

to that city, circumstances threw us together.

Mr. Bryan was touring the state and attracting such crowds that the Chicago Chronicle was sending with him a special correspondent. This special correspondent happened to be Mr. F. A. Stowe, an old school-mate of mine. Mr. Bryan was also accompanied by Mr. Chas. A. Walsh, ex-secretary of the national democratic committee and at that time chairman of the Iowa state committee. With this gentleman I was also personally acquainted. Mr. Stowe, who represented an alleged democratic paper, was not in harmony with Mr. Bryan's policy, he, Stowe, being personally a gold democrat. Therefore Mr. Stowe was unconcerned because of the fact that my line of work did not harmonize with that of Mr. Bryan. Not so, however, with Mr. Walsh, who, anxious to remove all opposition to democracy, thought if he could but get me under the hypnotic power of Mr. Bryan I would see a great light and become a convert to democracy. He took me to Mr. Bryan and presented me to him and an hour's conversation or rather controversy began, for I was just as positive in my opposition to fusion as Mr. Bryan was in its favor.

During the course of this conversation we went carefully over the situation as it presented itself at Chicago and St. Louis, and it was during this conversation that Mr. Bryan stated to me in positive terms that his nomination at Chicago was not due to his speech, as many supposed, but to the fact that it had been arranged for, some months before, through the co-operation of the leaders of the people's party and the silver republicans, looking to the selection of a candidate who could unite the three elements above classified. Mr. Bryan stated that he had been chosen as the one who would be the most acceptable to all parties, and that his nomination at Chicago was due to that fact.

It therefore follows that the people's party national convention was purposely called to meet after the democratic convention so that the logic of events would be on the side of the fusionists as an argument, leading to fusion. Everything worked out just as had been planned. Teller shed tears before the republican national convention and walked out, all carefully planned, even to the tears. The democrats nominated Bryan at Chicago, and the silver republicans called their convention to meet at the same time as the populists at St. Louis. Senator Jones, chairman of the democratic national committee, was represented at the seat of action and the whole procedure at St. Louis was but the fulfillment of the policy agreed upon months before.

Now, Mr. Editor, I do not believe that you will have the courage to deny this and I know that Mr. Bryan will not. Had these facts been known to the members of the people's party in 1896 a disgraceful surrender of the party organization and the party strength, that was the result of sacrifice and fidelity on the part of the western and southern farmers, would not have resulted. Any populist editor who knowingly covered up these facts is just to that extent a traitor to the honest men who trusted in his fidelity and honesty.

It is a poor time to attempt to revive the people's party after the dagger of treason has pierced its vitals and its once powerful press and following scattered to the four winds of heaven. There are but two possible things for the populists to do, one is to go back to the old political parties, both of which are capitalistic in their tendencies, or else join the socialist party and begin the struggle for liberty anew.

The populist edition of the Appeal to Reason is plain and explicit. The article on the first page to which you refer was written by me personally and there is not a line in that paper calculated to deceive anyone and every paragraph is touched in the boldest and plainest language possible.

I think, Mr. Editor, I have answered your interrogations fully and in justice to me and to your readers and to the people's party I request that you publish this letter in full and display it as prominently as the article which called it into existence. Respectfully yours,

A. W. RICKER.

And Mr. Bryan's reply is as follows: Baltimore, Md., Feb. 17, 1903.—Dear Mr. De France: I am in receipt of your letter enclosing your article in reply to the Appeal to Reason and a copy of Mr. Ricker's letter to you. I remember that, some years ago, I spoke at Onowa, Ia., in the afternoon, after a "middle-of-the-road" populist had spoken there in the forenoon. I do not remember the name of the populist who spoke there, nor do I re-

call meeting him. It is not, however, improbable that I was introduced to him and talked with him, for in my tours, I have talked with many political opponents, but I am sure that I never said anything that could by any reasonable construction be tortured into a basis for the charge which he makes. Not remembering the conversation at all I cannot repeat what was said by either of us, but I would not have stated what was not true and it would have been both false and absurd to have made the statement attributed to me.

It is not true that "Mr. Bryan and the populist leaders arranged months before so that the people's party would be placed in this humiliating position" (that is, be compelled to nominate Mr. Bryan). The result of the Chicago convention was not, and could not have been, arranged in advance. I do not remember to have talked with any populist leader about one candidate prior to our convention and I knew that there was no plan among the populists to have me nominated at Chicago.

As to my convention speech I have been disposed to attach less importance to it than the press did at the time. I had been identified with the silver fight since 1893 and became personally acquainted with many of the delegates in my trips through the south and west and a number of the delegates had announced their preference for me before the speech was made, but there is no foundation whatever for the statement that my nomination was the result of a deep laid scheme entered into by the populist leaders and myself. As there was no such scheme I prefer to believe that Mr. Ricker's memory is at fault, or that his political hostility led him to place a false construction on what I said, rather than believe that I outlined a scheme that did not exist. Yours truly,

W. J. BRYAN.

### To Plutoocracy

By way of preface, in order to get acquainted quickly, I want to say to the plutocrat, to the monopolist—You look like a fool to me.

For several and sufficient reasons—You look like a fool to me.

The first one is that you fail to recognize that the protection of your great property interest depends upon the honesty and integrity of what you are pleased to term the common herd. You fail to recognize that the honesty of the great mass of people is your protection, and your only protection, in your property rights.

In this—You look like a fool to me.

You reserve to yourself the right to play the part of thief or robber, and then appeal to honest people to protect you in your rascality. In this—You look like a fool to me. In your acts of outlawry, in your utter disregard and defiance of law, and then in your cowardly appeals to this same law for protection—You look like a fool to me.

For years past the whole mob of you have been bending every energy, have been spending millions, in the effort to corrupt the moral sense of this people. Through the medium of corrupt publications, and corrupt public speakers, and in thousands of other ways, you have sought to destroy the honesty and integrity of this people; yet in all that time you have never thought of what would be the consequences to you if you should succeed in your attempt. In this—You look like a fool to me.

In your assumption of superiority, in your claims of proprietorship of the common people, and in your exhibitions of hostility toward them—You look like a fool to me.

True it may be, true it is, that in the last two elections, the majority of this people bent both neck and knee to you, that they entered your service politically. But that was only voluntary, on their part; they can put an end to their term of service any time they get ready. And what would you do about it? How would you help yourself? How would you keep them from it? You have been preaching and teaching the doctrine that "might makes right." Have you figured out how you are going to control this people by might; when the might resides not with you, but with the people? You look like a fool to me.

Suppose that you could get the people to believe your teaching of this "might makes right" proposition, where would your protection come from? You look like a fool to me.

Now, if you had a large army at your command, you might accomplish your purpose of the enslavement of the people; but that you haven't. When you demanded of the president that he employ the army in shooting down striking miners, he refused to do your bidding, and I want to switch

off my subject long enough to say that I think I can appreciate to some extent the manliness and heroism of the stand the president took in that matter. He had no assurance that even the fool people would sustain him in his position; he has none yet that they will; he is slated for political punishment for that very act. I could criticize a great many of the president's official acts, but I am not going to do it; for the reason that I appreciate the hardness of the position he is placed in. He is not a king—he is president, and as president he is in duty bound to carry out the expressed wishes of the majority. He cannot do that and do the right thing at the same time.

But I believe if he had the assurance that the people would back up and support him that he would lead reform in any direction they would indicate, with all the strenuousness of his nature.

At any rate, by his action in the matter of the coal strike, he has earned the admiration of all lovers of fair play.

But to return to you, my plutopolitic friend. In your exhibitions of selfishness—You look like a fool to me. In your hogishness, not satisfied that you have many times the amount of wealth that you are able to use; you must root and roll in the trough of plenty and destroy, for the use of others, what is left—You look like a fool to me.

You labor not to bring happiness, peace and contentment to the mass of the people. But to show yourself off as something grand, as a superior order of being. And you think you can best accomplish that by bringing discontent and distress and trouble on the people, the people that you are indebted to for everything that you have—You look like a fool to me.

You remind me of the glutton who enjoyed his feast all the more because hungry eyes were looking at him—You look like a fool to me.

No right-thinking person envies you the possession of your great wealth, if you behave yourself with it. But it is in your disposition to use it as a weapon for the destruction of all human rights and liberties that you lay your wealth liable to confiscation and yourself to imprisonment. And finally in your fatalism, in the blasphemous impudence of your claim of partnership with God—You look like a fool to me.

SID FOREE.

### A PHILIPPINE OUTBREAK

"Ladrones" Capture Three Detachments of Constabulary—War Breaks Out Anew

Some time ago The Independent quoted from a private letter from a resident of Manila as follows:

"Civil government here so far has been a huge joke, but a very expensive one, for the cost of living is outrageous, and the whole country is paralyzed, what with the currency question, cholera, ladronism, etc. They are not called insurgents now—only ladrones. There is general discontent among all classes, including Americans, at the situation here. Taxes are higher than ever before, and every one grumbling. The whole thing is a farce, and I should not be surprised, before many months, that 100,000 soldiers will be needed here, unless things change rapidly for the better. . . . It is not safe to drive to the waterworks now, and the constabulary had a fight the other night with ladrones at the powder magazine, which you remember, just across the San Juan bridge. The troops should never have been reduced so soon, as the work will probably have to be done over again some time."

This was the opinion of a republican who believes that the military government should have been maintained. How well he foresaw that the "work" would have to be done over again is best told in the following Associated press dispatch:

"Manila, Feb. 22.—A force of ladrones under San Miguel reappeared in Rizal province yesterday. They avoided an engagement with the main force in the south, but captured three small detachments of constabulary. The enemy surrounded the towns of Cainta and Taygoar, eleven miles east of Manila on Saturday and captured thirty scouts and ten men of the constabulary, whom they disarmed and set free.

"Today Inspector McIlwaine, at the head of ten constabulary, was surprised and captured near Montalban, sixteen miles northeast of Manila. The ladrones promised to release them if the constabulary would surrender their arms. While they were conferring on this point, McIlwaine made a dash for liberty and he and all the

## I Will Cure You of Rheumatism

Else No Money is Wanted.

After 2,000 experiments, I have learned how to cure Rheumatism. Not to turn bony joints into flesh again; that is impossible. But I can cure the disease always, at any stage, and forever.

I ask for no money. Simply write me a postal and I will send you an order on your nearest druggist for six bottles Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Cure, for every druggist keeps it. Use it for a month and, if it succeeds, the cost is only \$5.50. If it fails, I will pay the druggist myself.

I have no sameness, because any medicine that can affect Rheumatism quickly must be drugged to the verge of danger. I use no such drugs, and it is folly to take them. You must get the disease out of the blood.

My remedy does that, even in the most difficult obstinate cases. No matter how impossible this seems to you, I know it and take the risk. I have cured tens of thousands of cases in this way, and my records show that 39 out of 40 who get six bottles pay, gladly. I have learned that people in general are honest with a physician who cures them. That is all I ask. If I fail I don't expect a penny from you.

Simply write me a postal card or a letter. I will send you my book about Rheumatism, and an order for the medicine. Take it for a month, as it won't harm you anyway. If it fails, it is free, and I leave the decision with you. Address Dr. Shoop, Box 940, Racine, Wis.

Mild cases, not chronic, are often cured by one or two bottles. At all druggists.

constabulary effected their escape.

"When the news of the reappearance of General San Miguel's force reached Manila reinforcements of scouts and constabulary were hurried into Rizal province. General Allen and Colonel Scott went to Antipolo and assumed command of the forces there. They met with small detachments of the enemy and a few skirmishes took place. They were unable to locate the main body of ladrones, but continued the pursuit and hope to overtake the released prisoners.

It is said that General San Miguel's force consists of 300 men, armed and uniformed. The zone of ladrone activity extends from Calocan, four miles north of Manila, eastward to the mountains of Rizal and skirting the northern limits of Manila.

"The Manila police co-operated in Saturday's efforts to corner the enemy. Secretary Winthrop, in the absence of Governor Taft, requested General Davis to furnish additional scouts and General Davis has ordered another battalion to report to General Allen. It is expected that additional troops will be ordered out.

"San Miguel's force is small and the governor is determined to suppress it. San Miguel claims the insurgent leadership and fights under the Katihunan flag.

According to news from Albay, Luzon, a force of ladrones attacked a small detachment of constabulary on Friday. The constabulary retreated, leaving two, but killed eleven of the enemy."

A change of names has not helped matters. From "criminal aggression" to "benevolent assimilation" and thence to a "stable government guaranteeing the greatest liberty" the Filipinos are capable of enjoying; from rebels into "insurgents" and later into "ladrones" (Spanish for thieves); and from "soldiers" into "constabulary," a change in names has made no real change in the situation. It is bloody war yet.

Only four miles out of Manila! Think of that. No matter whether they are called ladrones or insurgents, they have been able to surround towns and capture scouts and "constables" and come within four miles of the capital. The cry is sure to go up, "Increase the army and put down this ladronism"—but will it ever be put down? Spain tried it for hundreds of years and wound up with actual control of about the same amount of territory that the Americans control today—that is within a radius of about four miles surrounding Manila.

Is it statesmanship to persist in a mistaken course, simply because a wrong start was made? Is it wisdom to hold the Philippines at such enormous cost? The United States has plenty to do at home, with a race question of great magnitude, without attempting to force republican carpet-bag government on an unwilling people.