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# Herpolsheimer Ho

### Bryant Replies to Sheldon.

First Witch.—  
 When shall we three meet again?  
 In thunder, lightning, or in rain?  
 Second Witch.—  
 When the hurly burly's done,  
 When the battle's lost and won.

—MACBETH.

Editor of the NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT:

I notice in your number of November 18, a communication from Hon. Addison E. Sheldon, which starts out with the following proposition:

"If the men who voted together at the polls in Nebraska November 2, for the state ticket elected are sincere, earnest and practical in their desire for relief from corporation rule in the state and nation they will meet in one convention next year."

Without any wish to question the sincerity of Brother Sheldon, I hope for his pardon when I say, with all frankness that, in the present writer's humble judgment, the article is both untimely and ill-advised. A new party cannot be organized mechanically, out of conflicting elements, any more than you can sew a monkey's head to a fish's tail and make it a mermaid. August Spies said that you could not organize a revolution any more than you could organize a cyclone. The same is true of a political party. Since the adoption of our constitution twenty-eight political parties have sprung into existence. Of these only five have ever elected presidents, and only one (the republican) has ever achieved first-class success. The democratic party came into existence in opposition to the alien and sedition laws, as a radical party. After Whitney's invention of the cotton gin and the consequential development of the slavery question, the democratic party evolved into conservatism. During its first century of existence, which is now drawing to a close, we may safely say that it has been on both sides of every public question that has been before the American people with the exception of what is now known as Apianism, the particular question which brought the party into existence. To its honor, be it said, it has always stood by religious liberty and the rights of naturalized citizens.

The republican party sprang from the awakened conscience of the American people, as Minerva came from the brain of Jupiter. It was made up of conscience-whigs, free soil democrats and know-nothings opposed the repeal of the Missouri compromise. These elements were crystallized by an electric current shot out of the storm cloud of our civil war. The republican party needed because it was founded upon an ethical principle. Ever since the triumph of that principle which gave it being it has lived upon the strength of its early history.

Many attempts have been made to organize political parties, but with limited success. In 1820 an obscure citizen of Batavia, New York, suddenly disappeared. He was a disreputable second-hand dealer and had threatened to publish a book revealing the secrets. These circumstances, together with the manner of his disappearance, were alleged upon to prove that he had been murdered by his brother Mason. It was never proven that he was murdered at all. But this comparatively unimportant event of no more consequence than the kidnapping of Charles Ross, and far less pathetic,

was seized upon as the occasion of organizing a new political party. The Irish famine of 1845 and 1846, caused by the potato rot, led to a large Irish emigration to America. Railroad building had just commenced and Par, with his proverbial shovel, was in great demand. This Irish-Catholic element came in direct contact with New England puritans, the descendants of the men who stormed Drogheda under Oliver Cromwell. This contact of oil with quicksilver evolved know-nothingism.

The anti-Masonic and the know-nothing (native American) parties, each in different elections, carried the electoral vote of a single state. The prohibitory party is made up of as sublime a lot of heroes as ever clustered about Leonidas at Thermopylae. But they have failed.

Brother Sheldon should remember that the populistic party is still an experiment. Thus far it has attained no greater success than did its predecessor, the native American party, and not much more than did the anti-Masonic organization. These old parties failed because there was no real demand for their existence. The prohibitory party has failed, because it tried to do too much. The populistic party is liable to fail for the same reason, just given.

Now let us look at practical politics. In 1900 David B. Hill and Richard Croker will appear at the national democratic convention with Judge Parker as a candidate. They will be backed, in all probability, by Mayor Harrison of Chicago. From the standpoint of expediency, they will have many arguments in their favor. It will remain to be seen whether or not the democratic party has really been born again, or only galvanized. If Mr. Bryan appears there with a delegation elected by a conglomeration of populists, silver democrats, silver republicans and silver prohibitionists, his right to sit in the convention may be successfully questioned.

It is highly important that William J. Bryan capture the democratic nomination in 1900. There are many reasons why he, and he alone, can lead the reform forces to victory in the next congressional year.

Brother Sheldon says: "To all intents and purposes for the state of Nebraska there is a new party."

Admitting the truth of this assertion, for the sake of argument, the assertion should not forget that a state political party never did and never can have a durable existence without a corresponding national party.

But the assertion is a mistake. There are three political parties in Nebraska, acting in harmony on a single issue. Let me illustrate the situation. The republican party is a member of some Protestant sect; I don't know what one. We will call it the Baptist. The present writer is a Roman Catholic. We are in harmony on the temperance question. Now, cannot each of us state in the respective organization, to which he belongs, and demand we work together on this one line? "But no," Brother Sheldon says, "we must get together and organize a new church. The moment we try to do that we begin to dispute about jurisdiction, by faith, jurisdiction, or officiousness, grace, etc. and we break up in a twinkling."

So we have bimetallicists who are prohibitionists, like John P. Jones and Charles A. Towne, bimetallicists like William J. Bryan, who are free traders, bimetallicists like John P. Atghead, who believe in personal liberty, bimetallicists who are prohibitionists, like John P. St. John. We have demonstrated that we can get together as we are. If we form a new party, then, after the present question is settled, we will have to divide on new lines.

Bro. Sheldon may say, that there is nothing in the word "democratic" or "republican" or even "populist." I admit that it may be only sentiment. It is only a sentiment that attaches us to a few yards of bunting made off into thirteen red and white stripes, alternating, with a blue field in one corner, containing forty-five stars arranged in the form of one star. But it is "Old Glory" just the same. It is only a sentiment that attaches us to the place where we were born. It is only sentiment that makes us love to hear the "watchdog's howl" bark bay deep mouthed welcome" as we draw near home. Sentiment distinguishes man from the brute. We must take men as we find them, and not as philosophical abstractions.

Let us patiently await developments. History will make itself if we do not try to force things too fast.

Let me notice one other point and I am done. Bro. Sheldon speaks of the "treatment of the vice-presidential candidate in 1896." Don't try, Bro. Sheldon, to make a martyr of Thomas E. Watson. Watson has failed of this job himself, and there is no likelihood that you will succeed. Yours for trifle co-operation and victory, WILBUR F. BRYANT, Hartington, Nov., 22nd, 1897.

## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

In this column we will publish communications of a worthy and suitable character, received from subscribers to this paper. No communication should contain more than 300 words. Manuscript will not be returned.

An Awful Picture from India. Owing to the fact that the republican press is trying to fasten upon the people the idea that it is due to the republicans being in power that the prices of wheat and other cereals has gone up, I take pleasure in translating a few letters from Santhal, 150 miles from the seaport of Calcutta.

At Santhal a mission has for about forty years been conducted by Mr. Borresen, Danish; Mrs. Borresen, German; Mr. Skrefrud, Norwegian; and it can be added with wonderful success, as I now count 12 European workers, with about 150 native ministers, teachers and elders, and they receive their best support from the Scandinavian countries. The following letter is published in the Santhal Post, organ for the Santhal Mission society, and is true and reliable. Mr. Borresen writes: "One night we had a little rain, but all the grain was dead before it came. Still I am without fear, though I view another famine—the famine for the gospel which the Lord will send. I am very thankful for your quick response to my call for help; much suffering has been prevented—we have not yet had to turn any one away from us without giving them food, but our aim is limited and we cannot help others than those coming to the station. If the government would only spend what money they are going to spend, now, or had spent it in buying grain and food while it could have been had at a reasonable price, the help would have been several times its value. Now the money men have bought up all and are putting the price to suit themselves. This is the English government you know, the helper of the down-trodden and suffering humanity. Skrefrud writes: "In the central province is a home so full of hunger-bitten people that one can not turn round inside. This home is just a four cornered enclosure with no roof to protect from the cold at night or the heat at daytime. This is a hospital 16 x 16 feet. Inside lay the hunger bitten packed as close as pork, with but one native doctor to look after them. Before they die others take their clothes to cover themselves with, and leave the dying stark naked. A child came dragging her grandfather to the home. He was so weak from hunger that he could hardly move, but when they heard that his home was fifteen miles away they told him to go there for help. This is the government's way to help the sufferers. (Wonder if the Santhals believe that it is republicanism that causes high prices for food. If not, they ought to be informed.) It is alarming to see the girls from our school carry large baskets of rice on their heads which they have taken from their own mouths to help the poor with. Go ye and do likewise. Mr. Borresen writes: "This morning while sitting at the table one of the elders from Karikador came with forty men, women and children. Naim, what is it, I asked, frightened. The bread would not go down when I recognized some of the women so poorly clad that there was nothing left but skin and bones. Why did you not come before I asked a well known lady. "My clothes," she said, and then she fainted away. We teach the people that begging is a shame for a Christian, but this poor woman with her two small fatherless children, cannot work in the hot sun. The magistrate was here and found our means correct, that out of 2,400 homes, 1,800 was without any kind of food. But he said that the people must sell all they have, plows, clothes, the straw on the roof, their oxen and all, before the government would help. He admitted that an ox would only bring 8 rupees now, but when it had to buy later on they would cost 30 rupees. But he went on saying that "the people must do as the government commands." What a solemn picture. The poor are allowed to starve to death, while the government (English) is giving to those who already have in abundance, permission to prey upon the poor, helpless humanity. Shall we let the nation that all liberty has got up like people in the world, shall we, as such, be dictated to by a nation that is fully controlled by the money power? Shall we, the land of the brave and the free, get down on our knees and bow to the country which breeds nothing but corruption and starvation for the poor and overflows and abundance for the rich, when we wish we can make laws adapted to our own wants. The question is not, shall we have gold or silver, but shall we be controlled by greed and corruption? The answer should be a clear "no" at the ballot box. S. M. BORRESSEN.

## EDMISTEN A GENERAL

His Remarkable Success as Manager of the Fusion Forces in Nebraska.

OUR POLITICAL NAPOLEON.

An Ardent Admirer Tells of the Campaigns Under His Leadership

Give Credit Where it Belongs.

EDITOR OF THE INDEPENDENT.

The smoke of the battle has cleared away. The victory has been won. The venomous enemy of the people's cause has again met defeat at the hands of the allied forces of reform on Nebraska soil. The redemption of the golden rod state begun with Holcomb in 1894, continued with the entire state ticket and the legislature in 1895, is brought nearer by the elevation of Hon. John J. Sullivan to the supreme bench. The hosts of reform are marching on with steady, determined tread and the Nebraska judiciary will be added to the executive and legislative departments in the people's administration in the election of 1899, when the great young commoner of the west will fight his second and successful battle against the organized hordes of plutocracy.

All this is very gratifying, but while we gain victory after victory, is it not time to give deserved credit to those who have organized our forces and made victory possible in Nebraska? Everybody concedes that the able administration of Governor Holcomb paved the way to the election of the fusion state ticket in 1895. The people found that the despised pops were honest, able and trustworthy. The credit of the state was not destroyed, but rather, our able governor loyally endeavored to preserve the state's credit from the hungry republican spokesmen who sought to fitch every dollar they could seize upon. Back of the administration of Governor Holcomb is credit to the gallant Bryan, who fought successfully in the democratic state convention of 1894 to secure the endorsement of populist nominees in order to unite the forces opposed to republican control and rout the common enemy. The meritorious services of the able Allen, who defended the cause of reform in the senate, have contributed much to our victory.

But, there's another who should not be forgotten, and of him I write to you. When the populist state committee met in 1894 to select a campaign manager there was no dearth of willing leaders. It was determined to place J. H. Edmisten as chairman of the committee. He it was who carried Kem to victory in the big sixth congressional district. They do say that people out there looked all over the ticket to find Edmisten's name and it had to be explained to many that Kem, and not he, was the candidate. His great energy landed the Cass county statesman in congress, and the committee decided to trust him with the state campaign.

And it made no mistake. Energetic, enthusiastic and self-reliant, he put his whole soul into the work. The republicans soon learned that they had to contend against a general who was an adept in conducting a political canvass. The issues were brought clearly before the people, speakers were discovered whose latent talents had hitherto been concealed, every foot of ground was contested, the people were thoroughly aroused and an organized effort made under the direction of Chairman Edmisten to prevent the repetition of customary election frauds. The fight centered on the governorship and we won, although the rest of the republican ticket slipped through by narrow majorities.

We missed the enthusiastic work and the generalship of Mr. Edmisten in 1895, although our committee did good service. I have often wondered what the result would have been had Mr. Edmisten been in command, although I suppose it would hardly have been possible to have overthrown the republicans with our forces divided.

The fight made under Chairman Edmisten's direction in 1896 is without parallel in the political history of Nebraska. Talking with a republican politician after the election was over, he said: "Despite your Bryan and your Holcomb we would have whipped you if it hadn't been for the campaign management of Edmisten. We were out-generaled and beaten at every point." That campaign will be memorable in the annals of Nebraska history for years to come and I doubt if its counterpart will ever be found. Money without stint, the friendly services of corporations, imported speakers of national reputation, every element necessary for a successful campaign was at the command of the republican committee. Agents were sent into every part of the state to subsidize and buy up reform workers, special trains were run to republican meetings, talented orators known in every hamlet in the nation lent their services. Chairman Edmisten had an honest countenance without money, without corporation favors, almost destitute of prominent speakers and none of the elements which are supposed to contribute to a successful campaign. Yet his energy, his indomitable will, his tireless efforts and constant attention to every detail of the campaign, backed by the matchless oratory of Mr. Bryan and the splendid administration of Governor Holcomb, carried the entire ticket through to victory.

The campaign this fall was the hardest of all on account of the work necessary to arouse the people to a realization of the necessity of voting a lethargy seemed to prevail as a result of the heated campaign of 1896, and the republicans counted on this, during an off year, to bring us defeat. Had our committee complacently accepted the situation the result might have been disastrous. But Chairman Edmisten placed more speakers in the field than were ever before killed by a state committee in Nebraska. Early and late, day and night, he directed every effort and the enemy found that the pops would not sleep on an off year any better than any other time when Edmisten was directing the fight.

Did you ever visit a committee headquarters during the heat of a campaign? If not, avail yourself of the opportunity and you will learn that it requires not only a just cause but the best of generalship to win political victories. I haven't seen a word in the populist press praising Mr. Edmisten for the campaign he has made and I write this without disparagement of any of those able assistants he has had the advantage to possess. J. A. Edgerton, R. B. B. Weber, Frank Enger, Mart Howe, George Blake and others, have rendered valuable aid; so have J. C. Dahman, Lee Herdman, G. L. Laws and others, not populists, during the last two campaigns.

I know not what are the ambitions of Mr. Edmisten for the future, whether he aspires to become a candidate himself for office, to retire again to his farm or to continue as the general of our forces, but I have no hesitancy in pronouncing him the Napoleon of Nebraska politics, and saying that with him in command Waterloo will never come and the political Hessians of the grand old party will never receive quarter. For the fights he has made, for the victories he has won, as well as for his generous nature and ardent soul, I give to J. H. Edmisten, for one, the credit to him due.

JASPER DECK, OMAHA, Neb., Jan 23, 1897.

## EDITORS' IDEAS.

Wants a Powder Factory.

The report comes from Washington that Secretary of the Navy, John D. Long, proposes to recommend that congress authorize him to build and equip a government powder factory. It seems that the secretary has made up his mind that the government service should not be compelled to depend upon private contractors for naval supplies of any kind, and he estimates that the necessary buildings and machinery can be erected for \$100,000. A good enough thing to do, no doubt, so long as the notion prevails that this nation must imitate military despotisms instead of being true to the letter and the spirit of its constitutional democracy, and establish a better order in which gunpowder and guns would be superfluous, or needed only to maintain our rights and resist attack.

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