


FORUM OF THE WEEKLY PRESS



Bardstown (Ky.) Record: If Grover Cleveland is permitted to reorganize the democratic party, we would suggest that the democrats nominate Mark Hanna for president.

San Francisco Star: "One republican party is enough," said Governor Aitgeld. Not for the "reorganizers." They want two. But they cannot succeed in their plans to republicanize the democracy.

Red Wing (Minn.) Argus: No man has banished and no man could decree banishment of Grover Cleveland or any lesser member of the party. The door through which certain members went of their own accord stands open always.

Seneca (Kas.) Courier-Democrat: Reciprocity has been great for republicans to conjure with, but this is as far as it goes. The people would just as well learn first as last that no reciprocity bill of any importance will ever be passed by protectionists.

Pipestone (Minn.) Leader: When such men as Grover Cleveland and David B. Hill talk about bringing the democratic party back to its first principles, it is an indirect indorsement of Mark Hanna's "let well enough alone" theory. Clevelandism, Hillism, and Hannalism are synonymous terms.

Penn Yan (N. Y.) Democrat: Senator Tillman's assertion that his colleague, McLaurin, had sold his democratic birthright for a mess of pottage, may not have been demonstratively true at the time Tillman made it, but McLaurin's appointment to the court of claims bench makes it true now.

Wilmington (Ohio) Democrat: The reorganized element is largely composed of men who are discredited by the democratic party because they have betrayed it in the past—men who have no use for the party except as a medium for exploiting themselves, or as a vehicle upon which to ride to office.

Coldwater (Mich.) Star: Cleveland and Hill have "harmonized," and Cleveland has constructed a platform for Hill to stand on. Being of the Cleveland make you can bet your bottom dollar that there is a trap door in it that will land the candidates, if successful, ker plunk in the midst of Wall street.

Darlington (Wis.) Democrat: We regard much of the talk about reorganization among democrats as unwise and as tending to stir up strife rather than to promote peace. The Kansas City platform is the last official pronouncement of the democratic party, and must stand as such until another is made two years hence.

Glasgow (Ken.) Times: Mr. Cleveland threatens and bribes. "Ought we not to be fed upon something better than the husks of defeat?" is not an ennobling sentiment. Falling from the lips of an ex-president it is revolting. As well might Mr. Cleveland say,

"If you want office you must abandon your principles and betray your party. Then you will feed on something better than the husks of defeat."

Malad (Ind.) Advocate: And anyway, if in order to win a victory, the democratic party has to construct a platform that is acceptable to the money sharks and monopolies only, it is just as well off and will ultimately be benefitted as a result of defeat.

Plattsburg (Mo.) Leader: Republican papers everywhere are booming Mr. Cleveland's speech, and solemnly commending him to the democrats. It is natural to suppose that this is in return for his service and his affiliation with the republicans. He helped them to eight years of supremacy; they ought to speak well of him.

Crete (Neb.) Democrat: If Hill and Cleveland had been half as anxious about harmony in 1896 and 1900 in the democratic party all the things they complain about republicans doing, would never have been done. Neither of these men are sincere. They vote for the enemy when their own party fails to do as they suggest.

Anoka (Minn.) Free Press: It is too early for Grover Cleveland to aspire to leadership, or even prominence, in the democrat party. He should wait until the passing of the present generation, which remembers that it was Grover Cleveland who during his second term dealt democracy the stunning blow, from which it is yet suffering.

Johnston (N. Y.) Democrat: We can not indorse, nor do we believe that loyal democrats anywhere can approve of the self-satisfied utterances of Mr. Cleveland whose professed return to the party fold after several years of active hostility to its leaders and its principles is signalized by a haughty assurance of his continued apostasy.

Ramsey (Ill.) News-Journal: What the republicans, who in their disorganized condition can't do to defeat democracy they are calling their allies the "reorganizers" who so successfully pulled them through in 1896 and 1900, to do. But democracy seems to be sailing nicely through all these troubles and bids fairer than ever to overcome both.

Celina (O.) Democrat: The Cleveland-Hill Tilden club harmony meeting has the unqualified indorsement of every republican and trust organ in the country. The recommendations will, however, have no weight with the democrats who helped to furnish the six millions and more of votes for genuinely democratic principles at the last national election.

Rochester (Ind.) Sentinel: Cleveland, Hill and other democratic bolters held a "harmony" meeting at a Tilden club banquet in New York. Cleveland and Hill are for harmony if they can have their way and if not they say

nothing during campaign or vote the republican ticket. If there are two democrats in the United States who ought to take on plenty of harmony it is Cleveland and Hill.

Batavia (Ohio) Sun: At the Tilden club banquet, held in New York last Thursday evening, Grover Cleveland and David B. Hill made speeches strongly pleading for democratic unity. Inasmuch as these two men are responsible for the lack of harmony in the party, it looks as though it ought to be brought about without serious trouble. All that is necessary is for them to fall into the rear rank and march with the procession.

Cadillac (Mich.) Democrat: Last week Grover Cleveland and David Bennett Hill came out from their retirement and each made "harmony" speeches at the Tilden banquet. Of course, all the harmony they preached was one-sided. Boiled down, it simply meant that if democrats who have always been democrats will foreswear the tenets of the party and embrace the new-fangled idea of changing spots at every wave of the wizard's wand, that there is an opportunity for the democracy to regain both its lost prestige and power.

Owensburg (Ky.) Messenger: Those democrats who are so anxious to win in the next national campaign that they are willing to make any compromise with the eastern element had as well take into account that it is more important not to dissatisfy the west and south, where the certain democratic votes are, than to satisfy the east; and they should also bear in mind that the east is never satisfied unless it gets all it contends for. It talks of "compromises," but it makes none. It prates of "harmony," but it harmonizes with a club whenever it gets its hand upon the club. It pleads when it is in the minority, but it whips with a merciless lash when it holds the whip.

Bessemer (Ala.) Workman: We do not feel in the humor to pull off our coats or throw our hats in the air just because the mouth of Cleveland has been pried open and he has said that the only chance of success is harmony, and that harmony can only be secured by the majority admitting they were all wrong and begging pardon for errors of the past, and after asking pardon of the minority, come back and let the same old crowd of traitors run things to suit themselves.

Coshocton (Ohio) Democrat and Standard: We have an abiding impression that it is not necessary to go beyond the sentiments and principles declared by the democratic masses—the folks in the country and school districts, in the workshops and on the farms—to find out what the democracy of this country stands for today. We see no need of reorganization or any calls for a new departure in politics, either in the way of principles or organization. The eloquent

gentlemen we have lately heard from are prolific in good advice, but they should take some of it themselves and join, with the same earnestness and hope they had when candidates themselves, in all legitimate party work. The democratic party of this country is today a well-organized force for sound and well-understood principles.

Hastings (Neb.) Democrat: Mr. Cleveland never once referred to the well known fact that his course while president destroyed the democratic party. His administration was repudiated by the democratic party in forty states in the union, by the democratic national convention, and by the people generally. Mr. Cleveland could have mentioned many interesting things, but he neglected to do so.

Bonham (Tex.) News: If we can have a real democratic platform and a real democratic leader, let us go down again in defeat, rather than have a platform made in the interests of a few, with a leader named by the beneficiaries of special privileges, and thus march to success at the polls. Harmony or no harmony, defeat or success, let the party remain true to its principles and ultimately all must be well.

Bonne Terre (Mo.) Star: That New York Tilden meeting will go down in history as one of the unique political events of a unique political time. This meeting is especially absurd when it is remembered that there were over 750,000 more votes polled for Mr. Bryan in 1896, when he was defeated, than there were polled for Mr. Cleveland in 1892, when Mr. Cleveland was elected. The pie-hunting element in the democratic party may be willing to sacrifice matters of principle to a possibility of winning, but the democratic voter prefers to go down to defeat in a fight for principle with standard bearers who will stand for right when elected, rather than to the possibility of electing men without fixed principles, who will cater to organized greed when they are elected.

Wichita (Kas.) Democrat: There are doubtless millions of democrats who believe that their party would be in power today had it not been for the perfidy of Grover Cleveland. When he took his seat in 1893 all conditions were favorable to a speedy restoration to prosperity had not a panic been made to order by John Sherman, Grover Cleveland and their able assistants in a base conspiracy against the people. As a leader he has proven himself to be a fraud and a cheat. His solicitude for the welfare of the people is rank hypocrisy, and is the same old song he has sung even at the moment when he was in full conspiracy to set monopoly and plutocracy with their feet upon the necks of the people. He confesses to no sin and his face is as resolutely set toward wrong as it ever was.