

**MR. BRYAN ON MUNSEY
AMALGAMATION**

Interviewed on the Munsey proposition of uniting the republicans and progressives, Mr. Bryan says: "I have not considered such a suggestion." This remark is as striking as anything in the brief but highly analytic comment that follows it. If

Mr. Bryan believed there was much prospect of a union such as Mr. Munsey proposes, he would have considered it deeply. But Mr. Bryan knows the force of the historical maxim that "revolutions never run backward." He knows that the breach between the two wings of what was once the republican party is too wide to be bridged by the

scheme of "a holding party," or by any other bridge.

Here is Mr. Bryan's view of the situation:

"It is very apparent that each wing of the republican party is helpless without the other, and it is also evident that neither can expect to draw largely from the democratic party.

"With Governor Wilson's repeated assertion that his administration will be distinctly progressive, the chances are that the democratic party will make large gains from the Roosevelt wing of the republican party, and if there are any desertions from the democratic party they will be from the reactionary element, which is already small, to the Taft wing of the republican party. This tends to equalize the strength of the republican party and assure a continuance of democratic supremacy."

This is shrewd and searching. The meaning, both of republican and progressive conditions at the present time, is a continuance of democratic supremacy. Disunited, the republican party and its insurgent offshoot, democracy. And it is impossible for are too weak to contend against the them to unite. There's the whole thing in a nutshell.—Buffalo (N. Y.) Times.

**THE WORLD'S MOST WONDER-
FUL GIRL**

Dressed in a becoming evening gown of pink and pink satin slippers, with her dark hair arranged in waves down either side of her face and tied low on the back of her neck, with a large bow of black ribbon, Miss Helen Keller, the young woman who, though blind and deaf and dumb, has acquired the power of speech, talked with reporters at the Hotel Astor.

Miss Keller likes to talk, and she sent back gay, crisp answers to the questions, which were repeated to her by Mrs. Macy, better known as Miss Annie M. Sullivan, who for years was Miss Keller's devoted teacher.

"There are so many fallacies about the blind," Miss Keller said at the outset of the interview. "They say we can tell colors by the sense of touch, but we can't. I like to imagine colors and talk about them, but my idea of color is difficult to define. It might not mean much to you, but it means a great deal to me. Red is my favorite color, because it means health and strength and warmth. Roses all have the same general perfume, and yet there are shades of difference, so that I realize different roses may have different colors.

"And the blind, because they have lost some of their faculties, are not compensated by a higher development of other faculties, as many persons suppose. The thing that helps them to overcome the loss of sight is the habit of patience. By practice and training we overcome very great obstacles."

Some one asked Miss Keller which she would rather have if she was forced to make a choice, her hearing or her sight.

"The sense of hearing is the most important of the senses," she said. "I have found the greatest difficulty in trying to cultivate my voice. I repeat the same sound over a hundred times and I am never sure I am right until someone tells me. I am like the Irishman, I feel that I never open my mouth without putting my foot in it."

The conversation was carried on in short questions and answers. Miss Keller sitting very erect and accompanying her words with gestures of her hands and her whole body. Occasionally she allowed her fingers to stray to Mrs. Macy's lips to learn what was going on. Miss Keller is

a socialist, and when she was asked if her views were obtained from Mrs. Macy, Miss Keller's teacher laughed. "No, indeed," she replied. "I am not a socialist."

"Yes," said Miss Keller, when she was told of the question. "They think because I am a socialist that I am a Christian Scientist and a vegetarian.

"I say no indeed I am not, for I eat meat and I am not a teetotaler, either, for I drink beer. When the laugh which the thought of the little woman in pink drinking beer had aroused subsided, Mrs. Macy said slyly, talking aloud and with her fingers in Miss Keller's hand:

"Of course you do; beer and socialism go together."

Some one asked if Miss Keller would rather be blind and deaf with the great reputation which she has acquired or an unknown person with those senses unimpaired. She responded instantly:

"Of course I would rather have my sight and hearing, because it would greatly increase my powers for service."

"The world is full of persons who can see and hear," said Mrs. Macy, talking with her fingers in the blind girl's palm, "but who do not see and hear and understand as much as you do with no eyes and ears. Would you rather be one of those?"

"Never," came the reply instantly. "I would rather be blind. One does not like to give up one's identity," she continued after a second's thought. "The will to do and the power to think is the life of your life."

There was silence for a moment and Miss Keller continued:

"That was a very intelligent question. It made me sit up and think."

Miss Keller forms her first impressions of persons by the way they shake hands, but she said that as with persons who can see, she sometimes had to change her opinion. Persons she first disliked, she grew to like and vice versa. To show her power of recognition through her fingers Mrs. Macy told of how Miss Keller had recognized a bust of Phillips Brooks, whom she had known as a child. Feeling the bust long after his death, Miss Keller exclaimed: "This is like my friend, Bishop Brooks."

Miss Keller picks out her own clothes and has decided opinions upon matters of dress.

"Clothes?" she said, in answer to a question. "Of course, I like them. I'm a girl. Did you ever see one who didn't like clothes?"

Miss Keller will speak at Mont-

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