

SOMEWHAT PERSONAL.

The editor of The Independent wishes to in this way, and because it is impossible for him to reply to all the letters he has received containing congratulations and good wishes, to express his thanks to each and every one who has written him. No candidate has ever been treated more courteously by writers in the opposition press. That part of it has been a complete surprise. But it shows that newspaper men respect a man who will stand up and fight. From Bixby of the State Journal, to the New York Times, whom The Independent attacked with all the vigor that it could master last winter, nothing but kindness and courtesy has been meted out to him. While the editor of The Independent has fought with all the power that was in him for what he believed to be right principles, he has acknowledged the right of "the other fellow" to do the same thing. If he has a personal enemy in all this wide world, he does not know who he is.

THE GOLD STANDARD.

If there is any meaning to the term "gold standard" at all, it means a monetary system in which gold is the only legal tender. If there are other things used to do the duty of money, they must be convertible into gold on demand. There is not such a country on the face of the earth and unless the present enormous output of gold, which this year will be \$400,000,000, continues for some years to come, there never will be one. England comes the nearest to being such a country, but even it is not strictly a gold standard country. The words "gold standard" as used by Parker and his followers at St. Louis, is a phrase to designate a financial interest. It would be impossible to establish the gold standard in this country for many years to come, and if the attempt were made, the destruction of the first few hundred millions of greenbacks and silver dollars would produce a political revolution. The phrase "gold standard" as used in the dailies and among the financiers is the exact equivalent of the phrase "Wall street." The latter has long been used by the best writers and speakers, not to designate the men, or the financial transactions in a short little street in New York city, but that great and overwhelming influence in politics and business known as "the money power."

That potent influence, whether we call it "money power" or "gold standard," has hitherto been irresistible in politics, in government, and in business. Through the banks it holds in thrall all men who borrow or carry on any part of their business on bank credits. No railroad can be built, no great financial scheme of any sort can be carried on, or even "promoted," without its consent and authority. No man from the highest to the lowest can free himself from its thralldom. Even the beggar must pay it tribute.

There is now a contest on. On one side are the interests of those enjoying monopolies and special privileges and on the other are those of the middle class and wage-earners. In politics the alignment has been made. On the side of the money power are formed in solid phalanx the republican party under Roosevelt and the democratic party under Parker, both aided by the millions of Wall street and the great daily press. Any man who alligns himself with them is an enemy to the interests of the farmer, the small business man and the wage-earner, no matter what his excuse may be. There are but two sides, and every man must ally himself with one or the other or become a neutral.

The people's party comes into the fight as opposed to both great parties and the daily press. It can make no compromises. It stands as the advocate and the leader of the great middle class and wage-worker's interest. Its enrolled army at present is a little over a million. What it will be four months from now, no man can tell. It goes courageously into the battle, for it remembers that three times since this government was founded the great common people won against as great odds while fighting against the same plutocratic moneyed interests, namely, once under Jefferson, once under Jackson, and once under Lincoln. Each time the victory was gained by the organization of a new party. Jefferson organized and won with a party called republican. Jackson won with a new party called democrat. Lincoln won with a new party which was again called republican. Never yet in this country or any other have the people been able to throw off the tyrants who would ride upon their backs, through the agency of an old party. Party "regularity" has never yet, and never will be a force to bring relief. The odds against us may look to be too great to overcome. But we should remember that three times in this country, and it is

yet young, the people have risen up and conquered when facing just as great odds. They did it under Jefferson, they did it under Jackson, they did it under Lincoln, and they can do it again. It never has been and never will be done by supporting candidates who are known to be slaves of the money power and obedient to every order issued by Wall street. "The gold standard" is put a phrase to be used like the other phrases, "stand pat," and "a full dinner pail." It is only a new war cry to rally the unthinking voter to the support of the money power, and by that subterfuge, expects to make a serf of him.

ON TO LINCOLN.

The last great fight for the existence of the people's party as a force in politics will be fought at Lincoln, at the state convention on the 10th of August. If one-tenth of the 20,000 readers of The Independent in this state will come to Lincoln on that day, and there will be reduced rates, the party can be saved, its honor and integrity preserved and it will march on in its glorious career. Do you love the party enough to make this small sacrifice to save it? If the party is to die, let it die an honorable death, and not disappear in a cloud of shame. Some of us have sacrificed for it, labored for it, given of our small means to build it up. We have never done anything dishonorable. We are proud of the record that it has made. Shall it now be dishonored? Will we sell out for the small pittance—less than a mess of pottage? All that is offered in way for the dishonor and destruction of fourteen years of work and sacrifice, is three or four state offices and some county positions. Are you willing to sell for such a price as that? That will never be any honor or preferment for any of you after that deed is done. Now you are proud to tell your children that you are an Old Guard of Populism or a fighter in the Vanguard, but when that deed is done, you will never want them to know that you ever had anything to do with populism. On to Lincoln whether you are an elected delegate or not. Come to defend your honor. Come so that you may be able to leave a record to your children that they will forever be proud of. On to Lincoln!

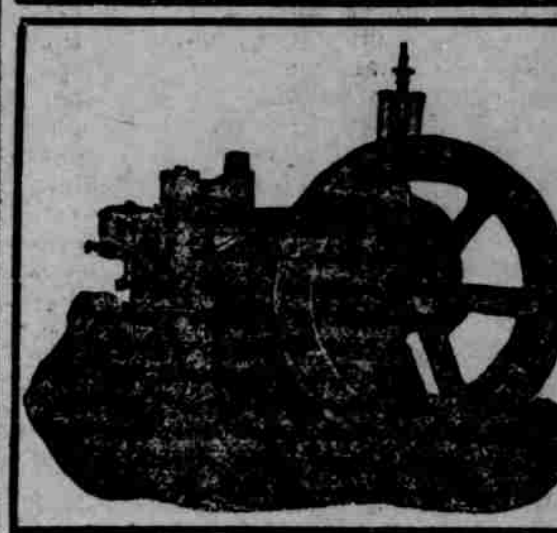
BRYAN PERFECTLY CONSISTENT.

No man can truthfully charge Mr. Bryan with inconsistency. His course, since the day he entered the political field, has been as true as the needle to the pole. He believes in the immortality of the democratic party. He believes that no permanent good can ever come to the people except through the agency of that party. That being so, he believes his first duty as a citizen is to sustain that party, to build it up, to help perpetuate it. Every act of his political life is in accordance with that belief. When he advocated the Kansas City platform, he did it with the honest belief that it was the way to perpetuate the democratic party, and to uphold those principles would bring the masses of the people to its support. When he advised supporting the democratic candidates in Iowa he thought that was the best thing for the party. He said, although the platform was bad, the candidate was good. In the Ohio contest he was still consistent in the support of the democratic party. In that case he said that although the candidate was bad, the platform was good. In the present case he is still consistent, and now says that although both the candidate and platform are bad, the main thing being the perpetuation of the democratic party, they must be supported. That position is perfectly consistent with every act of his political life. Bryan is the most consistent man that ever rose to prominence in the political world. Every assertion that Bryan is inconsistent in supporting Parker is absolutely false.

Several democrats of long standing, men of character, here in Lincoln have denounced the St. Louis convention and its candidate and announced their intention to affiliate with the populists. What is somewhat surprising, they declare with great vehemence that if the populist state convention nominates any democrats, they will not vote for them. Otherwise they will vote the populist ticket from top to bottom.

Mr. Albert Griffin, author of the "Hocus Pocus" money book, which was reviewed not long ago in The Independent, after his return to his home in Topeka, Kas., from the national convention at Springfield, investigated things and writes: "The prospect in Kansas is even better than I had dared to hope. I see by a reported interview with George F. Washburn, the treasurer of the populist national committee, that a confer-

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ence between populists and revoluting democrats is to be held soon. That is a good move and I shall be glad to attend it." Mr. Griffin says that the review of his book in The Independent brought him orders from 29 states, at which he somewhat marvels, but The Independent has enthusiastic readers and admirers in every state and territory in the Union.

The question is not whether populists will poll 700 votes or 70,000 in the coming election for a straight populist ticket. The thing which we want to know is, how many men there are in this state who have manhood and patriotism enough to refuse to stand up and be counted as members of either wing of the plutocratic forces. How many men are there in this state who will declare that they will fight plutocracy until death? If there are not enough of them to give hope for success sometime in the future, then we will honorably disorganize the populist party and quit. We will never do it by any dishonorable sell-out for a few offices.

As a further inducement to get the populists to put men on their ticket who are supporting Parker, Dave Hill, Belmont and Wall street the democratic state convention which meets in Lincoln on the same day that the populist convention meets, will adopt a platform containing a demand for the public ownership of railroads, telegraphs, telephones and everything else that is now or ever has been in a populist platform.

As for the editor of The Independent, he has fought Wall street ever since 1876 and he will never fuse or co-operate with men who support Wall street candidates. On that question he will not surrender, even if he is the only defender left of all the thousands who enlisted under the populist banner in 1892.

A letter was received at the national convention at Springfield from the old populist fighter of New York and chairman of the state committee, D. M. S. Fero, in which he said: "I must forego the pleasure it would afford me to meet with you upon the earnest entreaty of my family that it is not best at this season of the year for me to make the long journey alone. Do not entertain the thought that I have the remotest idea of relaxing a single effort, for I am too deeply impressed with the wrongs of the present pluto-

cratic system of government and too much a friend of the under dog in the fight. I feel that I am good for ten years more of service in the ranks. Of course I must obey the mandate of Father Time, but will continue to fight 'em from the other side."

The Nebraska democratic state convention is going to put out a platform demanding everything that the wildest eyed pop ever dreamed of, from the popular election of United States supreme court judges down to postmasters, and then put up an electoral ticket to support Wall street and Parker. How many populists will be tolled into the Wall street camp with that kind of salt?

The new Wall street method was to force a silent and unknowable candidate upon a party that was interested only in getting the federal offices away from another party. Their candidate was silent—silent as a tomb in the heart of a pyramid, until Wall street ordered him to speak, and then he did it pretty quick. That telegram was written upon the receipt of an order of Wall street, issued by Belmont and delivered by McDonald. No jumping jack ever responded to a jerk of the string quicker than Judge Parker did to that order.

Parker is receiving more booming in the republican papers than Roosevelt ever got. They all declare that Parker is an ideal candidate. There is a never ending stream of adjectives applied to Parker by republican editors like: upright, clean-minded, honorable, personal rectitude, fit leader, tactful, judicial type of mind, and so on ad infinitum. Did the republican press ever treat a democratic candidate for the presidency in that way before? Why is it done now? There is but one answer. Wall street controls the great dailies and the order has been issued to boom Parker. The dullest politician ought to comprehend by this time that all of the Wall street republican influence is for Parker.

A man, who does not want his name printed, but he lives in the state of Washington, writes to The Independent and says: "I am a democrat and always expect to be. In this campaign the only way that I can vote for my principles, and I will do that or not vote at all, is to vote for Watson and Tibbles." His logic seems unassailable.