

The Commoner.

A Rebuke from the South.

The letter written by Senator-elect Carmack of Tennessee, is reproduced below because it presents a view of Lincoln from a southern standpoint.

Mr. Carmack is one of the new men who have forged to the front in the last few years, he having been elected to Congress first in 1896.

His rapid rise in politics is due to his ability and to his devotion to democratic principles. What a commentary upon the imperialistic tendencies of the republican party, that a southern democrat should be able to use the words of Abraham Lincoln to rebuke northern republicans:

Hon. Benton Childers, Secretary, Jefferson-Jackson-Lincoln League, Columbus, Ohio.—My Dear Sir:—I deeply regret that circumstances forbid my presence at the banquet of the Jefferson-Jackson-Lincoln League on the 12th of February, to respond to a toast of "Jefferson and Lincoln," which by the kindness of the committee I was permitted to choose for myself.

The name and fame of Jefferson, who lived and died in Virginia, is the common heritage of our common country. With the cause for which Abraham Lincoln stood the people of the South, by a cruel fate, were brought into conflict for four dreadful years of blood and sorrow; but today they remember that he, too, was born on southern soil and his glory and example are the common property of all who worship at the shrine of liberty beneath the banner of the free. As a man of southern birth and southern ancestry it would be a matter of pride and pleasure to pay my tribute to the memory of Abraham Lincoln, whose statue stands side by side in the temple of fame with that of our great apostle of human rights who wrote the Declaration of Independence and founded the democratic party.

To the shallow critic, it may seem strange that the name of Jefferson, the founder of the democratic party, should be coupled with that of Lincoln, the first victorious leader of its great antagonist. But he who looks beneath the surface of things and who understands that history is not a mere table of names and dates, but that great ideas are the moving forces behind human events, will perceive the singular fitness of the association. The names of the great and good men of the world are associated with the causes and principles to which they dedicated their lives. A party that inscribes upon its banner the name of an honored leader whose principles it has deserted and betrayed, is a political pirate, hoisting a friendly flag to lure the unwary to destruction. The names of great leaders belong, for party purposes, to whatever party is faithful to their precepts and true to their principles. In this sense, the name of Abraham Lincoln, no less than that of Thomas Jefferson, is the property of the democratic party.

Abraham Lincoln proudly avowed himself a disciple of Jefferson, and he declared that the republican party of his time was founded upon the doctrines of that mighty teacher. In the platform on which Abraham Lincoln was first nominated for the presidency, the republican party laid its faith in the Declaration of Independence, in the doctrine of the inalienable rights of all men to the "enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," and in the doctrine that governments derive "their just powers from the consent of the governed." The republican party today could not so stultify itself as to write such a maxim into its platform. To those who sneer at the association upon such an occasion as this of the names of Jefferson and Lincoln, I would commend a thoughtful consideration of the fact that in all the republican literature of the last campaign, not one maxim or sentiment of Abraham Lincoln was ever cited to justify their policy of "criminal aggression," while democratic literature abounded with quotations from both Jefferson and Lincoln. For the first time since its foundation the republican party placed the Declaration of Independence and the words of Abraham Lincoln upon its Index Expurgandum, and it is

doubtless surprised at its own moderation that it did not order the writings of both to be burned. There was hardly an argument advanced by them to justify their policy of conquest and subjugation that had not already been made for them by the apologists of human slavery in the United States and already refuted by the pitiless logic of Abraham Lincoln himself.

I beg to contrast the republican party of Abraham Lincoln with the republican party of today. In the very platform on which Lincoln was nominated, the doctrine was distinctly declared and made a fundamental principle of the party faith that the constitution, of its own force, extends to all the territory under the flag of the United States to protect every inhabitant in the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The present doctrine of the republican party is that Congress and the president have practically unlimited power over the inhabitants of the territories. Where could you find a specific departure of a more radical and fundamental character from the spirit that was in the founders of the republican party?

Abraham Lincoln declared that the republican party of his day was the true party of Jefferson as contradistinguished from the party of Hamilton. The present republican speaker of the House of Representatives, during the late campaign, delivered a glowing eulogy on Alexander Hamilton, as the exponent of those ideas and principles of government for which the republican party stands today. Can such a party be, in spirit and in truth, the republican party of 1860? Let Lincoln speak. In a letter written April 6th, 1859, in reply to an invitation to attend a celebration in Boston of the birthday of Jefferson, he said:

Bearing in mind that about 70 years ago two great political parties were first formed in this country, that Thomas Jefferson was the head of one of them and Boston the headquarters of the other, it is both curious and interesting that those supposed to descend politically from the party opposed to Jefferson should now be celebrating his birthday in their original seat of empire, while those claiming political descent from him have nearly ceased to breathe his name everywhere. * * * I remember once being much amused at seeing two partially intoxicated men engage in a fight with their great coats on, which fight, after a long and rather harmless contest, ended in each having fought himself out of his own coat and into that of the other. If the two leading parties of this day are really identical with the two in the days of Jefferson and Adams, they have performed the same feat as the two drunken men. But soberly, it is now no child's play to save the principles of Jefferson from total overthrow in this nation. The principles of Jefferson are the definitions and axioms of free society. And yet, they are denied and evaded with no small show of success. One dashing calls them "glittering generalities;" others insidiously argue that they apply to "superior races." These expressions, differing in form, are identical in object and effect—the supplanting of the principles of free government. They would delight a convocation of crowned heads plotting against the people. They are the vanguard, the miners and sappers of returning despotism.

It is plain that the party of Abraham Lincoln is not the party of Marcus Alonzo Hanna. In the continued struggle each party has fought itself into its own coat again. The democratic party today is clothed again with the principles of Jefferson, with the principles of the republican party of 1860, so far as they relate to the inalienable rights of man. The political coat that was worn by Abraham Lincoln was worthily worn during the late campaign by a gentleman who sits at your banquet board tonight. The great struggle to "save the principles of Jefferson from total overthrow" is on again. The very terms and arguments quoted by Lincoln as used to evade the axioms of the Declaration of Independence reappeared in the republican literature of the late campaign. The very reference to the immortal Declaration as a string of "glittering generalities," and the very pretense that its doctrines were intended only for "superior races" were borrowed by the so-called "party of human liberty" from the advocates of human slavery to justify the subjugation of a distant people, who but lately were our allies and brothers-in-arms, and who have only offended us by wishing to be free.

In conclusion let me say, in the very words of Lincoln: "All honor to Jefferson—to the man who, in the concrete pressure of a struggle for national independence by a single people, had the coolness, forecast and capacity to introduce into a merely revolutionary document an abstract truth, applicable to

all men and all times, and so [to embalm it there that today, and in all coming days, it shall be a rebuke and a stumbling block to the very harbingers of re-appearing tyranny and oppression."

And all honor to Abraham Lincoln—to the man who applied the principles of Jefferson with such force and directness and fearless wisdom that today every word and act of his life rise up as a "rebuke and a stumbling block" to the party which seeks to appropriate his name while dishonoring his precepts and example. Very sincerely yours,

E. W. CARMACK.

A Word of Encouragement.

We should like to offer a word of consolation to those bereaved ones who can see no rift in the cloud that lowers o'er the dead queen's bier. That the deceased was a wise and loving monarch, a noble hearted woman, a model wife and mother, is not to be doubted by even the most cynical. To her illustrious virtues we have already paid our reverent and heartfelt tribute. She did not create the age of splendid progress with which she was contemporaneous, but she presided over it, she was its most brilliant and impressive figure, and the span of her reign covers the most splendid epoch in the history of mankind. We cannot believe, however, that the American people, or those pretending to speak for them, are justified in giving way to despair and refusing to be comforted.

We had imagined that after the first shock even the most ecstatic of our mourners would begin to lift their stricken heads and show a disposition to look life in the face with something of their quondam fortitude and courage. After all, Victoria was not queen of the United States. After all, if it be necessary to the happiness of a certain small class of our population to bow down to something English, there is Edward VII., who represents everything that they hold sacred. The adoration need not be interrupted. The adorers need not refuse the ministrations of the pitiful and the compassionate. A good and well-beloved woman has been taken from the world. It is well to celebrate her passing with a sorrowing and grateful tear. But all is not lost for those who turn their devoted eyes to England. The king reigns. London survives. The British aristocracy remain for our pious contemplation and our toady hopes.

Cheer up, oh, fainting snob! Get on your feet again and comb the ashes out from that matted hair!—Washington Post.

Borrowed Fun.

Justifiable Pride.

Chicago Millionaire (showing his library to distinguished novelist): "See them books?"

Distinguished Novelist: "Yes."

C. M.: "All bound in calf, ain't they?"

D. N.: "So they are."

C. M.: (proudly): "Well, sir, I killed all them calves myself!"—Fun, London.

Mind and Matter.

"Do you believe in the power of mind over matter?" asked the mystical man.

"No," answered the practical friend. "I believe in the power of matter over mind. I have known a dull, insensible tack hammer, by one swift rap on the thumb, to make a man say things that he had not thought of for years."—Washington Star.

A Bad Reputation.

"Do you believe mosquitoes carry germs?" "Haven't the slightest doubt of it; I'm from New Jersey; I would believe anything of a mosquito."—Ohio State Journal.

Fate of a Bad Little Boy.

Tuesday his rubbers he would not wear,
Wednesday he played in the cold night air;
Thursday he had such an aching head;
Friday he spent in his trundle bed;
Saturday found him very low;
Sunday there came a fall of snow;
Monday came coasting, but he couldn't go.
—The Oregonian.