

who robbed the public. In spite of this situation you did elect a reform mayor and an honest man. Now, my friends, he has commenced a work of reform. I doubt not that he has back of him a large majority of the thinking people of this city. I have no doubt that he has behind him the moral purpose and conscience of Cincinnati. There is just one danger, and that is that having put him in as a watchman over the city you may expect the outcome too soon. Let me remind you that the danger to any moral government is that special interest never sleeps, while the people are often hard to awaken. Good friends, if people did not go to sleep at night there would be no such thing as burglary, and if citizens did not go to sleep there would be no such thing as corrupt government in the United States.

"The country is in the grasp of the representatives of private wealth. It ought not to be hard for a man to be honest, nor ought it to be difficult to pick out an honest man. It is not difficult to find men who know right from wrong. The difficult thing is to find men with the moral courage that is necessary to stand as defenders of the rights of the people against the temptations that are present to those in power.

"Now let me appeal to you to stand by your mayor in the fight he has to make. Do not expect that everything will be done in a day. Just remember that when you gave him the undertaking to reform the city where conditions have become as they are here, the mayor has every possible obstacle thrown in his way. He is to meet the devices that the organized few are able to throw in his path. Give him time to do his work. And tell him that when you enlisted under his banner you enlisted not for three months, nor for nine months, but that you enlisted for the war, no matter how long the war lasts.

"Now, the conditions you had in this city you have also in the state. You have a temporary change. You have dethroned the boss in the city, but you have not dethroned the boss in the state. Bossism is still strong in your state.

"I have been reading something of the state convention, and I want to thank a congressman from the lake named Burton for what he has done. I never met Mr. Burton until about the 23d of July. I met him in London at the Peace Conference. I liked his looks when I saw him; I liked his words when I heard him, and I liked the man when I got acquainted with him. He spoke there in the interest of peace and against great appropriations in preparation for wars that should never come. He spoke in the presence of twenty-six different nations, and, my friends, his earnest pleas had more effect on the people who had to have the speech translated

than they have had on the representatives in the state convention."

PRIOR TO 1896

Chas. E. Clarke, of New York, has written to the World of that city an interesting letter. In spite of the fact that Mr. Clarke's letter makes personal reference to Mr. Bryan, The Commoner reproduces it because it seeks to correct the misapprehension existing in some sections of the east concerning the "overwhelming defeat" of 1896. Mr. Clarke's letter follows: "Bryan's disastrous leadership," "The overwhelming defeat of 1896" and such expressions have been frequently used by you and a few other journals which opposed Mr. Bryan, and in your editorial this morning you lead one not familiar with politics of that period to suppose that the sentiment of the country at that time was toward the democratic party and that because of Bryan's nomination on what some classed as a radical platform the republicans were victorious. Surely this is a gross misrepresentation.

"As well as I remember, early in 1896 it was a foregone conclusion that the republicans would sweep the country, and it was a standing joke frequently aired in the newspapers, vaudeville houses, etc., as to whom the democrats would nominate. The grand victory of 1892 was turned to ignominious defeat in 1893, 1894 and 1895—particularly so in the congressional election of 1894, where a safe democratic house was turned into a one-sided republican body. This was eighteen months before Bryan was thought of as a candidate for the presidency. When the Chicago convention was called to order in July, 1896, a man who predicted anything but a walk-over for McKinley would have been classed as a lunatic.

"Yet with such great odds against him, the shouldering of the mistakes and misfortunes of the Cleveland administration, the desertion of many of the party leaders, the difficulty of explaining the money question to the average voter, the lack of funds, the general browbeating, bribing and other criminal tactics of organized capital and the general sentiment of the country hostile to the democratic party—in spite of it all Bryan was nearly elected. Eighteen thousand votes properly distributed would have done it. He lost Kentucky, California and a few other states by very slight margins, and it was only in the east that the defeat might have been considered a bad one. As for the 1900 defeat, no candidate or platform could have prevented McKinley's re-election. The industrial condition had improved, a successful war had been waged on Spain, and there were many other causes. No fair-minded man can deny that Bryan brought enthusiasm, hope and courage to a disheartened and a discouraged party. The World opposed Bryan and the Chicago platform with honest motives; no one familiar with the policy of this independent organ can deny it; therefore I am surprised at its stooping to hit foul—to lead its readers to the belief that Bryan was a detriment to the party, that he was the cause of keeping the democratic party out of power for the past ten years.

"The gallant fight he made in 1896 and the wretched showing made by Judge Parker in 1904 ought to be proof as to Bryan's influence with the voters of the country. Facts and opinions should not be confused. The fact that Bryan is so popular need not be taken to show that he is right on every public question. The World can consistently oppose Mr. Bryan and yet keep strictly to the facts. Won't you then publish, for the benefit of those readers whom I claim you have misled, the vote for president in 1892, for congress in 1894 and for president in 1896, and explain the cause of democratic defeat while Cleveland led the party and the improvement shown in the returns of the election in 1896, when Bryan led?"

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