

PASSING OF POPULISM

Mr. Clark Comments on an Editorial in the Baltimore American—Let us all Unite for 1904

Editor Independent: The eastern dailies have begun to emit yelps of joy over what they call the "passing of populism." The American of this city a few days since in an editorial made the assertion that nevermore would the principles of populism be upheld by any considerable body of voters in a national election. When one pauses long enough to grasp the hidden significance of this; when it is seen that they mean that the end of all substantial opposition to the policies of governmental favoritism has come; then their glee seems justifiable.

There is but one party in this country today which stands for those principles of sterling Americanism upheld by the patriots of the past, by men like Jefferson and Lincoln, and that party is the people's party. To say that those principles have been forever repudiated by the American people, and that they have for all time subscribed to the program of greed and commercialism of the republican party, is going too far. I, for one, refuse to believe it.

The American people are cowed down by the power of organized wealth and they have become almost hopeless of wresting from it the control of the government. Temporary causes, such as large crops and foreign shortage, have been very kind to the dominant party, and have delayed for a few years that day of reckoning which their damnable doings will bring them to, just as certain as that a just God reigns on high.

These men edit who daily journals know in their hearts that the principles of the people's party are right, and they know they are in line with the Declaration of Independence. Yet for the sake of the dirty dollars they receive, they deliberately misstate facts and seek to create false impressions in the minds of the people.

But they are destined to a rude awakening. When 1904 rolls around, the lines of battle will be more closely drawn than ever before in the history of this country. Then the corporation agents masquerading as democrats will be driven into the ranks of the supporters of trusts, imperialism and robbery, and all those who favor righteousness will range themselves under the banners of the opposition.

If the men who now seek to turn the democratic party back to the days when Wall street owned it, succeed, then the millions democrats of the Bryan stripe will leave it forever, and the birth of a new party—a party of the people—will ensue.

In 1896 the populists took possession of the democratic party. In 1904 the democrats will take possession of the people's party, and their combined forces will storm the citadel of greed. If all the voters who are opposed to republican policies could be welded together, there are enough of them at this present time to overwhelm the hosts of monopoly.

Reformers of all shades of belief, our cause is the same. We are all fighting for the right. Let us unite against our common foe, for if we will, victory is assured.

THOMAS O. CLARK.
Baltimore, Md.

POPULIST DOCTRINE

It is Everywhere the Same—No Imperialists in the Party—They Stand by the Declaration of Independence

A gentleman in Massachusetts who has been reading some copies of The Independent given to him by a friend and who has taken an active part in public affairs for many years, writes to the editor, saying that he has been much impressed with the copies of the paper that he has seen, but wants to know "where the people's party stands on the question of imperialism." He says that he "was born in sight of Bunker Hill, my ancestors fought in the revolutionary war and every male member of the family served in the late civil war. For over a hundred years we have all of us stood by the doctrines of the Declaration of Independence, but now we are confronted with a repudiation of those doctrines by the party with which we have always voted. We want some place to go to, where we will not be giving even a shadow of support to this, the vilest of all treason, to the foundation principles of our government. What has the populist party to say on this subject?"

It is true that there has not been much published in The Independent of late on the question of imperialism, but populists stand where they have

always stood on that question. Their position can never be more accurately defined than in the following words from a speech made by Abraham Lincoln, delivered at Beardstown, August 12, 1858. It is the populist doctrine of today and is as follows:

"These by their representatives in old Independence hall said to the whole race of men, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' This was their majestic interpretation of the economy of the universe. This was their lofty, and wise, and noble understanding of the justice of the Creator to his creatures—yes, gentlemen, to all his creatures, to the whole great family of man. In their enlightened belief, nothing stamped with the divine image and likeness was sent into the world to be trodden on and degraded and imbruted by its fellows. They grasped not only the whole race of man then living, but they reached forward and seized upon the farthest posterity. They erected a beacon to guide their children, and their children's children, and the countless myriads who should inhabit the earth in other ages. Wise statesmen as they were, they knew the tendency of prosperity to breed tyrants, and so they established these great self-evident truths, that when in the distant future some man, some faction, some interest, should set up the doctrine that none but rich men, none but white men, or none but Anglo-Saxon white men were entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, their posterity might look up again to the Declaration of Independence and take courage to renew the battle which their fathers began, so that truth and justice and mercy and all the humane and Christian virtues might not be extinguished from the land; so that no man would hereafter dare to limit and circumscribe the great principles on which the temple of liberty was built.

"Now, my countrymen, if you have been taught doctrines conflicting with the great landmarks of the Declaration of Independence; if you have listened to suggestions which would take away from its grandeur and mutilate the fair symmetry of its proportions; if you have been inclined to believe that all men are not created equal in those inalienable rights enumerated by our chart of liberty, let me entreat you to come back. Return to the fountain whose waters spring close to the blood of the revolution. Think nothing of me; take no thought for the political fate of any man whomsoever, but come back to the truths that are in the Declaration of Independence. You may do anything with me you choose, if you will but heed these sacred principles. You may not only defeat me for the senate, but you may take me and put me to death. While pretending no indifference to earthly honors, I do claim to be actuated in this contest by something higher than an anxiety for office. I charge you to drop every paltry and insignificant thought for any man's success. It is nothing; I am nothing; Judge Douglas is nothing. But do not destroy that immortal emblem of humanity—the Declaration of American Independence."

"One Gallus 'Publicans'"

Editor Independent: There are as many "mullet heads" here to the acre as there. Here they are "pauper aristocrats"—"one gallus," bare-footed devils that know how to do only three things: "coon hunt," slander a neighbor, and vote the "publican" ticket. (I speak of this, Searcy county.)

The Independent is doing a noble work, but the people for whom it is fighting do not appreciate its efforts. They prefer to fawn at the feet of the trusts and "kiss the hand that smites them down." Like the dog, they will lick their own blood from the hands of their vivisectors. With such conditions confronting us, how can we hope?

For one, I had rather go upon the field of honor in defense of our rights against greed, knowing that justice and liberty shall perish and vanish from the face of the earth with us than to be forever doomed to submit to plutocratic tyranny. When I look upon my little children and think of the trials, tribulations and servitude that awaits them in the future because of the action of my thick-skulled neighbors who have no arguments in defense of their views, and can offer none against mine, it almost drives me into desperation. But, I can't help it. But I will help to help it. Yours for equal justice to all, special privileges for none,

H. L. WATTS.
Marshall, Ark.



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