

Democratic Opinion Freely Expressed

George H. Nelson, Deering, S. D.—Having read the article in The Commoner on Page 6, of December 23d, under the title of "Reorganization," from the Twice-a-Week Press, Mt. Ayr, Ia., I should like it very much if The Commoner would permit me space enough to make a few remarks in regard to some of the wishes and requests that the Twice-a-Week Press makes to Mr. William J. Bryan. I am in full accord with the Twice-a-Week Press as long as it confines itself to strictly democratic principles, and the great confidence it may have in Mr. Bryan, but when it comes to state that the democrats of this country wish Mr. Bryan to go ahead and say: "Men, here is the man to make president in 1912," I fear it oversteps its mission. I have been a reader of The Commoner ever since the first issue and I have yet to see the first indication that Mr. Bryan would take such a step. The Twice-a-Week Press goes still further and says: "Mr. Bryan should take the lead. He should name the candidate in 1912." Also, "Mr. Bryan can do as Roosevelt did in 1908," and further, "Which shall it be, Mr. Bryan? Folk? Clark? Wilson? For whom shall we be?" I hope the Twice-a-Week Press has not forgotten the scathing remarks that was poured on Mr. Roosevelt for naming the man in 1908, not alone from the democrats, but also not a few from his own party. It matters not how confident the Twice-a-Week Press is that Mr. Bryan would name a better man than Taft, the point is just the same and much worse, as Mr. Bryan has re-

peatedly been held up by the subsidized press to be a dictator to his party and any attempt to make him appear in that light should not be tolerated by any honest democrat and admirer of Mr. Bryan. I am now an old man, past sixty-six years old and every since the Boy Orator of the Platte took up the cause of the common people I have closely watched his great arguments for equal rights to all and special privilege to none; have heard him denounced as a demagogue by the men of these special privileges; even offered an enormous price to take charge of one of their great subsidized papers, but Mr. Bryan has never been for sale, but has steadfastly proclaimed his principles to the world, and no one has been able to divert his course. Is it any wonder then, that millions of men should form the greatest friendship and respect for such a man? Let us, therefore, be very careful and lay no snares for our much-admired hero. Any one that has followed Mr. Bryan through his three defeats for the presidency will know that he has never stooped so low as to dictate to his party who should and should not be a candidate for any office. On the contrary, he has repeatedly proclaimed that one-man power is a curse to any country, and I hold it as an insult to ask Mr. Bryan to step into the shoes of the men and principles that he has so fervently denounced. If Mr. Bryan had only taken a stand with men of special privilege there is no doubt but what he could have been elected president long ago, but principles for right was far more precious to him than any political glory bestowed by corruption. Time and again has Mr. Bryan been called a political crank and demagogue and his platform theories fallacies, but mark you, how steadily these so-called fallacies have crept into the republican platforms and when so inserted called sane and sound. This should be conclusive evidence that it is really nothing but partisanship on the people's part and intimidation from the moneyed corporations that has kept Mr. Bryan out of the white house, but although they have had the power to keep him out of the president's chair, they have never had the power to buy him nor to tie his tongue, and I very much believe that he has been in a better position to arouse the great mass of people that has heretofore rested so secure in the belief that only through the republican party lay the road to relief and prosperity. Mr. Bryan has not been the man to cover his light with a bushel, but has continually held it out in the open, so that everybody that would see, could have full view of the political panorama, and it surely has had its effect, it therefore stands us in hand, each and every one of us, that we see to it that nothing is put in the way of Mr. Bryan that will in any way tend to lower the people's great respect and confidence in him, and we can do it in no better way than to help him select the best men for any office, large or small, instead of asking him to adopt the Roosevelt-Cannon tactics which have been such a disgrace to this country. I would with due respect, ask all such papers as the Twice-a-Week Press that they use all their influence to convince the people the way to "The Peoples' Rule" lays with the people themselves in choosing their best men to represent them. This can only be done by doing the same as the moneyed classes have been doing

this many a year. "Post ourselves" on the men that are earnestly working for our interests. "Men that are not afraid to tell to the world what their principles are," this done, "then attend to our caucuses or primaries, instead of either staying at home, or, if we do go, depend on some self-adjusted, slick-tongued politician. We have plenty of good men to fill every office in the land if we would only look for them, but we have been asleep to our own interests so long and the politician has taken us unaware and has steadily installed himself custodian of our sovereign rights. The year 1910 has been a great year for the democrats and a greater rebuke to the corporation dupes in congress. Let us hope that the democrats take warning and put themselves on record to recognize the will of the people and redeem every platform promise on which they have been elected. "This done," the democratic party will not only deserve but accomplish a greater victory in 1912, and if it should then again manifest itself that Mr. Bryan should for the fourth time be called on as the standard bearer for the common people of these great United States, let every man lay all isms aside and rally to the support of the truest and greatest friend and defender of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

W. N. Smith, Elwood, Ind.—Having just read Governor Marshall's message to the Indiana legislature, and thinking it a masterpiece until he came to the local option law, and now putting himself on record favoring its repeal in favor of township and ward units. To say the least of it I am surprised. I naturally thought of The Commoner in whom I have the greatest confidence and wondered if, after considering all the facts you would have made the same plea. I don't believe you would. Now if it is a fact that our public school funds have diminished by reason of the local option, and now we are going back and favor licensing an admitted evil for the purpose of raising revenue, why not throw our doors wide open and admit every foul institution that will share profits with us, and thereby fill our public vaults to overflowing with the price of manhood and womanhood and the debauching of innocent childhood. Is it right? I have been a life-long democrat. But I desire to co-operate with a party that is unwilling to enjoy the good things of this life at the expense of the unfortunate. Yours in the hope of decent government.

J. F. Harness, Colorado, Texas—The following extracts are taken from an editorial on December 28, 1910: "Mr. Bryan's recital of the fact that in 1896 Dr. Wilson voted for Palmer and Buckner probably does not indicate that Mr. Bryan is disposed to protest against the nomination of Dr. Wilson." Again, "being a student of political economic science, Dr. Wilson fully understood that the attempt to maintain a double standard of monetary value could only end in disaster. Convinced of that, he could have voted for Mr. Bryan only at the sacrifice of his patriotism, so that the fact that Dr. Wilson voted for Palmer and Buckner, instead of being discreditable to him, is, in fact, highly creditable, and, in the event it should nominate him, the democracy could offer no better proof of Dr. Wilson's moral and intellectual honesty, than the citation of the fact, that in 1896 he voted for Palmer and Buckner, rather than for Bryan and Sewell." There seems to be a great deal of hypocritical nonsense in the above quotations. The writer can't see who such stuff will please. A certain United States

senator from Texas, has publicly said that the "Dallas News was edited by boys." This may be so, as far as this writer knows, but he wants said boys' habitation definitely located. They are not west Texas boys—they know better. Along this line of thought occurs to us, what Lawson of "Frenzied Finance" fame said at Kansas City, Mo., July 7, 1905: "Mr. Bryan thought he could turn a fifty-cent piece into a dollar. He meant well but he failed." Mr. Bryan never had any such thought. Mr. Bryan and all intelligent men know that money in civilized countries is a product of law. The supreme court of the United States in a test case unanimously decided that congress could order all paper coined or printed to be a full legal tender money for all debts, public or private. It is not necessary to say this court is the highest authority known to our

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