

The president may have invited him without considering the question that it raises, and Mr. Washington may have accepted from a feeling that an invitation from the president was equivalent to a command. It is to be hoped that both of them will upon reflection realize the wisdom of abandoning their purpose to wipe out race lines, if they entertain such a purpose. Prof. Washington's work as an educator will be greatly impaired if he allows it to be understood that his object is to initiate the members of his race into the social circles of the whites, and he will do injustice to those of his own color if he turns their thoughts away from intellectual and moral development to the less substantial advantages—if there are any advantages at all—to be derived from social equality. The negro can find a sufficient stimulus in the ambition to so elevate himself and the members of his race as to create a satisfactory society among his own people; his efforts in behalf of his race will be weakened rather than strengthened by any effort on his part to desert those of his own color in order to shine in white society. No advantage is to be gained by ignoring race prejudice; it is wiser to recognize it and to make our plans conform to it. Race pride, like self-respect, is a valuable characteristic. Race pride will do the negro good; he has reason to be proud of what his race has already accomplished and he can employ all the energies of a strenuous life in an effort to show that his race is deserving of a high place among the races of the earth, and that place will depend, not upon social distinctions, but upon mental breadth and moral worth. The race question which we have on hand will require for its proper solution the intelligence and patriotism of all the people, black as well as white. The recent occurrence at the White house will not make that solution easier, but it ought to convince all of the folly of adding to those problems which we must meet another greater and more complicated race problem in the orient.

The Money Question Again.

The republicans and gold democrats are continually declaring that the money question is dead, yet there are at this time three important financial measures under consideration. The national bankers at their recent meeting held in Milwaukee discussed and apparently approved of both the "branch bank" and "the asset currency." An effort is to be made to so change the national bank law as to permit the organization of a great central bank with numerous branches scattered throughout the country. If this effort succeeds the small banks will be driven out of existence and the business interests of the land will be under the control and at the mercy of the group of financiers in charge of the central institution. Every senator chosen by a legislature elected this fall will have to vote on this question, and yet gold democrats object to having the people express themselves on this subject.

The national bankers who attended the meeting above referred to were practically unanimous in their support of what is called an "asset currency"—a bank currency issued in proportion to and secured by the assets of the respective national banks. This system is not only open to all the objections urged against other kinds of bank currency, but in addition to these objections it is evident that the asset currency is not as safe as a currency based upon bonds; and it is plain that such a currency impairs the security of depositors. Every senator chosen by a legislature elected this fall will have to act upon this proposition, and yet gold democrats are opposed to allowing the people to express themselves upon this question.

A few days ago the St. Louis Globe-Democrat said editorially:

There is an excellent chance for the enactment in the coming session of congress of the silver redemption bill which Representa-

tive Overstreet, of Indiana, introduced in the recent congress, but which failed for want of time for its adequate consideration. This measure, which will be introduced in the house immediately after it meets a few weeks hence, proposed the exchange of silver dollars in gold, the gold for this purpose to come from the regular redemption fund of the treasury. This would strengthen the gold standard act of March 14, 1900, in a place which it would be desirable to strengthen it.

There is no doubt that the advocates of the gold standard are planning, first, to make silver dollars redeemable in gold; and, second, to retire the silver dollars. When the financiers wanted to bring discredit upon the treasury notes, issued under the Sherman law, they presented them for redemption and then clamored for gold bonds to furnish the necessary gold. Having coerced the treasury department into the issue of bonds, they declared that the treasury notes constituted an endless chain and demanded their retirement. When they had succeeded in securing the unconditional repeal of the Sherman law, they resorted to the same tactics to secure the retirement of greenbacks. They are endeavoring to create a still larger and longer "endless chain" by making the silver dollar redeemable in gold, and if this crusade against the white metal is successful they will insist that the silver dollar must be retired in order to protect the treasury.

The financiers have several other measures in contemplation, but these three are now being openly advocated. Every senator chosen by the legislatures elected this fall will have to vote upon these questions. If the gold democrats do not know this they lack information; if they know it and avoid the subject they lack honesty; and in either case they do not deserve the confidence of the democrats whom they offer to lead.

It seems incredible that any real democrat should be deceived by men who spend half the time vociferously declaring that the money question is dead and the other half in aiding a conspiracy which has for its object the establishing of a bank despotism.

Even in Missouri several persons have been "mentioned" for the United States senate who, if they boldly announced their views on the money question, could not carry a single primary in the state; but they will not announce their position on the money question; they will plead for harmony and claim that they are loyal democrats. Their first effort is to get rid of the Kansas City platform and then they will try to secure the nomination of uninstructed representatives who are under secret pledge to them.

The corporations stand ready to furnish money to elect members of the legislature who can be relied upon to vote for senators satisfactory to the corporations, but such senators will not only be hostile to the democratic party on all phases of the money question, but they will be so obligated to organized wealth that they cannot be trusted to give earnest support to any needed reform. The money question cannot be eliminated from politics so long as the financiers are proceeding step by step to secure new privileges and new advantages at the expense of the rest of the people.

A Successful Experiment.

On the 23d of last January the first issue of The Commoner appeared. A little more than nine months have passed and every day has seen an increase in the number of subscribers. After careful deliberation I began the publication of The Commoner in the belief that there was a demand for a weekly journal devoted to the discussion of political, economic and sociological questions. I have been very much gratified at the success which has attended the experiment and encouraged by the hearty commendation which has been bestowed upon the paper. Through The Commoner I am able to keep in touch with public questions and to address those who desire to keep informed

upon the tendencies of the times. While a large majority of the readers of the paper supported my candidacy in 1896 and in 1900, a considerable number of republicans read the paper in order to know the democratic side of pending issues. I enjoy the editorial work and shall continue the publication of the paper as long as the subscribers continue to show their interest in the paper's work.

While the editorial department of the paper is given the place of paramount importance, the reader will find a great deal of useful philosophy as well as many political and moral lessons on Mr. Maupin's page. In the "Home Department" will be found articles and suggestions of value to the household and some choice poems gathered from the world's best writers. The "Forum of the Weekly Press" is especially intended for the editors of the weekly press. Their exchanges do not as a rule cover the entire country and there is no paper in which they can find the information which The Commoner supplies.

The annual subscriptions which began with the first number will soon expire and it will make the work of renewing much easier if those desiring the paper for another year will send in their remittances at an early day.

While a great many subscriptions have been sent in by local agents and by newspapers having a clubbing rate, a large part of the paper's growth is due to the personal interest taken by readers who bring the paper to the attention of friends and neighbors. They do so in the belief that they are advancing the cause and strengthening the principles which The Commoner defends. Their efforts are fully appreciated.

The next year will be one of great interest to the reading public. The long session of congress begins in December and every week will bring forth some matter which will challenge the attention of all thoughtful and patriotic people. The republicans must fight their next congressional campaign upon the record which they make during the coming session of congress.

I shall analyze and discuss all the measures which are likely to raise issues between the parties.

The Mourning Period.

It is announced that the "mourning period" for the death of President McKinley terminated October 13. The flags which had flown from half-mast on every public building in the country were hoisted. This date, however, merely marked the termination of the "official" period of mourning.

It would be useless for men and women, in this active and progressive world, to continually wear the badges of grief. Common sense has suggested that during a certain period such badges shall be worn and signs of grief displayed; but the world moves on and it is necessary that after a time the public shall abandon the formal indications of its sorrow in order that it may devote its energy to the activities of real life.

More than thirty-six years have elapsed since Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. More than twenty years have elapsed since James A. Garfield was assassinated. And yet the "mourning period" in the hearts of the American people—a people devoted to the institutions of their country, a people naturally tender and sympathetic, a people who believe that any government is better than no government, but whose lives, whose fortunes and whose sacred honor are dedicated to the theory that the republican form is the best form of government—in the hearts of these people the "mourning period" for the untimely death of Abraham Lincoln and James A. Garfield has never yet terminated.

So in the case of William McKinley, October 13 marks the termination of the "official mourning period," but the "mourning period" for President McKinley will be interminable.

This is true, not solely because of his many excellent traits of character, but because the assassination of a president of a republic, dedicated under God to freedom, leaves a scar upon the heart of every patriotic citizen that even time with all its power cannot efface. This is true because an assault upon the life of the head of a republic is an assault upon the humblest citizen of whom the president is the representative.

Among thoughtful men and women it will always be a matter of keen regret, apart from individual considerations, that within one generation in this land of freedom three presidents have fallen victims of assassination.