

TOWNE DECLINES

Supports Bryan and Stevenson.—Letter to Notification Committee.

Hon. Charles A. Towne, the nominee of the people's party for vice president, has declined to accept the nomination and has addressed the following letter to the notification committee:

Gentlemen: When, on the 5th of July, at Kansas City, I had the honor to receive from the committee official notification of the action of your national convention, in nominating me for the office of vice president of the United States, I requested, in view of the anomalous and delicate circumstances in the presidential situation, that you permit me to take the subject under advisement before announcing a decision and accepting that nomination. This request you were pleased to grant, and now, after mature consideration of the factors involved that concern the welfare of the cause of political reform in this country and my own duty thereto, I am constrained to inform you in all respect that I must decline the nomination made by the Sioux Falls convention.

In announcing this conclusion I cannot forbear to express to you and through you to the great convention whose commission you hold as well to that patriotic body of advanced political thought that your convention represented, my deep sense of the honor conferred upon me. To be the unanimous choice for such a convention for the second highest office in the service of the republic would be a distinction to any man. Circumstances, however, add emphasis to this consideration at present are. First, that the nomination was unopposed by me, and, secondly, that the convention in the case also of its nominee for the presidency was a political organization to select a candidate.

To my mind, this action of the Sioux Falls convention in nominating a representative of the silver republican party, is one of the most encouraging and inspiring spectacles in recent political history. Its unselfishness and magnanimity, its testimony to the precedence of the cause of the people over any merely partisan advantage, raised the procedure of that convention into the serene upper air of true civic heroism. From such a spirit as this, what service, what sacrifice, can be asked in the name of the republic?

It was, of course, the expectation of your convention that its nomination for the vice presidency would prove acceptable to the conventions of the democratic and silver republican parties, called to meet in Kansas City on the Fourth of July.

The silver republican, 1,230 delegates, representing twenty-eight states and territories, were indeed eager to name the ticket chosen at Sioux Falls, but to the great democratic convention another course commended itself. The name of your nominee was presented to that convention and was received with remarkable demonstration of approval by the enormous number of citizen spectators and with the utmost respect of the delegates. But no graphical considerations and the fact that in certain parts of the country it was deemed wise to defer a sentiment demanding that the candidate should be a man already identified with the democratic organization, not only by holding its principles and advocating its cause, but also by name and profession determined the selection of Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois, a man of unimpeachable character and of ripe political experience, who, as a member of congress more than twenty years ago, was a close student and co-laborer of Gen. J. B. Weaver, and other great leaders in the reform movement from 1833 to 1877, distinguished himself by resisting against the betrayal of democratic principles by President Cleveland.

When Mr. Stevenson had been nominated what was it my duty to do? My name had gone before the convention along with his and I had been beaten. The convention had made a decision, and with absolute fairness. The candidate chosen was personally unobjectionable; his loyalty to our principles was beyond question, and his career had been a long explanation to them.

Manifestly it was my duty to support that nomination. Acting upon this question, I went before the silver republican convention and succeeded in persuading it not to nominate me, and the vice presidential matter was finally referred to the silver republican national committee, with full powers. Later in the night this committee placed the name of Mr. Stevenson

on its ticket as candidate for vice president. This recital clearly develops the situation as it now is. Everybody knows that either Mr. Stevenson or Mr. Roosevelt is to be the next vice president of the United States. I am expected to take a laborious part in the campaign. I shall, of course, advocate the election of Bryan and Stevenson.

"The democratic convention, before which I was a candidate, named Bryan and Stevenson. The silver republican party, of which organization I was the official head for nearly four years, has named Bryan and Stevenson. In what light should I appear before the American people if, while advocating the election of one ticket, I should be going through the form of running on another? Nobody in the United States would think I had the slightest chance of being elected and nobody would believe that I considered myself seriously as a candidate, unless at the same time he believed me to be absolutely lacking in common sense.

"Whom could such a phantom candidacy deceive? What respect should I deserve, indeed, if in such a matter I should attempt to deceive anybody whatsoever? I know the people's party to be composed of men most exceptionally keen and expert in political judgment. So obvious a sham could not blind their vision. Either they would recent my implied uncomplimentary estimate of them or they would be justified in forming one of which would result only in injuring the cause which it had been the professed object of my mistaken folly to aid.

"Consistency and candor in politics, therefore, my own self-respect, a proper deference to the people's party and a sincere regard for the welfare of the United States, all counsel that I now respectfully replace in your hands the honorable trust which your great party committed to me in contemplation of a different complexion of affairs than has resulted.

"In conclusion, I may be permitted to express the profound satisfaction which I feel in contemplating the present attitude of the party. In 1896 I was one of those who, keenly feeling the recreancy of the republican party, were much in doubt whether the memorable democratic convention at Chicago, in adopting its splendid platform and nominating William J. Bryan for the presidency, was actuated by an impulse or a purpose. The magnificent achievements at Kansas City have settled all possible doubts on that subject. The platform adopted not only re-enacts the principles of 1896, but, in language whose force, dignity and beauty have never been equalled in a similar document, responds to the new issues presented in the growth of the trust monopoly and the imperialistic policy of the administration, by an appropriate enunciation of these sublime doctrines of human rights and liberties, whose profession and observance have been the peculiar glory of our country and are the sure basis of the ultimate happiness of mankind.

"And again, the duty of carrying the banner of the cause has been committed to that tried and trusted hand, whose grasp has never weakened, which no fear can make to falter and no burden can disarm. The leadership of Bryan, which could have redeemed a bad platform, sanctifies a good one. It made memorable an unsuccessful contest. It will crown a victory with imperishable splendor.

"With every sentiment of respect and gratitude, I remain, most sincerely yours, CHARLES A. TOWNE."

ABOUT MR. BURKETT

Some of the Things He Forgot to Mention in His Recent Letter.

Replying to Mr. Burkett's letter declining to meet him in joint debate before the people of this district Mr. Berge has written the following letter: Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 8, 1900.—Hon. E. J. Burkett, Lincoln, Neb.—Dear Sir: Your letter of the 28th ult., in which you inform me that you refuse to debate with me the issues of this campaign has been duly received. In the letter I wrote you, I expressly stated that personally neither of us should be considered in this campaign, but that the issues were all important and I invited you to discuss them with me before the people of this district. In view of this express statement in my letter to you it seems a little strange that you should give us one of the reasons for refusing to debate with me would be rather vain in you to spend your time in debate with me, talking about yourself and what you have done. But stranger still, after this expression of modesty on your part, you ignore the issues entirely and use a column and a half in the press telling all about yourself and what you have done. You seem to fear the people will not know what you have done unless you yourself tell them about it.

Had you confined yourself to matters germane to the object of my letter, I would have dropped the subject. But you have ignored the spirit of my letter and have made it an excuse to put in print your estimate of your own record, and you give your whole record, I would have no more to say, but you only gave part of it. Let me complete it.

In the first place you say the republican platform this year is clear and explicit and that you cannot add to nor take from it. You say you stand upon that platform. Here is what it says with reference to the Philippine Islands:

"The largest measure of self-government consistent with their welfare and our duties shall be secured to them by law."

I was about to ask you what that meant and what you really favored while standing upon that part of your platform. In the light of what Abraham Lincoln said, however, I think you are right and that the platform is clear and explicit and no one should doubt its meaning. Here is what he said:

"These arguments that are made that the inferior race are to be treated with as much allowances as they are capable of enjoying; that as much is to be done for them as their condition will allow. What are these arguments? They are the arguments that kings have made for enslaving the people in all ages of the world. You will find that all the arguments in favor of kings were of this class; that they always bestrode the necks of the people, not that they wanted to do it, but because the people were better off for being ridden. Turn it whichever way you please, the yoke comes from the mouth of a king, an excuse for enslaving the people of the country, or from the mouth of men of one race for enslaving the men of another, it is all the same old serpent."

It seems to me the martyred Lincoln penetrated the future and uttered those words as a warning to the people of today. You say you cannot add to nor take from that platform, and that you stand upon it. It suits you exactly. You thoroughly believe in it. Does not Lincoln say you are making the argument kings have made for enslaving the people in all ages of the world? While standing upon that platform do you intend sending a general to the Philippine Islands and a large army to enforce his orders? To carry out your policy do you favor a large standing army? Do you favor taxing the people to pay for a large standing army and navy? Do you favor the favoring of the Philippine Islands as a colony? Does not your platform upon which you stand advocate imperialism and a change of our form of government? Whatever you may call it, are your policies not the same old serpent referred to by Lincoln?

You say you voted for a bill providing for a civil government for Porto Rico. Yes, you did, but in doing so did you not separate the constitution and the flag? Did you not say by your vote that the United States flag should float over Porto Ricans, but that the people there should not enjoy the blessings guaranteed by the constitution? Did you not vote to tax the people of Porto Rico without giving them representation? Was your vote on that bill not a vote for imperialism and militarism? The bill for which you voted was it not contained not only by democrats and populists, but by leading republicans in congress and out of congress?

You say you voted for an anti-trust law. Is it not a fact that more trusts were organized during the McKinley administration than had been organized during all our previous history of more than a hundred years? You helped amend a law which never had been enforced. Has the amendment given the people any relief? Has the amendment helped the old law one iota? If you could give the people no relief during the last session of congress how can you expect them to trust you longer? Must you and the republican party not stand convicted of one of two things? Either you cannot or you will not destroy the trusts.

You say you voted for the gold standard. Did you not say to the people in 1898 that you were in favor of metallism? Did you not vote to retire \$346,000,000 greenbacks and give to national banks the right to issue and control all our paper money? Did you not vote to give the secretary of the treasury power to issue bonds in an unlimited amount and whenever he desired to do so? Do you not think this a dangerous power to put into the hands of one man? Do you ask your constituency how they wanted you to vote on these measures? Or did a single man in this district ask you to vote to retire the greenbacks and give the secretary of the treasury this dangerous power? Why did you not tell the people about these things? They belong to your official record. But you say you worked and voted for pensions. So will I when I am elected. Our soldiers ought to be pen-

sioned. No congressman does his full duty unless he does everything in his power to make life easier for every living soldier by securing for him the pension that is due him. But I am in favor of equality in pensions. Men should be paid according to their disability and not according to rank.

You say I seem to fear that the people will not know where each of us stand on the issues of the campaign, and you say I give the people too little credit. In reply I desire to say I have no fears whatever about the people's understanding the issues of this campaign. They do understand them. Because the people do understand the issues I was willing to debate with you these questions and then let the people decide who is right. Why were you not willing to debate? Were you afraid of the people? If you believe you are right on the issues and believe that the people are intelligent enough to understand your position, why do you refuse to meet me upon the platform and discuss these issues with me?

You say conditions are such that they will do some very effective talking and relieve us of some of the burdens along that line. I believe you are right. Your vote imposing a tariff on the people of Porto Rico; your vote retiring the greenbacks; your vote giving the secretary of the treasury power to bond the people whenever he feels like it; your policy of imperialism which is to change our government into an empire; militarism which means a large standing army and a navy and consequently heavy taxation; your policy withholding sympathy from a people struggling to be free; your ill-disguised alliance with England; all these things will save a great deal of talking. In my judgment they will speak so eloquently on election day that never again in this country will any man dare advocate such measures.

I believe in the Declaration of Independence and that it is the greatest inheritance ever bequeathed to humanity. What do you think about it? I believe the constitution of the United States is the bulwark of our liberties and that if the constitution and the flag are ever separated it will mean the overthrow of the Declaration of Independence. The overthrow of the Declaration of Independence means the ultimate extinction of our form of government. It means a return to government by force. You stand for this change. I am opposed to it. I am willing to leave the issue with the people. Yours very respectfully, GEORGE W. BERGE.

Ballad of Roosevelt and San Juan Hill. Oh, Roosevelt's Rough Rooster's Great Wild In all our wide Empire that show is the best. You may boast of your Barnum or Buffalo Bill, But the Great Show is 'Teddy, of San Juan Hill."

Chorus: Sing Shoot all your shots at the Spaniards—his fun! Sing Ride at Rough Rids every son-of-a-gun. Sing Ride and sing slash with your red scalping knife, Oh, the life worth the living's the Strainyous

"This now a reporter'll sing in my lay. He met Ted, and said, 'It's quite a warm day.' But Teddy quite steady, said, 'This seems a hill. To the heat on the day I took San Juan Hill."

Chorus: "I've come," said the newsman, "to ask you the Great Admiral Dewey." "O, he's up the spout," "I already he's feeling quite ill; He's outlasted by the man who took San Juan Hill."

Chorus: "Your idea of McKinley we wish you'd express." "Well, I'm the head, and he's a tail of our ticket, I guess; After me marches Hanna, then comes little Bill. For we start the procession from San Juan Hill."

Chorus: "But the people at large, they would like very much to hear your views on the platforms and such." "I'll talk of those matters," said Ted, "if you But remember all roads lead to San Juan Hill."

Chorus: "But, Teddy, we've all heard sufficient of that. They get bored when you talk through your hat. That subject's a chestnut—no longer you thrill With your rinky-dink-dink about San Juan Hill."

Chorus: Then "Teddy the Boxer," he wrathfully rose And he hit that burst forth such a blow on the nose. That the "claret" hung forth in a bright crim- Like the blood Teddy shed down at San Juan Hill."

Chorus: Now all you reporters, before you're killed dead, Beware of the hero that wears the swell'd head; Give him with his foot on his head where he will. For you'll ne'er hear the last of San Juan Hill. Woodside, L. L. N. Y., July, 1900.

SOME SOUND ADVICE

An old Populist and Member of the First Nebraska has Some Remarks to Make to the Fuzzie Wuzzies.

Editor Independent—In our present political war, when very nearly every issue will be discussed before the people by various stump speakers, and the pending issues will be commented upon and criticized and which will find currency and will be circulated amongst the people by the press, I feel as though I might take the liberty to write a few words, giving my views of the coming campaign.

Reading the first Populist platform adopted in 1892 at the Omaha convention, I find it to be one of the most unselfish and generous documents ever framed: the product of intelligent and statesmen-like men. Every paragraph in the platform demonstrates the great wisdom of the political body assembled there for the purpose of placing the great principles before the masses. It is now eight years since the cardinal principles which were adopted in that platform were spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans as well as from the north to the south. Men of great character and foresight preached and taught the masses in order that they could vote intelligently for the good of their country and the benefit of their homes. This doctrine of the People's party spread like the gospel of Jesus

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Christ. The divine doctrine was to purify and save the souls of men. But the doctrine of the People's party is to purify the body polity and to save the country from certain ruin and downfall. They are to preserve the free institutions and grand principles that we inherited from our forefathers. To-day we see the effect of these teachings by the result of the great Democratic convention held recently at Kansas City. There these same principles were adopted and framed in their platform.

This should demonstrate the faith and unity of action existing by the advocations of such principles. But my friends, there is a thorn in the side of the Populist party. This thorn takes its form in our Middle-of-the-road friends. I was exceedingly surprised to learn of this unprincipled movement on their part. I have always been of the impression and believed that the reform movement was not for the party's sake but for its principles. It has disappointed me very much to see these same workers, who so sincerely and ardently worked for the good of the party during the past ten years to inaugurate a movement that may prove detrimental to the Populist party. Now, my Middle-of-the-road friends, is that the doctrine you so ardently and sincerely preached for the past eight years. Are these the same principles? No, it is not. It is far from them.

A Couple of Shocks. "Where have you been, Mr Rocky?" demanded the boss. "Oh, sir," replied Rocky mendaciously. "My landlady is a most excellent woman, and she has been so ill that I had to stay at home to nurse her." This excuse went, and the boss turned away. The following day Rocky felt like he had sand in his head, and a headache as long as a rainy Sunday in the country developed. He staid at home, sending the excuse that his landlady was dead and he had to attend the funeral. Later in the day a woman entered the bookstore and inquired for Mr. Rocky. "The reason I came here," she explained, "is because I am his landlady, and not having been in him for a week I became uneasy and called to inquire about him." "His landlady?" gasped the boss. "Why, woman, he's attending your funeral this very day and has been nursing you for a week." It was a shock to the poor woman to find she was dead, but a shock of another sort struck Rocky when he came back to work. It was his funeral that time.—Louisville Times.

I know a great many of you personally, and I admired your speeches that you made in behalf of the party and its principles; so much so, that I placed no value on my time nor could distance prevent me from attending them whenever I had the opportunity. By such action, you have not deserted the party but its principles. What are your principles today? Have you any? I believe not. At the time the Democratic convention adopted at Kansas City the Populist party's platform, you refused to lend your assistance to the same and like a faithless flock of lambs walked directly into the Republican party's trap which they had long ago prepared for you. I do not know the reason for which many of you deserted the party's principles, but it is evident that they did not have them very deep in their hearts. And I am surprised at some whom I know well to find that their desire for revenge is stronger than their support of its principles. Some are fighting against the state ticket; more especially against Governor Poynter. What are the reasons for this opposition? It certainly cannot be on account of any landless flock of lambs not his admiration being without a blemish, free from partisan prejudice, honest and for the good of the state.

In his administration, he has shown a high degree of competency and honesty. His executive duties have been performed intelligently and as though they had for their motive the welfare of the people. He is undoubtedly a credit to the state as well as the party. The Republican party is compelled to acknowledge the truth of these facts. I am aware of the fact that there is some dissatisfaction existing with some. This discontent is readily accounted for when one stops to consider the countless applicants for office jobs. All cannot have their wants filled. Consequently some are disappointed. Any man who deserted principles because he failed to secure political recognition is too narrow minded and selfish to deserve any consideration whatever and he demonstrates that his views are decidedly warped.

Distinctions in Being Kicked. The Arabs, clever horsemen as they are, are quite as liable to accident as English grooms. But the Arab likes to be kicked by a thoroughbred horse and cannot endure to be put to any pain by an animal whose pedigree is at all defective. An English surgeon had been setting the broken leg of an Arab who complained more of the accident that had befallen him than was thought becoming in one of his tribe. This the surgeon remarked to him, and his answer was truly characteristic. "Do you think, doctor, I should have uttered a word of complaint if my own high bred colt in a playful kick had broken both my legs? But to have a bone broken by a brute of a Jackass is too bad, and I will complain!"

Parried the Thrust. A lady had in her employ an excellent girl who had one fault. Her face was always in a smudge. Her mistress tried, without offending, to tell her to wash her face and at last resorted to strategy. "Do you know, Bridget," she remarked in a confidential manner, "it is said that if you wash the face every day in hot, soapy water it will make you beautiful?" "Will it?" said Bridget. "Sure, it's a wonder ye never tried it, ma'am"—Our Dumb Animals.

Got the Change. "Why were you tempted to steal this man's purse?" "Because my doctor recommended me to take a little change." The combined catch of cod by all the fisheries of the world is estimated at 500,000,000 pounds annually, most of which is exported to tropical countries after having been hard dried.

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