

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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"PRINCE OF PEACE"

Oh blessed Christ Child born so long ago,
In lowly manger though of royal line,
We bend our heads in adoration low
And in our hearts acknowledge Thee divine,
For Thou, Oh Son of God, who in Thy love
Perceived our low estate and set us free
Mad'st ample proof Thy birth was from above
By daily life of loving ministry.
What wonder, then, that angels winged their
flight
From realms of glory to our world, and then
Above Judea's plains awoke the night
With strains of "Peace on earth, good will to
men,"
Or that the shepherds, watching o'er their sheep,
Entranced by song they heard the angels sing,
Should leave their flocks nor longer vigil keep
Till they had knelt in worship to their King,
Or that the magi from the east afar
Should render homage and bestow rich gifts,
Led as they were by truth's unerring star
To manger cradle which the world uplifts?
And so as with these simple men and seers
We worship or bring gifts of myrrh and gold,
Oh take away our doubtings and our fear,
That we Thy face in beauty may behold,
Not now, as then, a Babe in Bethlehem,
(Sweet as the sentiment such story brings)
But rather, in some New Jerusalem
As Prince of Peace, as Lord and King of kings.
C. F. VANDERVOORT.
Paterson, N. J., December 7, 1908.

THE COMMONER AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT

Why not give a year's subscription to The Commoner as a Christmas or New Year's gift for your friend? He will certainly appreciate the offering and it will aid in the circulation of democratic literature and thus contribute to the cause of good government. The battle for popular government must go on through the efforts of those who appreciate that form of government and who understand that the very fact that they are in the minority makes it all the more necessary that they fight the harder.

DO THE PEOPLE RULE?

Writing to the New York World "Omar Khayyam" says: "Now that we have Mr. J. P. Morgan's son-in-law, Mr. J. P. Morgan's former partner, Mr. T. F. Ryan's attorney and Millionaire Taft's brother working in the government for the respective patrons, we should no doubt be satisfied. All of which raises the question, do the people rule? And from tennis court and golf links comes the answer in the tenor and basso voices, re-echoed by the trusty chorus, 'Not while we have anything to say about it.' It seems to me not right, but then I am a heathen unaccustomed to such things."



WILL HE DO IT?

THE COMMONER'S MISSION

The Commoner's mission is to protect and promote the interests of the great mass of people who are not asking or desiring special privileges. It feels, therefore, that it is entitled to the support of those for whom it labors. This does not mean merely the payment of one subscription price. On that score there is no ground for complaint. But it means that those who approve the work The Commoner is trying to do shall, at every opportunity, make reasonable efforts to enlarge the sphere of its influence by increasing the number of its subscribers.

The fight which Mr. Bryan has made through The Commoner and on the stump has, admittedly, forced some reforms the tendency of which is to decrease taxes and give to the producers a larger share of the results of their toil. But this has been merely the sowing of seed. Cultivation will now be necessary and proper cultivation means results. It is only by eternal vigilance that the encroachments of the special interests may be checked and legislation for the whole people secured.

One can scarcely estimate the benefits that will accrue from the educational work of the past year, but the work of the coming year will be productive of even greater results. Those who advocate democratic principles labor under the disadvantage of the lack of large papers through which to answer the misrepresentations of the corporation press. The representatives of the various protective industries are now in Washington protesting against a reduction of their particular tariff schedules. The

tariff barons have their hands in the people's pockets and they do not want to remove them. The masses of the people can not afford to go to Washington and defend their interests in the framing of tariff laws. They are not in a position to know all that is going on among the men who lay awake at nights to devise schemes to secure advantage over the people. It must be plain to every one that The Commoner is more essential to the public welfare at this moment than at any other period of its history; and without becoming subject to the charge of immodesty it may be said that it is quite generally agreed that since its establishment The Commoner has filled an important place in the life of this nation, and that in protest, as well as in championship, it has discharged an important duty so far as the public welfare is concerned.

Mr. Bryan has again assumed active editorial charge and it may be believed that The Commoner will lose no opportunity to protect the public interests.

Stirring times are coming and important work is yet to be done. Only thoughtless men imagine that the work of American patriots is at an end; only the non-observing imagine that the American republic is secure from all dangers within.

Thoughtful, patriotic men realize as never before that it will require, patient, disinterested, intelligent and persistent effort on the part of good men everywhere to preserve our government as the fathers laid it and to hold it true to the high purpose for which it was created.