

Letter to Mr. Bryan

University Place, Neb., Sept. 21.—Hon. W. J. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb.—Esteemed Sir: With deep concern and abiding disappointment I have noted your actions since on that early morning in St. Louis on July 9, I, anxious and weary, saw you surrender to the powers that dominated that convention. And as one who has been your follower for eight long years, as one whose confidence in you was all consuming, I wish to address you in my own humble way and ask you to answer my questions and explain your course, which, I must confess, I am entirely at a loss to understand.

I have tried to reason out a vindication for you, but my conscience, the only thing that can prompt me to see the right, has broken down all my barriers of reasoning and has forced me to believe that you are wrong—all wrong.

Believe me I am not seeking to measure your intellect by mine. Senator Allen, a man in whom I have the utmost confidence, a man whose ability can not be denied, says you are wrong. Thomas E. Watson, one of the greatest thinkers and ablest reasoners of the day, a man who for integrity, sincerity and honesty of purpose stands forth as the bright and shining light of the present century, he by inference, if not directly, says you are wrong. Am I to believe such men as these, having such belief backed by my own honest conclusions? Or am I to sweep this all aside and say you are right even if I can't believe it? No! I must follow you no longer.

Hundreds, yes thousands of your old-time followers have refused to longer stand with you. And hundreds and thousands more are today meeting this question in their minds. On every hand I see men who only a few months ago would have defended you vigorously, now when asked about your position turn away with grave faces and their lips are silent. Even my republican friends when I talk to them about reform and its leaders invariably come back at me with the taunt, "Yes, you told us so much about your reformer Bryan, what about him now?" Can I defend you?

Why do you strive to enthrone democracy in its present state? Was a party ever reformed while in power? No. Can a party be reformed while in power? Absurd! Then why on God's green earth are you supporting Parker? Is it because you know he stands no chance of election? If so, you are practicing deceit and that is unworthy of you. If your support of Parker is only to try and keep such men in line as the Hills and Belmonts, I am prone to say that all your reorganization and efforts for reform will accomplish naught. If the day of the triumph of right is to come, it will never be hastened one hour by any compromise with wrong.

In your recent Denver speech you said you supported Parker because he was for peace and that he would not use the standing army in the support of capital in its abuse of labor. To this I would reply by asking how do you know Parker will do this? Has he ever said so? And if he has what does it amount to. In your Chicago speech last spring you said Parker was an "artful dodger" and that he was backed by the trusts and corporations. Now, if this is so, can you doubt that he would do the bidding of his capital backers under any and all circumstances?

But the clincher is this: If Parker is a tool of the trusts and corporations as you said he was, and as all thinking men believe he is, then he is unworthy of the confidence of any man and could not be relied upon to keep any promise no matter how definitely made. A man that is willing to so far surrender his manhood as to betray, or be willing to betray, the right of the people into the hands of a gang of Wall street robbers, is not worthy the name of a man let alone a nomination for the highest office in the land, or indeed, the support of a man like you.

If there is an issue in this country it is the issue of plutocracy versus democracy. And if there is a candidate pledged to the interests of plutocracy that candidate is Parker. You can not deny this for you have said it is so. Then to whom shall the people look for relief? To Roosevelt? No! His eyes are also blinded by the glitter of gold. Then is the people's cause

lost? No! No! I thank heaven there is one who is willing to sacrifice enough, willing to endure all the ridicule and abuse, and brave enough to come out single-handed if need be and fight the people's battle. I thank heaven there is a man who believes it is "better far to be in the minority in the outer darkness, with the stars of heaven smiling down upon you, and the infinite peace of God in your heart—than to hold a guilty seat in the banquet hall of the victors whose triumph fills your soul with the damnable conviction that you have helped at the victory of wrong."

I refer you to that modern Jefferson, Thomas E. Watson. Mr. Bryan, you know this man stands for the people. You know that he is sincere and that he is waging this fight with no promise of reward. You know that he is actuated only by the hope of starting a movement that will eventually extricate the common people from money rule and check the onward march of that moneyed aristocracy which even Jefferson in his day saw was menacing our economic and social freedom. Now, if you are sincere, this is what you too desire.

I thought you were above party. It seems to me that the one way, only way to achieve true greatness, is to be willing at all times to sacrifice for the right and to stand by one's convictions at all hazards, whether come all sadness and sorrow and even death. This—to do this—is what I call great.

In my opinion you are making the mistake of your life. The people are in need of help, not tomorrow which never comes; not in 1908 or 1912, but now. Now is the time to wage the battle. The populist party has come this time to stay. And if it does stay your reorganized democracy will have to go as certain as dawn follows darkness. There can not exist at the same time two reform parties advocating practically the same reforms. The democratic party has fooled the friends of reform once. Do you imagine it can ever again secure their confidence? If you do, you are mistaken.

If my words are in vain; if your course is set; if the die is cast, I ask you in the years to come to recall these words of mine and then remember that there sometimes emanates from a humble source prophecies that are not vain and that sometimes there are things that are "hidden from the wise and prudent and revealed unto babes."

Yours in deep sincerity,
W. R. SWIFORD.

Political Progress

Editor Independent: Every citizen must realize that if he is to have any power, he must fight for it. He must know that it takes fearless fighting to get what the people need. No citizen can pay absolute homage to his party and discharge his highest duty to himself and fellowmen. Man must be guided by principles if he is to make political progress. He can use all of his energy toward getting some "pet" party policy to the front, and if it is not cast in principles that are immutable his work will come to naught.

The citizen must feel that on him rests the profound duty of not only preserving, but perpetuating our form of government. The highest and most exalted of all citizenship should be to hand down to future generations the most splendid republic of the age. The ideal that is enshrined with justice and which forms the halo of real progress, must be the laurel worn by every citizen, if mankind is to have examples of true glory. The citizen must pride himself on being for those principles which give him full power. For we never can have true progress, unless we are able to comprehend those civic virtues, which inspire us with the greatness of free institutions.

If the citizen comprehends the greatness of free institutions he will avail himself of those rights that are inalienable. If he stands on that lofty plane where nothing but justice is sought, he will look on the citizen as a king "uncrowned." For the citizen who feels that he is only one of the great multitude, knows that all can not be distinguished, hence he is for making a public office a "public" trust, and the officer a servant and not the master. To accomplish this the citizen knows that he must advocate those laws, which would place him in a position to dictate who shall be candidates for public offices. Therefore, we must have "nominations by direct ballot," so the voter can have a voice in the kind of men that will be the candidates for public offices. Nomination by direct ballot, would be the first step in political reform. The man who receives a nomination should have enough respect for his constituency to place in their hands, a power for recall, if he, as their representative, fails to support a bill that the party have endorsed. A recall would show whether

the candidate was sincere and to a great extent show the stability of the party as well as the character of the aspirant for office.

The real thing that is wanted is men with the courage to advocate a thing because it is right. Men who are not moved by the glitter of power, but men who are ready to carry the scars of battle. These are the kind of men that are in demand. Men who know right from wrong—these are the ones who will carry the standard of justice. These are the ones who will deliver the republic to future generations as a sacred institution that has been dedicated by precious human blood. These are the citizens who will keep pure the shrine of liberty. These will preserve the altars of freedom and defend the temples of liberty.

PERRY D. PLAIN.

Atwater, Ill.

Will Refuse the Bribe

Minden, Neb., Sept. 29, 1904.

L. J. Quinby, Lincoln, Neb.

My Dear Sir: In reply to your question I wish to say that I most heartily indorse the position that Mr. Berge takes on the pass question and if elected to the position of state auditor I will not accept a pass from any railroad in or out of this state nor will I accept any favor from any franchised corporation of any description whatever.

Yours most respectfully,

J. S. CANADAY.

P. S.—I am sorry that I was not able to answer sooner. J. S. C.

That Telegram

Editor Independent: It takes a pretty big man to stand up with the word "irrevocable" and maintain its force inviolate. The word as scintillatingly used by Candidate Parker, has a good deal of the plutocratic "was" about it. He would establish a thing for all time by edict. That is not democracy. To favor Wall street he would slur by the common people and admit no appeal from his fiat.

"Consanguinity" of interests, is evidently affecting his early education in democracy. As has been said, "His 'fiat' laid the cornerstone and heaved its pillars 'one by one.'" When the Esopus Judge Felt the "Wall Street nudge," "David" wired him from the convention.

He arose from his chair With an inaudible "swear" And asked, "Dave, what is the contention?"

"Just a word about gold," Said sly David of old, "Is expected by Wall street the while," "Send it over by wire," Said the Machiavelian liar, "And Wall Street will send you her smile."

"I was to say nothing more," Murred the judge as he swore, "And I can not be David's Goliath. 'I musn't talk, it is said, For in the papers 'tis read, And 'twill set my campaign all afire.'" At the mere thought of the glare Of such a blazing affair, The judge sat himself down and did grieve,

And he pondered the trick That the gold-brick That Wall street had tucked up his sleeve,

"To save Wall street from busts, Save the combines and trusts When Morgan's watered stock can't be sold;

Is my problem," mused the judge, Then, he minded Dave's nudge, And "irrevocably" established the gold.

—ANTI-GOLDBUG.

Longmeadow, Mass.

Sentenced to Death

By "the Best Physicians of Elgin," But Neuropathy Saved Him.

Mr. Henry A. Groce, one of the pioneer residents of Elgin, Ill., was saved from a terrible and lingering death from dropsy and heart disease by means of the wonderful discovery that derangements of the brain center called the "seat of life" is the principal cause of many diseases. He says:

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