

cause. I look for a break up in the old parties again next fall that will start the ball rolling again in our way and as it rolls we will gather more moss from the old parties until we Scotch their wheels in their wild course and turn them with us."

A. Tipton, Nebraska City, Neb.: "Herewith a dollar for the good of the cause. Put me down as a pop, dyed in the wool."

S. E. Dixon, Camp Call, N. C.: "May He who has all power bless your efforts for the betterment of humanity."

Milton Fox, Bicknell, Ind.: "As to party name: I am no great stickler for a name; any will suit me if it stands for the Omaha platform. As to the names that shall adorn the head of our next national ticket, we have so many noble men in the pop-

ulist party that we can't scarcely make a mistake on that line. Of course, we Hoosiers think there is nothing too good for our tried and true, all wool and a yard wide, old friend, Sam W. Williams, of Vincennes, Ind. He has been tried in the balance and found to be of full weight and calibre. Never wobbles on the spindle and is always able and willing to defend the Omaha platform."

T. B. Gaston, Stafford, Kas.: "I am an old soldier and have been in the reform movement for about twenty years. I have joined the socialist club and will vote that way from this on. I for one would like to see all the labor forces come together as a unit and sweep the country in 1908."

J. H. Van Ness, De Soto, Miss.: "You can count on me as one of the Old Guards. I voted for Peter Cooper. I believe the time has come for the old greenbackers to get up and do something to rid this country of the curse that has been brought upon it by the two old parties."

S. McCoy, Seymour, Wis.: "I am getting along in years—nearly 71—and, like many of my fellow men, haven't been able to lay up much for old age. Would like to see the people's party in power. Have voted for it from Peter Cooper's time up to the present, when I had a chance to. Of course you know how it is in this state: We had no ticket here last presidential election. So my vote did not count. We had a good following in 1892 and 1896. Fusion killed it. Most all went back to republican or democrats. I hope it may come forth yet. We hear some talking populist doctrine, but don't know how they would vote."

D. G. Saery, Santa Rosa, Cal.: "I do not care to identify myself with any party whatever, as I prefer to vote only for such candidates as are willing to pledge themselves in writing before election that in event of election they will do all in their power for direct legislation and initiative with 5 per cent to not over 10 per cent of the voters on the petition. I may vote for some populist, prohibitionist, democrat, Christian or republican parties if they comply with these rules."

Wm. T. Shelton, Granite, Ore.: "I see the Old Guard is reporting. I am one of that number myself. I was chairman of the first people's party club formed in eastern Oregon. The republican party was born in 1840; ran James G. Birney for president, and polled 7,062 votes and carried the country in twenty years. The people's party was born in 1892; ran James B. Weaver for president and polled over one million votes. How long would it have taken them to carry the country if they had kept out of fusion?"

Geo. Watkins, Verdon, Neb.: "I guess I am one of the Old Guard, having voted for Peter Cooper and I did support Bryan. He is good enough populist for me, but it seems to be defeat if we do, and defeat if we don't; so let's go it alone."

Thos. R. Dennis, Priddy, Tex.: "I joined the people's party in 1886 and have been battling for our rights ever since. I want to see a straight ticket put out from constable to president, and stick to the principles of the Omaha platform."

J. Gilbert Johnson, Orville, Ala.: "While I have not come all the way over the trail, struck it in '92 and have not departed from populism, pure and undefiled, not even for Bryanism."

A. M. Price, Holdrege, Neb.: "I am as staunch a populist as ever though somewhat discouraged. History records but a few peaceful revolutions. I am a barber. I cast my first vote in 1890 with the populists, have voted that ticket ever since, and will continue to. There are hundreds of populists yet, right here in this county, too, but can we ever get organized and back into line?"

I. H. Dewey, Yreka, Cal.: "Having been a populist for many years and subscriber to the Missouri World also for many years, I think I am entitled to be enrolled in the Old Guard. There are few populists here at present. What may develop during the 1904 campaign is hard to tell, but I hope populism may win." (I have enrolled you.—De France.)

Samuel W. Williams, Vincennes, Ind.: "I am glad to see the good work going on and you certainly deserve the approval of every populist in the land for your efforts. Urge populists to attend the St. Louis meet-



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Much depends upon a good attendance on that occasion. While I fully approve the initiative and referendum idea, still I am impressed that it is necessary and expedient for us to hold a national convention this year. We must meet face to face, consult, get acquainted, nominate a good ticket, make a good platform, reorganize our national committee, elect a good national chairman and provide ways and means for a proper enrollment and organization of the party in order that in a future campaign we may be in condition to try the experiment of making nominations by correspondence. I enclose \$1 as an additional contribution to your expense account."

James H. Davis (not "Cyclone"), Grapevine, Tex.: "I favor the nomination of our standard-bearers by the referendum, if it can be done, and I don't see why it should not, if you can get a voice from the leading populists of the state and get enough of the Old Guard enrolled. I hope the St. Louis meeting will act wisely the 23d of February and that Texas will repeat itself with 103 to that meeting. We have them there if they can be aroused."

C. B. Bowen, Weatherford, Tex.: "I endorse the action of the Denver conference and enclose the names of ten true populists. I am sixty-two years of age and not able to go into the fight with the vim of ten years

The Old Bottle.

Get me out the bottle, wife,
It is our time to take
The nightly drink of the Ore of Life,
The Brew of God's own Make,
That keeps our blood in action still,
E'en though our bones are old,
That helps us carry out God's will,
Though the ashes of life grow cold.

You and I know what it be,
Though some there are who mock,
We know what it's done for you and me,
This Ore, this Earth-born rock,
That lifted you up from a siege like death
When the night all round was black,
That carried me through like an Angel's breath
When my hold on life seemed slack.

'Twas full five years ago, wife,
That time of trouble and pain,
When we thought no power could win the strife
Nor life in our bodies retain,
But came a rift in the clouds, wife,
When Vitae-Ore to us was brought,
Hope in our bosoms again was rife,
To win the struggle bravely fought.

You and I know how we did win,
How drink after drink we took,
And with each draught gave thanks to Him
As the pangs of disease us torsook,
And since that time with each Moon-rise
We've taken a nightly dose,
A Homage to it and the All-wise,
And so we shall till we close.

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ago, but can get behind and see the younger ones on. Have been in the reform ranks since Peter Cooper's day and expect to die in the ranks of reform, though I confess a fear that there is but little hope for the future of the laboring class."

J. B. Irvin, Brookland, Ark.: "I have been an interested reader of the responses of the Old Guard and write you that you may know that I am one among them. I came of liberty-loving stock, my ancestors having taken part in the war of the revolution and the war of 1812. When a mere boy, my father's health failing while in the