

A SPECIAL OFFER FOR CAMPAIGN LITERATURE

An old-time reader of The Commoner writes: Wherever The Commoner is regularly read the democratic vote increases. One of the most effective methods of increasing Governor Wilson's vote would be by the circulation of The Commoner (particularly among men who have heretofore voted the republican ticket) in every state of the union. I suggest that you make a special rate for campaign purposes and I am sure there are many hard working democrats who will take advantage of that rate to put The Commoner regularly into the hands of their republican neighbors."

The Commoner will be sent to any one from now until the close of the 1912 campaign for the sum of 25c, or four subscriptions will be entered until the close of the campaign for \$1.00.

"The Honor of Virginia"

Patriotic sons of the "Old Dominion" deny that Ryan is her representative.

To the Editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch: Sir—I am rejoiced to see that you do not appear to be hypnotized by some malign influence, as so many of the papers of our dear Old Dominion have been of late. There was a time, I well remember, when the Virginia press was a light and a worthy guide to the honest searcher after the truth in politics and morals, but if the article in a Danville paper of late issue called "The Psychological Moment at the Baltimore Convention," represents the views and teachings of the Virginia press generally, how terribly have we fallen from the old standard.

Who or what has hypnotized so many of our Virginia papers? How can a Virginia paper dare to say that Ryan is a true representative of the intelligence and honor of our old state?

Have the voters of Virginia so degenerated that such papers do express their ideas and sentiments? Can they indeed be deceived by such false guides any longer?

Who has hypnotized such papers? Who are the real owners of those editors? Thousands of us are now of the opinion that an investigating committee, appointed by Wilson and William J. Bryan, if possible, would quickly focus the light on the real corruptors of the people. Lorimer had the light turned on him at last by an outraged people; now keep the ball in motion for old Virginia's sake. Let us have light.

I am firmly convinced that you voice the sentiment of every intelligent person in Virginia in your little piece called "Esau's Repentance," the Danville paper to the contrary, notwithstanding. Just keep it up. "You can not fool all the people all the time."

Now the people are at last awake, and want to know who owns this commonwealth. Surely not Ryan and the Pennsylvania railroad.

I am an ex-confederate of Jackson's corps, and and must still defend my native state as best I can even to the end.

REV. GEORGE S. FITZHUGH.

Port Royal, Va.

REACTIONARIES "RUNTY PIGS"

To the Editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch: Sir—I have been very much interested in the discussions recently in your columns concerning the Bryan-Ryan episode at the Baltimore convention, and if space permits I would like to add still another opinion.

Formerly the writer has taken very little part in politics, but has always been interested in the affairs of government, and in those few personalities who occupy the central stage of action. Being a student of political economy, Mr. Bryan's principles of economy and of government have received particular attention, and while I am not a hero worshipper, I am an ardent admirer of both Mr. Bryan and his principles. It might be possible that I am somewhat prejudiced against those who differ from him. Be that as it may, it appears to me that the few attacks which have been made against him relative to his brilliant maneuverings at Baltimore are totally in lack of reason, and of proper foundation. This is not said in defense of Mr. Bryan personally, because he himself does not need it, my object being to register one more dissenting voice against those small men who get mad and accuse Mr. Bryan of inconsistency without supporting their accusations with any logical argument.

This sort of thing, to my mind, illustrates the difference between "progressive" and "reactionary" politics. The one is according to reason

and the other according to rule, or the one for the people and the other for ulterior purpose.

The other day I heard a farmer trying to illustrate between these two kinds of politics, and while he did not give the exact idea, to my mind, it serves a purpose in this instance. "In every family of swine," he said, "there is always one member which does not develop with the rest, and is known as the 'runty pig,' the rest being more luxuriant and progressive. Now, this runty pig reminds me," he said, "of a reactionary politician, because he is not progressive."

It is in about this same proportion that Mr. Bryan and his sayings compare with his critics and their sayings at Baltimore. For example, when Mr. Bryan introduced his now famous anti-Ryan-Belmont resolution and substantiated it with a most brilliant argument his enemies were on the floor at once, uttering mostly monosyllabic protests and epithets. One gentleman distinguished himself to the extent of a whole sentence, as follows:

"I regard Mr. Bryan as the only man here who is trying to wreck the democratic party." This was truly a most brilliant squeal, and is it any wonder that it put him in line for nomination to second place? The wonder is that he did not get the nomination for the presidency, so brilliant and so truly brave was his act of defense. But when we consider these statements along with Mr. Bryan's in answer to these attacks by his enemies, it really seems as though his opponents deserve the term of reactionary in the sense the farmer used it. One is obliged to wonder which would live the longer in history—these reactionary statements or these progressive ones. Take for example this statement from Mr. Bryan's "valedictory" and compare it for a test of literary merit, power, brilliancy and truthfulness with the protest of the gentleman as above stated, and one can but feel that it would be a shame to mention the name of the three-times defeated candidate for the presidency and that of the new aspirant for the "vice-presidency" on the same day of the week:

"I have never advocated a man except with gladness, and I have never opposed a man except in sadness. If I have enemies in this country, those who are my enemies have a monopoly of hatred. There is not one single human being for whom I feel a hatred, nor is there one American citizen in my own party or in any other that I would oppose for anything except I believed that in not opposing him I was surrendering the interests of my country, which I hold above any person."

I think that Mr. Bryan has pointed the finger of scorn so clearly and directly at every little member of the reactionary wing of the party that we need have no fears of the power of the machine, certainly during this coming election, and I would like to say to those who believe in government by the people, and more particularly to the young men like myself, who have formerly taken little or no part in politics, that now is the time for us to enter the race and to help to bear the democratic standard to victory. Join a Wilson-Marshall club if there is one handy, and if not organize one and see that every right-thinking citizen comes out to the polls in November, and thereby we may recover for Virginia some of the honor she lost at Baltimore through the workings of the powerful, malicious and disgraceful machine which has been allowed to operate within our midst. Formerly the writer has not been in politics because the game seemed too big for him to play, but now it has ceased to be a game, thanks to Mr. Bryan, and I beg leave to enter the fight for government by the people and for the people. E. F. COLE.
Covesville, Va.

MRS. CLAYTON'S ADDRESS OF WELCOME

Mrs. Henry D. Clayton, wife of the chairman of the judiciary committee of the house of representatives, as chairman of the executive committee for the Dolly Madison "harmony breakfast," welcomed the guests.

"Our honored guests, permit me, on behalf of the ladies who planned this festive occasion, to greet you most cordially. Indeed do we give you a hearty welcome, and hope that you yourselves may derive as much pleasure from being with us as we do in having you as our guests.

"Ladies, this is a patriotic gathering. If the observance of the birthdays of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, or any renowned American soldier or statesman serves a wise purpose, surely a tribute to the life, character and conspicuous virtues of a good and distinguished woman is equally as wise, and is of equal public benefit.

"It is the woman, the mother, who molds the character of the patriot and statesman. It is the mother, the wife, sister and daughter who teaches most efficiently the higher ideals and inculcates the broader patriotism and the more elevated and better individual and national life. Therefore it is not too much for us to say that we believe the inspiring influences which have brought us here today are as lofty and as useful as those influences which bring any of the American people together in celebration of the life and character of any great American soldier or political leader. All honor to Dolly Madison and this occasion, and, again, heartiest greetings to our guests.

"Ladies, allow me to introduce to you the charming woman who originated the idea of this celebration. To her efforts and personal influence must be attributed a very large part of the credit for the success with which this occasion is crowned—Mrs. Robert C. Wickliffe of Louisiana."

Mrs. Wickliffe introduced Mrs. Clark as presiding officer and toastmistress.

GOOD WORK PROCEEDING WELL

A New York dispatch says that there are now 1,744 organized bodies of the Young Men's Christian Association, with a total membership of 563,479 in North America, according to the year book of the association to be issued August 1. There has been a gain of 27,500 members in the past year. The value of the new buildings opened is approximately \$3,500,000, making a total of about \$73,000,000. Further funds are now on hand, and buildings which are to cost \$10,000,000 and \$6,500,000 are being erected. The association expended \$10,000,000 last year in the conduct of the work.

The Y. M. C. A. is engaged in a great work. It is a most practical sort of Christian effort and its wonderful progress is entirely deserved.

THE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND
We need not think that what is done in convention is done secretly. We always act under the eyes of representatives of the press, who know why we act and who told us to do it; we must not presume that those at home can be deceived. The people at home will know that the influences that dominated the Chicago convention are here, and are more largely at work than they were in Chicago. I appeal to you to so act that the democrats of this country can say that democrats are true to the people and that they can not be frightened by your Ryans or bought by your Belmonts.—From Mr. Bryan's speech in the democratic national convention.