for so long, should so suddenly open them and grasp the situation. It is indeed marvelous. For years and years honest intelligent men and women have been stigmatized as anarchists, socialists and cranks because they dared to protest against the system of coercing and robbing labor with the aid of corporation armies the system which is just now being denounced by a large majority of the newspapers. And because they insisted that protection was a failure as far as it concerned the wage worker they were called the political idiots. Now the truth has dawned so suddenly on the defenders of these time-honored fallacies that they are knocked silly, and some of them are howling louder than the most ardent calamityite.

One of the largest camellia trees in Europe is that which is at Pillnitz, near Dresden, and forms one of the sights of the district. It was imported from Japan about 150 years ago, is about 17 yards high and has an annual average of 40,000 blossoms. Put a buzzard in a pen about six feet square and open at the top, and it is as much a prisoner as though it were shut up in a box. This is because buzzards always begin their flight by taking a short run, and they either can not or will not attempt to fly unless they can do so.

A Sussex, Eng., correspondent announces on the authority of his vicar, that nine out of ten among the humbler brides swear to "love and honor cherries and a berry," instead the regular "cherish and obey" of the marriage service.

John McHeron, a Philadelphia cartman, has been somewhat surprised at the receipt of a draft for \$4,600 from a son who was taken with the gold fever about fifteen years ago, and has finally turned up as the superintendent of a rich silver mine in Mexico with an income of \$200,000 a year.

Notice to Bridge Contractors.

Notice is hereby given, that sealed bids will be received by the County Clerk of Furnas County Nebraska for the erection of one combination bridge across the Republican river on the county line between Harlan and Furnas counties near the village of Oxford.

Said bridge to be 300 feet long and to consist of 6 spans of 60 feet each with a roadway 14 feet wide in the clear, and the road bed to be 11 feet above low water mark.

Said bridge to be built in all respects according to the plans and specifications now on file in the office of the county clerk.

The commissioners of Furnas County and the supervisors of Harlan county will enter into a joint contract for the erection of said bridge.

The bids for same will be received by the undersigned on or before noon of September 5th, 1892 and must be accompanied by a good and sufficient bond in case contract is awarded.

The county commissioners however reserve the right to reject any and all bids.

Witness my hand and county seal this 15th day of August 1892. H. W. McFADDEN, County Clerk.

NOTICE TO BRIDGE BUILDERS.

The board of supervisors of Harlan County, Nebraska, will receive sealed bids for the construction of two combination bridges as follows:

One combination bridge across Rope creek on main traveled road between Alma and Orleans, known as the Claypool bridge, said bridge to consist of one span 50 feet across with a road bed 16 feet wide, said bridge to rest on 3 oak piling at each end of the bridge, with an approach of 12 feet on west end and the road bed to be not less than 18 feet above low water mark.

Also for one combination bridge across Methodist creek in Alma township, known as the Metzger bridge, the same to consist of one span 50 feet across, with a road bed 16 feet wide, said bridge to rest on 3 oak piling at each end, with a 10 feet approach at each end, and road bed to be not less than 20 feet above low water mark.

Separate bids will be received for 2 inch hard pine and oak flooring of the road bed of each of the foregoing bridges.

Sealed bids must be filed with the undersigned on or before August 22nd 1892, at 10 o'clock a. m. at which time contracts will be awarded.

Bids must be accompanied by a good and sufficient bond in case contract is awarded.

The county board however reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Witness my hand and seal at Alma this 15th day of July, A. D. 1892. THEO. MAHN, County Clerk.



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