

The Commoner.

rica and the British nation, the American sympathies must be with the South Africans.

President Roosevelt is preparing his message to congress. He has an opportunity to express the sympathy of the American people with the republics of South Africa. He has an opportunity to reflect the overwhelming popular sentiment in this country and to give voice to the well-nigh unanimous hope and prayer that Great Britain may not succeed in its efforts to destroy the two republics.

It is not necessary that any unfriendly spirit should be shown towards Great Britain on the part of the one who expresses the hope that the people of the Transvaal will win in this great battle. It would, indeed, be surprising if the American people were not heart and soul in sympathy with the South Africans, and there is no good reason, in law or in morals, why this sympathy should not find reflection in the president's message. There are models at the president's hand for such an expression.

In 1822 President Monroe, in a message to congress, said:

"Europe is still unsettled, and although the war long menaced between Russia and Turkey has not broken out, there is no certainty that the differences between those powers will be amicably adjusted. It is impossible to look at the oppressions of the country respecting which those differences arose without being deeply affected. The mention of Greece fills the mind with the most exalted sentiments and arouses in our bosoms the best feelings of which our nature is susceptible. Superior skill and refinement in the arts, heroic gallantry in action, disinterested patriotism, enthusiastic zeal and devotion in favor of personal and public liberty, are associated with our recollections of ancient Greece. That such a country should have been overwhelmed and so long hidden, as it were, from the world under a gloomy despotism has been a cause of unceasing and deep regret to generous minds for ages past. It was natural, therefore, that the reappearance of those people in their original character, contending in favor of their liberties, should produce that great excitement and sympathy in their favor which have been so signally displayed throughout the United States. A strong hope is entertained that these people will recover their independence and resume their equal station among the nations of the earth."

In 1823 President Monroe, in a message to congress, said:

"A strong hope has been entertained, founded on the heroic struggles of the Greeks, that they would succeed in their contest and resume equal station among the nations of the earth. It is believed that the whole civilized world takes a deep interest in their welfare. Although no power has declared in their favor, yet none, according to our information, has taken part against them. Their cause and their name have protected them from dangers which might ere this have overwhelmed any other people. The ordinary calculations of interest and of acquisition with a view to aggrandizement, which mingles so much in the transactions of nations, seem to have had no effect in regard to them. From the facts which have come to our knowledge there is good cause to believe that their enemy has lost forever all dominion over them; that Greece will become again an independent nation. That she may obtain that rank is the object of our most ardent wishes."

In 1827 President John Quincy Adams, in a message to congress, speaking of "the suffering Greeks," said:

"The friends of freedom and of humanity may indulge the hope that they will obtain relief from that most unequal of conflicts which they have so long and so gallantly sustained; that they will enjoy the blessings of self-government, which, by their sufferings in the cause of liberty, they have richly earned, and that their independence will be secured by those liberal institutions of which their country furnished the earliest examples in the history of mankind, and which have consecrated to immortal remembrance the very soil for which the people and government of the United States have so warmly indulged with their cause have been acknowledged by their

government, in a letter of thanks, which I have received from their illustrious president, a translation of which is now communicated to congress; the representative of that nation to whom this tribute of gratitude was intended to be paid, and to whom it was justly due."

President Taylor, in 1849, in a message to congress, said:

"I have scrupulously avoided any interference in the wars and contentions which have recently distracted Europe. During the late conflict between Austria and Hungary there seemed to be a prospect that the latter might become an independent nation. However faint that prospect at the time appeared, I thought it my duty, in accordance with the general sentiment of the American people, who deeply sympathized with the Magyar patriots, to stand prepared, upon the contingency of the establishment by law of a permanent government, to be the first to welcome independent Hungary into the family of nations. For this purpose I invested an agent then in Europe with power to declare our willingness promptly to recognize her independence in the event of her ability to sustain it. The powerful intervention of Russia in the contest extinguished the hopes of the Magyars. The United States did not, at any time interfere with the contest, but the feelings of the nation were strongly enlisted in the cause and by the sufferings of a brave people, who had made a gallant though unsuccessful effort to be free."

In 1850 President Taylor, in a message to congress, said:

"It will be seen by the documents now transmitted that no minister or agent was accredited by the government of Hungary to this government at any period since I came into office, nor was any communication ever received by this government from the minister of foreign affairs of Hungary or any other executive officer authorized to act in her behalf."

"My purpose, as freely avowed in this correspondence, was to have acknowledged the independence of Hungary had she succeeded in establishing a government de facto on a basis sufficiently permanent in its character to have justified me in doing so according to the usages and settled principles of this government; and although she is now fallen and many of her gallant patriots are in exile or in chains, I am free still to declare that had she been successful in the maintenance of such a government as we could have recognized, we should have been the first to welcome her into the family of nations."

What has occurred in the history of the United States of America, since the days of Monroe, of Adams and of Taylor that this great republic cannot give expression to its honest sentiments?

What is there in the atmosphere of the present day that would restrain an American president from expressing in a polite, yet vigorous way the hope and the prayer of the American people that in every struggle between an empire and a republic, in every contest between a monarchy and a people's government, that the republic may live, and that the people's cause may prevail?



Exit, Jones of Nevada.

Senator Jones of Nevada has by his return to the republican party given much joy to the gold organs, both republican and democratic. He claims to be as firm a believer in bimetallism as when he left the republican party, but says that the enormous output of gold "has accomplished what bimetallism would have accomplished," and that silver is dead. He adds that he has been in harmony with the republican party on all other issues, and can, therefore, easily return. It is true that the senator from Nevada, distinguished by his great service in behalf of bimetallism, has been in harmony with the republican party on all questions save the silver question alone, and therefore his apostasy at this time is not surprising, although much to be regretted.

If Senator Jones will review the arguments which he himself has made, he will be convinced that the output of gold has not been sufficient to accomplish "what bimetallism would have accom-

plished." The restoration of bimetallism would have raised silver to \$1.29 an ounce; it would have brought into full monetary use throughout the world four billions of silver which has been constantly legislated against. It would have raised prices to the former bimetallic level and placed the business of the world upon a solid basis. The output of gold has not done this, and as a mere matter of mathematics it is easy to demonstrate that it will require a great many years for the present output to furnish a quantity of gold sufficient to accomplish "what bimetallism would have accomplished." But before gold can be used to take the place of silver we must subtract from the annual product, first, enough for use in the arts; second, enough to cover lost coins and abrasion, and, third, enough to furnish the gold using nations with the annual increase necessary to keep pace with the demand for money. When Senator Sherman was defending the act of 1890, known as the Sherman law, he argued that we needed fifty-four millions of new money every year to keep pace with population and industry. If that quantity is necessary for this country alone, what sum would be sufficient to supply all the gold using nations of the world?

The financiers of all countries oppose any permanent rise in prices because that would lessen the purchasing power of the dollar and depreciate the exchange value of their money and securities. If they thought that there was any danger of the gold supply being sufficient to accomplish "what bimetallism would have accomplished," they would be clamoring for the use of gold in the retirement of uncovered paper, and, finally, they would demand a limitation of the coinage of gold. There has been a rise in the level of prices since '96, but a part of this was the natural rebound after panic conditions, part was due to the prevailing wars, and a part to the manipulation of prices by trusts. We have not yet reached normal conditions, and, therefore, cannot say how much the general level of prices will be increased by the output of gold. We do know, however, that gold has not raised, and probably will not raise prices to anything like the bimetallic level. We cannot accept the gold standard as final until we are sure that we have gold enough, not only for the nations that now use it, but for the nations that will be ultimately driven to it if the United States surrenders its contention for bimetallism. Where would the three hundred million people of India and the four hundred million people of China secure gold if they were to go to the gold standard? What nation has any considerable gold to spare?

It is evident that Nevada's senator has reached a point where his interest in other policies of the republican party outweighs his attachment for bimetallism. The fact that he is not alarmed by the republican advocacy of a "branch bank," an "asset currency," and trusts, or by the corporate domination and the imperial policy of the republican party, shows that devotion to silver was due more to the fact that he came from a mining state than to any broad and deep sympathy with the masses of the people. If his belief in bimetallism had grown out of his desire to see the government administered according to the doctrine of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none," no increase in the production of gold could have carried him back to the republican party. He gained his reputation as the champion of the rights of the people on one question—the money question. Let us see if he ever makes a speech in favor of present republican policies that will compare with the speech which he made in denunciation of the gold standard.



Workingmen at the Polls.

The recent municipal elections in San Francisco illustrate the power of the workingmen when they unite at the polls. Members of the union labor organizations organized a party during the campaign, nominated Mr. Schmitz as their