

# The Cleveland Candidate

Who, After Wrecking the Democratic Party During His Second Administration, Deserted the Party in Two National Battles, Declares That Judge Parker is "A Fit Representative of Safe and Conservative Democratic Principles."

The New York World, in its issue of April 6, prints an interview with Grover Cleveland in which interview Mr. Cleveland says:

"The recent movement looking to a concentration upon Mr. Parker's candidacy afforded me the greatest possible relief and satisfaction, not only so far as my personal comfort is concerned; but as a democrat anxious for my party's supremacy and delighted with the prospect of its return to salu-ity and patriotic effort.

"I do not see how any one professing to be a real, intelligent democrat can hesitate to accept Mr. Parker if he should be nominated, as a fit representative of safe and conservative democratic principles entitled to hearty and unreserved democratic support.

"Some of us may have been of opinion that another nomination might be more expedient. But that should be a mere matter of opinion which should pass out of sight immediately if the choice of the convention should fall upon Mr. Parker.

"Feeling assured, as I do, that a nomination will be made representing true democratic principles, I am only concerned about the platform which will be presented to the people with our candidate.

"It should be remembered that the more unobjectionable the candidate we select the more will our opponents be driven to search for campaign material in our platform declaration.

"I do not believe that I can be mistaken in my conviction that in this campaign, of all others, our platform should be short and to the purpose.

"There have been campaigns in which platform-makers have indulged in useless, foolish vagaries in safety. There may be such campaigns again, but I know this is not one of them.

"There are certain democratic doctrines believed in by that conservative element of the party which will control at St. Louis.

These doctrines should, in no event, be evaded.

Such of these as appear to furnish at this time the most vital campaign issues should be given the greatest prominence and should be announced in such a way as to exclude all doubt as to their meaning and all appearance of compromise.

"In other words, there are certain lines of battle which promise, better than others, successful results.

"These lines, having been carefully selected and plainly marked out, should be followed persistently and with faith and enthusiasm.

"I earnestly hope that our platform will be short—so short that the voters of the land will read it.

"I hope that in this platform our party will say precisely what it means and that every word it contains will bear its share of meaning in a declaration of principles free from doubt, evasion or disingenuous compromise."

The New York World, in a dispatch from its Washington correspondent, says:

That Grover Cleveland's declaration in favor of Judge Parker will help the New York jurist in the east and south, where he stood in need of help, and will injure him in the west and north-west, where injury will do his canvass the maximum harm, is the consensus of opinion of the result of the support of Mr. Cleveland of the New York candidate for the democratic nomination for president as gathered among democrats in congress.

It is regarded as tending to some extent to a union of those who are

opposed to Bryanism with the conservative, but its effect will be to drive away from Judge Parker many of the former followers of Mr. Bryan, who had about made up their minds to support Judge Parker as a get-together candidate. In the opinion of many democrats, it ties Clevelandism, which is the name by which they know the other radical wing of the party, to Judge Parker's candidacy.

All the members of congress who came in on the Bryan wave are sorry Mr. Cleveland indorsed the judge. The indorsement makes trouble, especially in Missouri, Texas and Kentucky. In the opinion of a majority of democrats, it is a most inopportune declaration, and may prevent Judge Parker from getting two-thirds of the delegates, of which he was apparently assured.

Some of the representatives who take this view have been pronounced Parker men, but they are very chary about attaching themselves to any movement which bears the "Cleveland brand." One of these men had prepared an elaborate Parker interview for distribution in his district and state, but as soon as he saw the Cleveland indorsement he recalled the interview. The sentiment of these men is reflected in the statement of Representative Burleson, of Texas, who said:

"In my opinion the fact that Cleveland has come out for Judge Parker weakens him by fully 25 per cent in the south and west, and strengthens Hearst by just that much. The real democrats are as strongly opposed to Cleveland as they ever were, and they do not want his advice upon this or any other matter. Parker has been hurt by his fool friends in New York, who seem unable to realize that there is another part of the country except their city and state."

Mr. Burleson, who has been strongly for Judge Parker, and is bitterly opposed to Mr. Hearst, believes that as the result of what he terms the Cleveland-Parker alliance, there may yet be a demand by the west and south for the nomination, either of a southerner like Senator Bailey, or of Bryan, whom he thinks is not dead.

Senator Bacon, of Georgia, voices the sentiments of the men already committed to Judge Parker when he said:

"I am gratified that Mr. Cleveland should have made this announcement, because it comes from what is recognized as one of the extreme wings of the party; and I will be equally gratified when we can have a similar announcement from the other extreme wing of the party. I hope we will have it very soon. We cannot hope for success this year unless we have all of the wings of the party and all that lies between the wings, co-operating. I think the liveliest issue in the next campaign will be the personality of the president, and we must have as our candidate a man in whose ability and conservatism the country will have the greatest confidence."

Representative Smith, of Kentucky, was not enthusiastic over the Cleveland interview. "It will not have a tendency," he declared, "to strengthen Judge Parker in Kentucky. Mr. Cleveland is not in very high favor with Kentucky democrats."

A more encouraging view is taken by Representative Miers, of Indiana. "I think," he said, "that Judge Parker will benefit more than he will lose by Mr. Cleveland's open support. I regard as much more significant, however, the announcement that Senator Gorman has advised his friends

to support Judge Parker. While Mr. Cleveland has his friends in Indiana, he is not without his enemies. Senator Gorman is looked upon as a wise and conservative leader, who is seeking to serve the best interests of the democratic party."

Doubt as to just how much benefit Judge Parker will derive from Mr. Cleveland's support was expressed by Representative Aiken, of South Carolina, who is an avowed Parker man.

"In South Carolina," said Mr. Aiken, "Mr. Cleveland's support of Judge Parker will draw the line between the Parker and the Hearst forces, and the fight in South Carolina will be between them for supremacy."

Representative Cassingham, of Ohio, expressed the belief that the Cleveland interview would intensify the anti-Cleveland sentiment in Ohio, but he did not believe there were enough anti-Cleveland men there to make any difference in this respect.

Mr. Lind, of Minnesota, said: "I am afraid Mr. Cleveland's indorsement of the candidacy of Judge Parker will not be favorably received by democrats in states in the northwest. It is inopportune."

Said Mr. Slayden, of Texas: "Mr. Cleveland will do the party a greater service if he will only keep quiet."

"Mr. Cleveland adds an element of strength to Judge Parker," said Mr. Trimble, of Kentucky, "and for that reason his indorsement will be well received by Judge Parker's friends. There are many democrats in Kentucky, however, who will not so regard it."

"It will hurt the Parker movement in my district, but I suppose we can survive it," said Mr. Moon, of Tennessee. "We have survived worse things."

"It is the most injurious thing that could have happened to the cause of Judge Parker," said W. W. Kitchen, of North Carolina.

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