

the democratic party has a mission to protect individual liberty and the rights of the common people in this country. For the last twenty-five years you have been the soul of the democratic party. In view of the disastrous and overwhelming defeat of the party I will ask of you that you return to your old position of leadership in the party and take upon yourself the task of reorganizing the same. I assure you of my support in such a movement.

C. W. Eastin, California.—So that you may know that this is from a friendly source, it is a real pleasure to say that I followed your leadership and stumped this state for you in your three campaigns, and hoped the San Francisco convention would afford me the same opportunity again. But you made your great address here in the wettest spot probably in the known world and recent disclosures indicate that the bonded warehouses were opened and a very tidal wave of booze poured over the community during that gathering of people from everywhere, to the disgrace of the community, as I look at such things. According to the papers of this city, even the enforcement officers were particeps to the wholesale unlawful withdrawals of booze from bond here for some time past. Drawing my conclusions from the surface indications, and having been for many years almost more in favor of entire prohibition than any other one measure of progress in our national life, I felt for some time very much as the papers report your statement of your hesitation as to the duty of a Democrat under the circumstances, but finally voted for Cox, with more or less apprehension as to what would happen if he won out. This is not exactly to the point of what I have in mind to say, and yet it reflects the attitude of doubtless many hundreds of thousands of Democrats over the country.

Some of us have decided that it is about time to take hold of the situation and see what can be done. Having been president of the S. F. Democratic club when it counted for something, a number of good men and women have discussed the matter with me with a view to forming another organization, such as a Jefferson club or something like that, to be controlled by progressive Democrats, and we thought of making a start immediately after the election, which we saw was going as it did, only not so much so; but it occurred to me when I read in the dispatches that some prominent men expect to gather in Washington to consider the reorganization of our historic party, and that you are expected to be there and probably to meet with them, that it might be best to wait a little, as there is no special hurry, and see what may be done, so that if the movement seems to start right, we may take it up here and get right in line with other parts of the country and state, with a view to becoming part and parcel of the nation-wide effort to rescue and rehabilitate the party; and in that case, it might be better not to make a start without reference to a new movement, but to fall into line when it is in the making and grow up with it. These are my individual ideas, and no one has been consulted about it. We are preparing a list of dependable Democrats, and when we think the time is ripe, we hope to commence work.

I will add that since you first came into public notice I have never talked with so many men of both parties who have said to me that you ought to be the president in a critical period of our history, as during this last campaign, and one former Republican official of an adjoining court made that remark to me only today. And while some of our most eminent men never became president, they left an impress upon the history of this great country and upon the civilization of this world which will make them remembered when others who WERE presidents will have been long forgotten and lost to public view.

Now Mr. Bryan, for the monumental service you have rendered for twenty-four years to the people of this country, for the moral leadership of a nation and of the civilization of a world, for the personal pleasure and pride I have taken in following you for these many years, I want to extend to you my best wishes and high regard.

Braxton D. Gibson, West Virginia.—I have read each issue of The Commoner since the first number, and treasure your publication as a never failing faithful beacon light for all the people whom you have never misled nor de-

Echoes of the Cataclysm



The magnitude of the victory increases the magnitude of the responsibility.



"Away Down South in Dixie."



"Wanted—A change of doctors."

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ceived. My first efforts in your behalf were in 1896, and I have followed you ever since in keeping the faith and making the good fight. The campaign just closed so disastrously to the democratic ticket, was lost at the San Francisco convention. Your diagnosis appearing in the papers yesterday and today covers the whole ground, and we have you remaining the great apostle of the people. Ready for any battle under your banner, I am, yours to count on.

Dr. Harry E. Mereness, New York.—The interview accredited you at Lincoln, Neb., on November 3rd, to my mind, embodies a most remarkable degree of ability in political analysis. I regard your statement as a masterpiece, most consistent as to details and truthful in its entirety. The American people owe you a debt of gratitude. Personally, while of opposite party affiliations, I regard myself as a "Bryan" man. I trust that the future holds much for you.

SUGGESTS CLUB ORGANIZATION

Clinton, Mo., Nov. 3, 1920.—Hon. Chas. W. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb. Dear Sir: It's all over and we got what was coming to us. I voted "straight" as I have done every time since my first vote when Cleveland was elected—I am not so proud of this fact as I used to be, but there didn't seem to be anything else to vote for. Our county usually gives the Democrats 500 to 1,000 over the Republicans. In 1898 I won the county treasurership by 1,200, which was Mr. Bryan's majority in his first race. Yesterday we lost to the Republicans one county judge and, we fear, Congressman C. C. Dickinson. The rest of the

county ticket won by 17. Oh my God, what a come down! I have been out in the cold until I am about frozen politically.

I have started a "Henry County Bryan Club," and expect to fight everything that jumps on to Mr. Bryan in the next four years, and I don't care what it is. They all look alike to me unless they are for Bryan. Our club is small, but it is only a few hours old. I hope it may grow as it grows older. Our object shall be to promulgate the true principles of democracy as taught us in the last twenty years by the greatest American citizen, and we shall leave nothing undone that we can do toward nominating and electing him president in 1924.

If I am not mistaken there will be another resurrection—we have fooled away enough of life, and I can almost hear the call "Bryan! Bryan!" as it swells from all over the country.

I think you ought to set aside some space in The Commoner for Bryan Clubs and give number and place as organized and reported, and after awhile you may have to enlarge the paper. When you get enough to start on, would like to see No. 1, "Henry County Missouri Bryan Club" at the head of the list, but if there are any ahead we will not quarrel, but rather rejoice and drop down the line freely. I also think The Commoner should be turned into a weekly within the next year.—William Lee Pinkston.

A St. Louis, Mo., dispatch, dated Nov. 10 says: Returns available tonight from last week's elections indicated that the referendum proposition on the statewide prohibition enforcement act had won by approximately 90,000 votes.