

alienable rights of man. Yours very truly,  
A. FREELAND.

We fully subscribe to the above:  
W. A. GRAY.  
D. A. TRICE.  
W. S. SKELLEY.  
Mt. Pleasant, Tenn.

... I had no advertisement in the issue of May 14, 1903. I am a farmer by occupation; my "goods," or products, need no advertising; they are daily necessities.

... I was interested, as every one should be who loves his neighbor; as one who believes that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty;" as one who believes in giving every citizen a chance to read, think and reflect on the problems that are fundamental and essential to liberty. As one who believes in free speech; who believes that "equality to all, privileges to none," is the keynote of freedom. I believe that every citizen should be a student of the science of government. Every citizen should reason and reflect.

That's why I am interested in disseminating doctrines ripe with justice. That's why I would defend the institutions of freedom with my life. That's why every American citizen should bare his bosom to shot and shell. That's why I believe that our institutions depend on the independence of our newspapers. Without editorial independence, the press would be the sepulchres of tyranny, and freedom with her shrines would become "tinkling cymbals;" her altars would become the thrones of monarchs; her temples would be covered with the dust of ages; the goddess of liberty would be torn limb from limb; her mangled remains would be a sweet morsel, over which the vultures of greed would gloat and fatten. That's what would happen if we destroy editorial independence. Hoping the above is satisfactory, I am, sir, yours sincerely,  
PERRY D. PLAIN.

Atwater, Ill.

In The Independent of June 18 we decided to make a rate for "Madden Educational Subscriptions"—5 months for 25 cents, a short term which will take in, perhaps, the whole period of the Madden controversy, besides giving new subscribers an opportunity to learn what sort of paper The Independent really is. We have cards printed, each one of which is good for the five months' trial trip, when properly signed and mailed to this office. They are in form of a private mailing card, and a one-cent stamp will carry one of them.

We are now at work appointing at least one subscriber at each postoffice our agent to push the sale of these "Madden Educational Subscription Cards," but any subscriber who desires to undertake the work may have as many of the cards as he thinks he can dispose of, sent free of charge. When sold or disposed of, remittance can be made at the rate of 25 cents each, less cost of postage and sending in the money.

Although only a short time since the offer was made, the indications for success are good. This is the dull season of the year for doing subscription work, yet the following persons have sent in clubs. It is interesting to note the wide range of territory covered, and the large percentage coming from the "effete east," where populism is supposed to be abhorred:

CLUB RAISERS FOR  
"MADDEN EDUCATIONAL  
SUBSCRIPTIONS."  
Jerry Johnston, Miola, Pa.  
Geo. McMullen, Hooversville, Pa.  
J. T. Johnston, Nebraska, Pa.  
Jas. W. Way, New London, Pa.  
R. Fisher, W. Sunbury, Pa.  
W. H. Peterson, Custer, S. D.  
W. J. Nix, Forsythe, Mont.  
Geo. D. Liddle, Providence, R. I.  
Thos. Fish, Knox, N. D.  
W. D. Vestal, Custer, S. D.  
A. J. McBride, Paterson, N. J.  
Harry McCarty, Muncy, Pa.  
M. Hoover, Hooversville, Pa.  
J. E. Kelly, Wallonia, Ky.  
H. W. Noren, Allegheny, Pa.  
826 Federal street.  
Sam'l W. Greenbaum, New York,  
N. Y., 503 E 108th street.  
Robert Cumming, Peoria, Ill.  
W. G. Spencer, Thomaston, Conn.  
J. T. Kennedy, Starcher, S. D.  
Jas. A. Griffes, Braidentown, Fla.  
J. G. Hanby, Peters Creek, Va.  
H. Ellingston, Minnehaha, Minn.  
J. C. Vincent, Zion, Ore.  
T. H. Jones, Patterson, Mo.  
E. T. Smith, Castleton, N. Y.

Send an order to the Farmers' Grocery Co. for one of their combination orders of groceries. Hundreds of our readers have found their combination bargains exactly as represented and entirely satisfactory. Mention The Independent.

## IOWA POPULISTS

Former Congressman Weller Gives His  
View of the Situation and Advises  
Neither Harry nor Worry

Editor Independent:— I received some time since your kind invitation to write an article for publication in your esteemed journal, touching the condition of the people's party organization—particularly in this state. But I was then in the throes of an effort in the courts, of more than two years duration, to regain the possession of my people's party newspaper and job printing plant from the enemy, and from the cunning and devilish devices which the enemy thrust me into for the purpose of suppressing the publication of The Advocate and my printing outfit; and thus my time was so fully—even overwhelmingly—occupied that I found no spare moments to respond to your request.

Even now my effort must be brief. The people's party in Iowa received a ghastly wound in its very vitals at St. Louis in the 1896 convention. I was the sole delegate in that convention from this state who stood firm and unyielding in favor of clean-handed, straight-ahead work; for a full ticket of our own people. That convention was, first, a straddle and then split from end to end.

That split has never healed, but the Weaver straddle remains.

The masses of the people are honest and earnest, but there are thousands of republicans in Iowa who will ever refuse to be led into the people's party to be used as trading stock for wily politicians to satisfy their ambition, or greed, or both.

The same is true of thousands of democrats, especially of the Bryan type. They will not be led into the people's party camp to be used as trading stock for the benefit of republican politicians.

The common people are beginning to realize in this section of the state that many of the most prominent and potential democratic leaders are deeply and mightily interested—financially—in perpetuating the very evils of which the people so justly complain. And they are saying, sotto voce, "We can expect no relief at the hands of men whose interests—very large interests in syndicates, monopolies and trusts—are absolutely antagonistic to the general welfare of the people, ourselves." The very same is true as to many, very many, of the republicans.

This same common people—the lone, sinew, and honest brain of the land—are saying that the leadership of each of the old parties is very much like two brooms, which were good when they were new; but these two brooms have been in use so long that they are worn out to the very stub, and the stubs are full of dirt and foulness; and no amount of people's care can do a clean job of sweeping with either of them.

Hence, they now say, "Why not lay the two old nasty stubs aside and get a good new broom at once, and go into the Augean stables of old parties' political corruption and sweep them out clean, with a new broom—best in the market—the people's party?"

By grace of the voters in my congressional district, I was elected a member of the house of congress, and served two terms—the 48th congress. During that time I was permitted by virtue of my official relations to come into immediate and personal contact with congressional legislators, and their efforts, and methods of legislating. My surprise at what I saw and heard was without measure.

Suffice it to say that no relief can come to the masses of the people at the hands of the leadership of either the democratic (reorganized) or republican parties.

I saw this with my own eyes, and heard it with my own ears, while in the front room of such legislators, where the people are not permitted to come.

### REMEDY.

Don't worry, or hurry, very much, just now; for the grist is in the hopper, and the gods are grinding it very fine. Let a national committee of three members from each state and territory, that has a national, or even a clearly defined state political organization, each agree to a time and place to meet, for a joint conference, as to a uniting of forces on paramount national issues, if reasonably possible, by a majority of states and territories. When a majority of such committee of each organization so agree on time and place for such conference, have them come together, wholly independent of Butler, Parker, or any other person, who presumes that he carries a majority of his (so-called) committee in his grip-sack. When in conference, discuss every issue, then unflinchingly hold fast to that which is good. Compel all would-be bosses to know

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that, "We, the people," are not only the power behind the throne, but that we are the throne itself.

Yours for straight, clean-handed work,  
L. H. WELLER.  
Nashua, Ia.

## TEXAS POPULISTS

Mr. Jackson Says They are More Numerous Than Ever Before

Editor Independent: There are as many populists here as ever there were, and in fact more. Locally they nearly all go into democratic primaries to vote for local offices. And they will wait to see just what democrats do nationally. If the reorganizers capture the national convention and put out a plutocrat, such as Gorman, or a platform that can be construed to mean any old thing, then in that event the populists will be heard from, and can be organized with plenty of leaders with but little trouble. But until some such thing occurs, I think it would be folly to try to build up the party organization in this state, because it is believed that the Bryan element will favor a great part of the populist ideas. I see that our United States senator, Bailey, has announced in favor of Mr. Gorman, but it is well known that this Joseph will do almost anything that there is cash in.

People are reading more and thinking more than ever before in this country and they will be heard from some of these days.

The 100 copies (Henry George Edition) I got have been distributed in five different counties, and I know some day will bear good fruit. Folks of all kinds are anxious to read The Independent; while the Appeal to Reason is not wanted. Just as soon as the farmers understand what collective ownership means, they want no more of it.

But populism is growing as it never did before—the money, transportation and referendum ideas. You can't meet a man in the road that isn't in favor of public ownership of railroads. So I believe, after all, a better day is coming for the old pop to see.  
C. J. JACKSON.  
Nolanville, Tex., Bell County.

## Mississippi Populists

Editor Independent: This is to acknowledge receipt of copies of your valuable paper with thanks for your kindness; also to ask space in the columns of The Independent to express myself as highly pleased with those articles marked and the general tone of your paper and the sentiments of the old guard.

If neither Mr. Parker nor Butler will call for a conference of the two committees then let the next highest man on either committee call a mass meeting at St. Louis, inviting all populists and reformers to attend and let the ball be started to roll in the near future. Mr. Butler would be the proper man to make the call, but he seems to be waiting to see which way the Bryan cat jumps and in my humble opinion he, together with all other Bryan democrats and followers of Bryan, are doomed to disappointment; and just as well order their bite of crow beforehand.

I have been one of Bryan's admirers and supporters, and still have some hope of his ultimate turn in politics in the right direction; but his tenacious hanging on to the old rotten democratic party is surprising and disgusting. Bryan went to Kentucky to

advise people to vote for Goebel, but never came to Mississippi to advise democrats to divide the electoral ticket with the populists. Furthermore, he never accepted the nomination of the people's party.

Mr. Bryan holds out that the democratic party is the party that advocates human liberty. Oh, Lord! If he will but criticize the primary election laws of Mississippi from an impartial standpoint and render an honest decision, I think he would go a little slow on the party of liberty and justice. If you want a copy of the primary election laws of Mississippi, I will furnish them free. Any man who has ever affiliated with any other party and shall vote in democratic primaries is liable to indictment with penal punishment.

The constitution and laws of Mississippi are so framed and construed as to disfranchise thousands of worthy white men, even old confederate soldiers who fought four years, are disfranchised, all for the purpose of putting the control of elections and the holding of office into the hands of a few politicians and henchmen.

Let us keep the door of populism open for liberty-loving men in 1904, when Bryanism shall have been snowed under by Clevelandism. Money will surely shelve Bryan and his following. The Rothschilds have got us where they have had all Europe for a century; nothing short of a political revolution can save the people of this and other countries—and it may take bullets to settle it.

SHOCCO JONES.

Beauregard, Miss.

## Woodson Co. Kansas

Editor Independent: I thank you for your papers, which I have read with much interest. There has been no thought in this (Woodson) county of abandoning our party organization. True, co-operating with the democrats has made us a little careless in party organization and management. C. C. Mills of Toronto is chairman and John Pemberton secretary of the county committee.

If Tom Johnson is the next democratic nominee he will be perfectly satisfactory to me. Just because Mr. Roosevelt is more acceptable than Cleveland or Hill doesn't mean that I will vote for Roosevelt. Not in a thousand years!  
M. A. RHEA.  
Yates, Center, Kas.

## The Ten Most Distinguished Men

Who are the most distinguished ten men now living? The readers of the Berlin Tageblatt have decided them as follows: Tolstoi, Mommsen, Marconi, Ibsen, Edison, Nansen, Roentgen, Menzel, Koch, and William II. It is interesting to note that no musician appears in this list. After all, questions of this order cannot definitely be answered, inasmuch as relativity and personality are sure to color the judgment of every reader. It is just as foolish as the well-worn competition to decide upon the ten best books in the literature of the world.—From the July Current Literature.

## The Hotel Walton

1516 O STREET,  
the best and most convenient low priced house in the city. Rates \$1 per day and up.