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William J. Bryan.

Editor and Proprietor.

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Nothing is cheaper than a good book.

Will General Sickles be unhappy until he gets Evans' resignation?

The protracted drouth clearly shows that some men never think of praying until they get into trouble.

Young Mr. Rockefeller's Damon to young Mr. Gould's Pythias is evidently a rank burlesque on the old story.

Salisbury and Chamberlain insist that the war in South Africa is over, but British agents are still scouring Missouri for mules.

The stability of the country's boasted prosperity is well measure by the panic aroused at the thought of a total crop failure.

F. P. Dunne (Mr. Dooley) has paraphrased an old epigram. He says: "Ye can lade a man up to the University but ye can't make him think."

The Chicago burglar who refused to face a toy pistol in the hands of a woman had doubtless read carefully the list of Fourth of July fatalities.

Senator Scott says he wrote 17,640 letters during the presidential campaign. This should enable General Sickles to find a lot of company for his misery.

The steel trust should treat with the striking steel workers. It might result in ending a drouth that threatens to dry up all the water in steel trust stocks.

Constant Reader—No, the republican party does not assume responsibility for the drouth; it claims credit for everything good but blames Providence for everything bad.

After Secretary Wilson has knocked the war trust into smithereens by providing

enough raw sugar to keep all the refineries going, will he kindly provide a way of smashing the oil trust, which has a cinch on all of the raw material in its line?

Charles Cecil Fitzmorris, the Chicago American representative, has completed his trip around the world—time 60 days, 13 hours, 29 minutes, 42½ seconds. This is the quickest time ever made.

If the Ohio democrats want to get a good idea of their platform let them examine Mr Watterson's plans and specifications for a perfect platform and then read his praise of the Ohio platform.

An American consul is on a strike for higher wages. He might try acting as the agent of a trust in an official capacity. That has been known to eke out a small official salary.

Let the democrats of Ohio vote the ticket and then begin the next day after the election to organize the congressional districts so that it will not be possible for a corporation democrat to secure a nomination.

The dispute about the authorship of the famous dispatch to Admiral Dewey continues to rage. No one claiming the authorship is willing, however, to father the invitation sent to Aguinaldo to come to Hong Kong.

Political conditions become corrupt because vice is continuous in its operation while virtue is oftenspasmodic. The many who simply want good government arouse themselves occasionally to secure some necessary reform but the few who make money out of legislation are always alert and active.

While the Ohio democrats have by their timidity weakened themselves on national issues they are strong on state issues. It will be interesting to hear what the republicans have to say against the Johnson planks in regard to equal taxation and a popular vote on franchises.

THE COMMONER in its last issue, speaking of the Ohio convention, credited General Finley with the resolution reaffirming the Kansas City platform. This was an error; the resolution was introduced by W. L. Finley, editor of the Kenton Press, and not by Gen. Finley. Apologies are hereby extended to both gentlemen.

John Hewitt of Woodstown, N. J. lost his barn a few days ago by lightning. His neighbors took the matter in hand and within a few days \$400 was contributed, mostly in grain and farm products, toward the rebuilding of the barn. The generosity shown was as complimentary to the donors as to the recipient.

A more touching spectacle was never witnessed than that of William B. Allison refusing a presidency and tendering it to Leslie Shaw, while at the same time Leslie Shaw refuses it and insists that William B. Allison

take it. But touching as it is, it has caused a ripple of laughter throughout Stark county, Ohio, to say nothing of the city of Cleveland.

Special attention is called to the books advertised in this issue: The Jeffersonian Cyclopedia—no democrat can afford to be without it; Mr. Davis' book on the South African war—it will be an authority on the subject; Dr. Girdner's book, Newyorkitis—entertaining even in hot weather; Coin Harvey's book on money, trusts and imperialism—a concise yet comprehensive discussion of these subjects; Christ's Object Lessons—a work which will please those who desire to study the Parables.

The Harrisburg, Ill., Register takes the Chicago Chronicle to task for trying to seize control of the democratic party. It reminds the Chronicle that it hasn't been back long and even expresses the fear that it (the Chronicle) has "come back into the party for the same reason the fellow gave for marrying into a family he did not like, namely, to disgrace it." Possibly the Chronicle has made up its mind that it can hurt the party more by being on the inside than it could by remaining on the outside.

THE COMMONER is pained to notice that Mr. Depew opposes Mr. Hanna's nomination. This is a great disappointment. When THE COMMONER predicted Mr. Hanna's nomination it confidently relied upon Mr. Depew's co-operation. When the senator from New York failed to secure Mr. McKinley for a third term it was only natural to expect that he would accept Mr. Hanna as the next person—the very next—to the president. A word from the New York Central may, however, bring Mr. Depew into line yet.

THE COMMONER is under obligations to the Minneapolis Times for its long range defence of Mr. Bryan. The editor of THE COMMONER does not claim to speak for anyone except himself, but he has faith in the righteousness of the Kansas City platform and there are so many people who believe with him that he has no fear of becoming lonesome. If any democrat is tempted to purchase the favor of financiers by a surrender of democratic principles, let him read the obituary notices of a number of prominent democrats who ended their political existence between 1893 and 1896.

It was very gratifying to meet in every state visited on my recent trip, readers of THE COMMONER, and to learn from them that the paper is giving satisfaction. As has been said before, the paper does not attempt to give all the general news but it does intend to keep its readers informed as to important political events and to supply them with arguments which will enable them to defend democratic principles and policies. There are in every community those who do their own thinking and who fortify themselves to discuss political issues as they arise. To such—no matter to what party they belong—THE COMMONER will be useful.