

earth, is subject to the inexorable law of growth, maturity and decay. And there is no doubt but the democratic party is and has been in a state of decay since the element of discord at Charleston, S. C., in the convention in 1860, exploded with a force that shattered it from "turret to foundation stone." "A house divided against itself can not stand."

What better proof can be had than the fact that since 1860 the party has not accomplished a single thing in the way of reform; not even sufficient power, or wisdom to defeat, or even restrain the vicious, corrupt and reckless legislation, through which the rich have been and are getting richer, and the poor poorer every year. Every spark of vitality or vigor manifested by the old party since the great rebellion has been sapped from the old greenback or the populist parties. For the first time in forty years, Maine in 18— elected Plaisted, a democratic greenbacker, governor, an entire greenback congressional delegation, and gave its electoral vote for Tilden; which in connection with the influence of his running mate, Hendricks, who was an apostle of the greenback doctrine, elected the ticket. And then the grand old party allowed itself to be sold like cattle by identically the same internal influence that betrayed Bryan in 1896 and 1900 and which would do it again in 1908 if necessary to carry its point.

Then there is no doubt but in each case Cleveland was elected by a general sentiment in opposition to the rascally financial legislation of the republican party, the people being misled by a platform of glittering generalities, and in 1892 a declaration in favor of bimetalism. The common people well know he betrayed the trust they had reposed in him, and by reason of such betrayal, the party at the state elections in 1894, was again ignominiously beaten. And although two years before Wm. J. Bryan was ever heard of in a large way, they have the monumental cheek, bold-faced assurance, the diabolical audacity, to assert with brazen impudence that it was "Bryanism and populism that did it."

Blaine carried Kansas by 85,000 majority. Two years afterwards, on a straight ticket, the populists elected the governor. Blaine carried Iowa by 135,000 majority. Two years afterwards the populists by a fusion elected a Cleveland democrat, the first governor they had ever elected in a north-western state. And as usual they strutted and appropriated to themselves all the glory.

Wm. J. Bryan does not cut the figure trailing behind the lead of plutocracy as he would marching boldly in the front in the cause of the people.

He says, "While neither side got all they asked for," etc. In all candor I

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Mr. Julius Kestler, of 350 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, testifies that Dr. Miles cured him after ten able physicians had failed: Mrs. R. Trimmer, of Greenspring, Pa., was cured after many physicians had pronounced her case "hopeless."

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would like to know what of the platform of 1896 his side got? If there is a trace of it left it is not visible, leaving out glittering generalities.

The populists should organize all over the country; make anti-fusion a cardinal principle, so that fusionist could not use the populist heading on their tickets; also beware of sorehead disgruntled pap-suckers from the old parties. Vote for Watson and Tibbles and trust in the Lord.

VIRGIL A. GATES.
Charleston, W. Va.

God and Mickey.

Some little time ago, the story is told, Governor Mickey was invited to address a meeting of boys and girls belonging to a religious organization. His theme, of course, was honesty. He illustrated his point by telling a story of his own immaculateness, which ran, in substance, as follows:

"The other day, little boys and girls, I was riding on a street car. The conductor came to collect fare from me. I handed him a nickel, and, because it was nearing night, he mistook it for a quarter. So he handed me 20 cents in change. Now, I might have kept that 20 cents; the conductor would never have known how he lost it when he came to checking up. No one would ever have known—but God. God would have known it, and I remembered that, and cheerfully handed the conductor back the 20 cents. I am sure the Lord will reward me. And he will reward an of you, if you will always remember that he is watching, and be honest."

How big a reward Governor Mickey thinks he is entitled to for not stealing 20 cents from a poor street car conductor—he did not say.

A "Modern Siege of Troy."

Horace Wadingham Calhoun, the Toledo poet, in his "Modern Siege of Troy," makes the chairman of the St. Louis convention say:

"Belmont the gay and festive joined with Hill,

Once a senator, but now so still,
Brings to us an image, so silent and cold.

Will we fall and worship it and gold?
The spoils of office it will give,
With the breath of Wall street it will live

To be the democratic power in mind and will.

At least so say the Combine, Belmont-Hill.

Hungry and officeless, shall we boost her,

What say ye now, ye children of the rooster?"

Then he makes the Bryan democrats, whom he calls "democrats from principle," answer:

"No, let's take the image and lay it on the shelf,

Where stand the things of pillage and of pelf.

We've fought for years for public good and weal,

We'll not join hands with Wall street now; neither will we steal

From him who 'grins' and 'shackles cunning'—

From him, whose chief delight is gunning.

Who shoots them in the back while running.

The bulls and bears of Wall street call him friend,

His life, his love, his sympathies toward them trend.

With them his hopes began, with them, will end,

To take his meat and other trusts would be a silly blunder.

No, let us not steal the brave one's thunder.

Let us be consistent and reject the silent judge and give

Our votes to one whose thoughts and voice will live

In the history of nations and of men.

The poor man's friend at heart with mind and pen."

Then he makes the autocratic delegates to cunningly control in these words:

"Now, we're democrats, though at times so very still,

Listen to our own, our Socialistic Hill,
Harken to the words of wisdom from our Rover—

Who dwells in the tents of the enemy,
Our Grover.

Soften your hearts at the pleading cry,

Of our hungry children who want official pie,

They tell us that this silent image is better far,

Than the 'Cross of Gold'—a shining star.

To guide and lead us and bring gold,
By which our hunger ceases, let monopoly hold

Us in its fond embrace and we will make

An issue and platform that will take—
A platform, so unique, so broad, so easy trod,

That all can bow thereon and worship as our God."

A fiery Southern leader, leaning on a pitch-fork, offers prayer in the following words:

"Oh, God of Esopus, we bow to thee now,

As poor humble sinners used to intrigue and row.

For years we have wandered, for years we have told

Of the sorrows of men and the burdens of Gold.

Poor rebels at heart, we now kneel to Thee,

We pray thou wilt cleanse us and make us to see

Our fisherman saint and prodigal son—
As the father and cause of the race we now run,

And when we have entered again in the fold,

O, brand us and keep us thy servants for gold.

Then lead us, oh, gently but lead us for sure

To a pie-counter table you know will endure.

A pie-counter table is all that we need,
Let its legs be of gold, so around it we'll feed.

We thank thee for guidance, if thou thinkest best,

We'll lean upon Wall street, trusting thee for the rest.

And thine be the glory, just give us the pie,

Oh, God of Esopus! and we'll never die,

But live on and on, midst pavements of Gold,

And trust you, forever, O image so cold.

All the national platforms of all political parties since the organization of the republic—the Platform Text-book—a valuable book for students of political history, will be sent, postpaid to any address for 25 cents. The Independent, Lincoln, Neb.

Colorado Populists.

The people's party state convention meets in Colorado Springs today. We believe the majority of the delegates will go there with the intention of putting up a straight people's party ticket and fighting the campaign on a straight people's party platform. Of course we understand that Peabodyism will be the main issue in the state campaign. But we see no reason for the people's party abandoning its organization and its principles in order that Peabodyism may be whacked over the head. If the people's party ticket is elected, we are very certain there will be no Peabodyism under its regime. We point to the record of the last people's party administration under Governor Waite for proof of this. He stood between armed labor and armed capital and compelled a cessation of hostilities and a settlement of differences upon an equitable basis that continued until the corporations elected Peabody to do their unholy bidding. If a democratic ticket such as will be nominated by Thomas, Adams, Hughes, Speer, et al., should be elected with the aid of populist votes, there would be no assurance that corporation rule would not continue; in fact, it would merely be Peabodyism in another form. The best way to get rid of Peabody is to let him be nominated and trust to the people to knock him out forever. If the democrats are really sincere in wanting Peabodyism defeated, and want a fusion of forces in order to do it, let them indorse the people's party ticket which will be nominated today at Colorado Springs. It is no farther for them to come to us than it would be for us to go to them. The populists have made the fusion journey several times to their great detriment, and they have learned a little wisdom. "Hew to the line and let the chips fall where they will," is a good motto for any political party. There never has been and never will be anything gained for the people's party, and much has been and much will be lost by departing from a straightforward course in the middle of the road.—James M. Flannigan in Fort Morgan (Colo.) Herald.

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