

Democratic party they can do so whether Mr. Bryan will "let" them or not, but the fact that Mr. Bryan has been the party candidate should not deprive him of the right to express his opinion upon public questions.

The comparatively few gold standard advocates in the party not only express their opinions but insist that all believers in the Kansas City platform shall keep still. How can we determine the majority unless each Democrat is free to express himself? The Democratic party has not yet spoken in favor of reorganization. Where is the "majority" of which the Statesman speaks?

Free Speech in Virginia.

A report was sent out from Richmond a few days ago to the effect that the constitutional convention, in its indignation over the assassination of the president, had stricken out of the proposed constitution a clause guaranteeing freedom of speech. As might have been expected, the report attracted wide-spread attention and called forth emphatic protests from Democratic quarters. The editor of THE COMMONER has ascertained the facts, and is gratified to know that Virginia has neither abolished free speech nor intends to.

There were two clauses in their constitution relating to the subject; one was an amendment to the section written by George Mason in 1776, and the other was a section drawn substantially in the language of the federal constitution on that subject. The committee reported in favor of striking out the amendment added to the language of Mason because it was surplusage and did not strengthen the other section. But final action has not yet been taken upon the matter.

While the alarm was excited by a false report, and was therefore unnecessary, it is gratifying to have the rumor set at rest and to know that Virginia, the home of Jefferson, is as firm as he was in defense of the doctrine of free speech.

Taylor Should be Surrendered.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean of recent date contained this dispatch:

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 25.—It developed here today that Attorney General William L. Taylor, while at Evansville Sunday night, was mistaken for W. S. Taylor, former governor of Kentucky, and would have been kidnapped and carried across the river into Kentucky but for the protests of the hotel clerk and the timely discovery that he was not the former Kentucky executive.

Taylor arrived in Evansville on a late train and registered and went to bed. A number of Kentuckians were in Evansville that night, having come to the city on a steamboat excursion, and by chance saw the name on the hotel register. There were mysterious consultations on the street in front of the hotel, and finally three men entered, while a crowd stood on the outside, and demanded to be taken to Taylor's room.

At first the clerk did not understand the situation, but he soon learned that the Kentuckians thought it was W. S. Taylor and he had a hard time making the crowd believe that the initial "L" was not an "S," though the mistake was not unreasonable. Attorney General Taylor was not informed of what was going on, but the proprietor

of the hotel had been called and convinced the Kentuckians of their mistake.

There can be no excuse for kidnapping even a man accused of crime. The law provides a method whereby one charged with wrongdoing may be removed from one state to another, although the consent of the governor is required to permit the orderly removal to take place.

This Inter-Ocean dispatch, however, directs attention to a condition that should have the condemnation of all newspapers without regard to political prejudice. It is a fact that Mr. Taylor of Kentucky is in the state of Indiana, and it is also true that the Republican governor of that state refuses to deliver him to the Kentucky authorities to answer to the charge of participating in the assassination of Governor Goebel.

The excuse offered for refusing to surrender this Republican politician to the Kentucky authorities is that he would not have a fair trial. This claim is disposed of by the fact that although two of the alleged conspirators were convicted in the lower court, the Supreme Court of the state has granted to each of them a new trial.

The people of Kentucky would understand that the eyes of the world be upon their state and that they could not afford to have one hair of this man's head injured or have him wrongfully convicted of the crime with which he is charged.

More so than at any other time the American people have a deep interest in upholding the law and adhering to justice. Should Mr. Taylor be returned to Kentucky the men of Kentucky would see to it that that proud commonwealth acquitted herself creditably. It may also be said that the Republican leaders, who assume such devotion to the administration of justice, who pose as firm adherents of law and order, are condemned and will be condemned in the sight of fair and intelligent men so long as they persist in protecting a man accused of participating in an assassination, even though that man be a very eminent Republican politician.

The Chinese Question.

In a recent issue of a monthly New York publication, called Japan and America, is the following significant item:

There seems to be a decided change in popular sentiment toward the Chinese as immigrants into this country. A few years ago it would have been political suicide for any public man to intimate that he favored the admission of the Chinese. But times have changed, and merchants, manufacturers and farmers are beginning to feel the want of cheap and trustworthy labor, a want that the Chinese can satisfactorily supply. The Chinese exclusion laws of this country have been a blot on the statute books, no matter how great may have been the temporary necessity or expediency. It is generally believed that the next congress may refuse to re-enact the exclusion law, and thus make an "open door" in this country by peaceful methods, in return for the one we have opened with our artillery in China.

The same suggestion comes from so many sources that it is quite evident that the Chinese exclusion act will not be extended without a

considerable effort. The desire for "cheap and trustworthy labor" is a very natural result of the teachings of the Republican party. The commercial spirit abroad in the land pays little attention to human rights or to the permanent welfare of the nation; it simply asks how a dollar can be most easily secured, regardless of ultimate consequences.

While the laboring men of this country are struggling to maintain their organizations—their only protection against monopoly—the men who dominate industrial affairs are talking about a cheap and docile labor that will aid a still larger concentration of wealth. While the race question which we have is perplexing the wisest and the best of our people, the commercialists are planning to add another race question even more difficult of solution.

The paper above referred to also speaks of the increasing number of Japanese emigrants, and says that of the thirty-one thousand Japanese who left their native land in 1900, twenty thousand were contract laborers. It is in no spirit of hostility to the oriental countries that the bars are raised against immigrants who can not amalgamate with our people. If it seems a temporary hardship, it must be remembered that the clash between races in times of industrial depression would increase as oriental emigration increases, and would do more to disturb our diplomatic relations with other countries than a frank and honest course in the beginning.

We can not afford to invite here either a temporary or a permanent class separated from us by distinct color and race lines. It is probable that the Japanese government would upon suggestion make regulations in accord with our wishes. In the case of Chinese the central government has not sufficient control over its citizens to make such restrictions practicable. Whether the Japanese are restrained by an edict of their government, or by American legislation enlarging the scope of the exclusion act, no time should be lost in applying a remedy. This nation will not only admit but welcome those who come as students to learn our ways, attend our schools and study our form of government. These will carry back with them American ideas and American ways, and will be instrumental in extending our nation's commerce, our nation's influence, and our nation's civilization. But this nation is not colonization ground for the overcrowded nations of Asia.

While the "cheap labor" question is one in which wage earners feel special interest, it is really so important as to demand the consideration of every thoughtful citizen.

Singleness of Purpose.

While drifting afar to the dim vaulted cave
Where life and its ventures are laid,
The idlers who gaze while we battle the wave
May see us in sunshine and shade.

Still true to our course,
Though our shadows grow dim,
We'll trim our broad sail as before
And stand by the rudder
That governs the bark
Nor ask how we look from the shore.

—Oliver W. Hoimes.