

The Chronicle Republican.

When one thousand men representing the democrats of the United States, most of them chosen with much difficulty as representatives of what is called conservative democracy, permit a mere demagogue to bully them into wrong-doing it must be that the demagogue is greater than the party.

Two-thirds of the delegates to the national democratic convention voted for Judge Parker on the first ballot—the man whom Mr. Bryan had traduced for three months, the man whose friends Mr. Bryan had vilified, the man who Mr. Bryan had said should not be nominated and could not be elected.

When a cowardly committee representing these delegates brought in a platform which was silent on the money question not a voice was raised in expostulation or protest. While hundreds were ready to shout for Parker not one appeared in defense of elementary democracy.

Mr. Bryan not only graciously permits the democratic party to name a candidate whom he has done his best to defeat in advance, but he places him on a platform with a hole in it big enough to drop the entire party through.

It is bad enough to have Mr. Bryan dominating radical democratic conventions. When Mr. Bryan is able to silence a "conservative" democratic convention the situation becomes intolerable. A mixture of William J. Bryanism and David B. Hillism is insupportable.

The Chronicle is not in sympathy with Mr. Bryan's ideas. For eight years it has refused to believe that Mr. Bryan's ideas were acceptable to the real democrats of the country. The result at St. Louis appears to end the discussion. He and Hill are in control. He and Hill have named the ticket and made the platform.

A timid eastern democrat, who fondly imagined that he could be nominated as an unknown, has been placed on the ticket with an octogenarian free silverite from West Virginia and supplied with a platform which amounts to an indorsement of the platforms of Chicago and Kansas City. The populist west and the reactionary south are again in alliance, with a new leader, it is true, but with no change in principle and purpose. The ticket bears the stamp of populism. There is not a plank in the platform which was not modified by populism.

The democratic party is attached to Bryanism. It is subservient to Bryan. It has been persuaded against its natural inclinations to nominate an unknown candidate whom Bryan has antagonized, but it has permitted Bryan to do the rest. The democratic party is Bryan and there is no reason to suppose that its triumph under the leadership of a man who voted twice for Bryan and free silver, and boasted of it, would be anything else than a triumph for Bryan.

Disagreeing fundamentally with this leader and this party in most things and agreeing with the republican party in the essentials of its creed, the Chronicle today takes leave of the democratic party and allies itself with the republicans.

As at present constituted and led, the democratic party is a menace to

the peace, the prosperity and the integrity of the United States and their people. It has discarded democratic principles and taken up with the radicalism of populists and socialists and the obstructionism and the cowardice of wreckers and demagogues. No good can come out of it. With a blank for a candidate and a blank for a platform it will become more and more a contemptible instrumentality for the exploitation of William J. Bryan and the school of demagogues following in his train.

The Chronicle believes that the republican party, while not free of fault by any means, offers the American people at this time the only prospect of efficient, intelligent and honest government that is anywhere, to be seen, and, so believing, it will do what it can to advance its principles and to strengthen its candidates.—Chicago Chronicle.

Mr. Bryan at St. Louis.

When Mr. Bryan went to St. Louis he was under no illusions. He knew that a majority of the delegates were opposed to a reaffirmation of the Kansas City platform. He knew that the convention purposed, either directly or through indirection, to inter the silver issue. He knew that hostile forces would control the convention. Yet he did not shirk the issue. If he could not save all, he was determined to save what he could out of the wreck of the national platform of 1900.

It is doubtful if a political leader ever fought against greater odds and accomplished more. The convention was in control of men that desired to crush and humiliate him. They purposed to ride rough shod over whatever he stood for, to reverse the policies of the party and to stamp out the last vestige of "Bryanism." If Mr. Bryan had acted as expedience suggested, he would have remained away from St. Louis, but the duty he felt that he owed to his party was more to him than his own fortunes. Against an adverse majority, he fashioned the platform. Through the force of his masterful powers, he compelled his bitterest enemies to concede that he was the towering figure of the convention. "I understand now," August Belmont said, "why Bryan has such a hold upon the masses. Why, he is a giant."

Those that had come to St. Louis to crush him, sought to conciliate him. Desirous of "ridding the party of Bryan and Bryanism," in a vague way they came to realize that they had misunderstood and misinterpreted the man and the cause for which he stands. There was no longer desire to drive Bryan from the fold. Instead, it was the devout wish even of the bitterest of his enemies that in the making of the platform his advice should be heeded and that the stamp of his sincere purpose should be placed upon it. Though the platform is not such as Mr. Bryan would have made had he been permitted to write it, there is no concealing the fact that it is a far stronger and direct declaration of the party's purposes than it would have been if he had been absent.

To Mr. Bryan the party owes no small debt for insisting upon a platform direct in its utterances. It was Bryan and his influence that prevented the "anything to win" politicians from foisting a cowardly makeshift upon the convention as the party's platform. The evasive tariff and trust planks that the eastern delegates originally favored would have stirred no enthusiasm and by their cowardly evasions have disheartened the men that will be called upon to plead the party's cause. If Judge Parker should be elected president of the United States he will have Mr. Bryan to thank

for giving him a platform upon which success is possible.—Milwaukee News.

The Power of Courage.

There was just one brave figure in the democratic national convention, and that was William J. Bryan. Whatever may be the errors of Mr. Bryan in political judgment, he has the courage of his convictions and stands by them with the directness and intrepidity that Americans admire. If a gold plank, or one discrediting the Kansas City platform, had been embodied in the resolutions, Bryan would have carried the fight into the convention. The Parkerites were afraid of the test. They flinched when they faced the ordeal. They showed the same cowardice when they surrendered their right to try conclusions with a gold plank on the convention floor. It could have been passed by a simple majority, and the Parkerites gave their candidate two-thirds on the first ballot. Bryan would have fought the financial plank to a finish in the convention unless acceptable to him. The Parker forces lacked the honesty and the nerve to contend for their views in the same manly way. They backed down. On that essential point, with all the power of a large majority on their side, they surrendered to Bryan, leaving him untouched as the exponent of the party's latest financial utterance.

It is said that Mr. Parker will now proceed to give views not in accord with the platform. Here again is the mark of cowardice. Why did Parker fail to speak on finance or any other subject before the convention? The delegates in that case could have governed themselves intelligently. Parker chose to be silent, and the platform also is silent, on Bryan's compulsion. The skulking tactics of Hill in the whole Parker business are a repulsive episode. Bryan stripped off the mask and the platform, by its omission, betrays the pusillanimity of the political managers he bearded with their big but craven majority behind them. Parker expected a trimming, deceptive platform to which he could subscribe, or else one containing substantially a gold plank. What is before him is a sneaking document, with a hole in it, made by Bryan, single handed, but indomitable.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Bryan's Method.

The reception accorded Mr. Bryan's short speech in the Illinois contest matter is one that could be given to few men and is a remarkable tribute to that gentleman.

The gathering at St. Louis is an anti-Bryan convention. The State's specials have emphasized that fact, and it was evident long before the meeting that such would be its character. And though the convention, swayed by New York and Pennsylvania, voted against his cause there was no repressing the delegates' tribute to the man from Nebraska as he argued for justice and inveighed against the indecent methods by which Hopkins had obtained control in Illinois.

Of this Hopkins The State has had occasion to speak before. He is, both in personal appearance and in methods, merely a ward politician of the lowest Chicago order. When he appeared at the Indianapolis convention of bolting gold bugs in 1896, representing the Cleveland democracy of Illinois, he quickly disgusted that assembly of elegant statesmen. And it is not to the credit of the democrats now at St. Louis that he has not turned their stomachs, too. Governor Heyward, as a member of the committee which considered this contest, was nauseated, however, by the exposure of rottenness and it is gratifying to know that the South Carolina delegation rose above their pre-

judice against Bryan and supported the governor's correct and courageous position.

It was very like Bryan to select this Illinois contest as the issue on which to make his fight before the convention. He has every reason to harbor enmity of a personal nature against Hopkins but that fact merely hindered, it did not help, him in making the best of this chance. Bryan never risks his reputation in a fight of this sort unless he can advocate a moral issue. Ascribe to him the very lowest motive—that of policy—and yet there is nothing that can be said against it. Whether in arguing for free silver, for suppression of the trust menace, against imperialism or in the matter of a contest—Bryan always argues "the moral issue" involved and rests his case on that. His opponents and enemies can say he is unreasonable, foolish and even crazy but they do not attack his integrity, and he has never been accused of using the methods he has condemned in others.

That was the significance of Wednesday's demonstration in his honor.—Columbia (S. C.) State.

All That Happened.

When Leslie M. Shaw, secretary of the treasury, signified by a wink that the time had arrived for the Chicago Chronicle to get off the fence he may have had in mind the belief that the incident would develop into one of the greatest sensations of this sensational campaign. But all that happened was that the Chronicle got off the fence.—Cedar Rapids (Ia.) Gazette.

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