

RUGGED TRUTH. The stalwart fact that faces the Bryanarchists of Nebraska and the United States and frightens and maddens them is that with the best possible discipline and leadership in 1896, they were routed horse, foot and dragoons. They know positively now that the fusion forces can never be so well organized again. They know now that the money fallacies and other economic vagaries of 1896 can never again delude so many people.

And they gnash their teeth when they behold the gold democrats still undismayed, unrepentant, and defiant ready to meet defeat for a thousand years rather than to aid or abet the pernicious doctrines of the Chicago platform, upon which Watson, Bryan and Sewall were candidates, in the slightest degree. The advocates of the continuation of the gold standard are right, consciously, absolutely and conscientiously right. Therefore they could not compromise with the wrong if they would and would not if they could. Nothing but the renunciation of the Chicago platform can ever reunite democracy.

TRUSTS. Legitimate combinations of capital, by which many manufactories or plants are engaged in producing the same goods, chattels or commodities, may be a blessing to consumers. Only the legitimate can live. All trusts which upon organization over-capitalize their plants are destined to speedy disaster and death. All purchasers of stocks and bonds representing purely fictitious values will find themselves swindled. It is not the plain citizen, the mechanic, merchant, farmer or day-laborer who suffers from the trust. But it is the man or woman who is induced to take the bonds and stocks of trusts. Ninety per cent of these "industrials" as they are called are very much over-valued. No better illustration of the false values of plants put into trusts can be found than right here in Nebraska City. Some years since the Whisky Trust paid for the Nebraska City Distillery and grounds, including feeding sheds for eighteen hundred steers, two hundred thousand dollars. But that trust did burst, and its property pass into the hands of a receiver and the receiver sold the Nebraska City Distillery, grounds, cattle sheds and all, for less than twenty thousand dollars, not one-tenth of its cost to the trust.

March, 1899, saw trusts organized under the laws of New Jersey which were capitalized for more than two billions of dollars. They will cheat only those who buy into them.

Trusts founded upon correct business bases, handled with skill and economy may reduce the cost of production in some cases and sell their output at the

same or a less rate than it now costs the consumer. Such trusts can do no harm.

Every trust over-capitalized solely for stock-jobbing and other swindling will bring disaster and ruin only upon itself and its own members. Trusts, like individuals, are amenable to economic laws. Trusts, like persons, are subject to competition. Dishonest merchants and manufacturers always come to grief. They cannot successfully combat the honest. Incorporated dishonesty can not succeed any better than individual rascality.

When a number of bad men pool their badness and create out of their avarice and greed a consolidated cheat and call it a trust they make a concrete or composite precisely like the moral and business methods of its integrals.

FOURTH OF JULY AT INDEPENDENCE HALL.

Some time ago THE CONSERVATIVE suggested, if a new political party evolved out of the present distrust of existing ones in the United States, and was to be organized by the more thoughtful and conservative citizenship of the republic, that the 4th day of July, 1899, would be a good date and Independence Hall, Philadelphia, a good place for its first convention.

There was only suggestion in the article. No convention was called. Nobody was authorized to make such a call. But if each state in the Union should form a convention of some of its conservative citizens, send delegates to Philadelphia to meet in Independence Hall on 4th of July the new political organization would be launched. It would become the balance-of-power party in the United States, if not the majority party, before the presidential election in 1900. Social and political upheavals, in a country where postal and telegraphic communication is perfect and universal may occur with spontaneous unanimity.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

It seems that Christian Scientists have their troubles, and that there is even a difference of opinion among them as to where the "divinely bestowed leadership" rightfully belongs. This state of things appears moreover to have given rise to a controversy which differs in no material point, as regards form, from those which ensued when doctors disagreed under the old system. A copy of a Boston organ of this school, which has just been received, devotes five pages to this discussion. There is a careful comparison, as having an important bearing on it, between "Dr. Quimby's God" and "Mrs. Eddy's God." This comparison, which seems at first sight to have a distinct Old Testament savor, is apparently very much to the disadvantage of Dr. Quimby's God, though there is always a doubt left in the reader's

mind as to what the English language, when arranged according to Christian Science rules, precisely means. The leaders of this movement seem to have much the same mystic power over words as was possessed by the late Mr. Keeley of Philadelphia, who was always willing to explain, but whose explanations left his stockholders, though much impressed, still uncomprehending.

But in the more controversial portions of the document there is no such difficulty. Here the layman feels at home at once, for he meets on every hand such good old expressions as *absurdity, utter falsity, falsehood, outworn falsehoods, fossilized falsehoods, malicious fabrications, feigned originals, pirated pamphlets, purloined publications, wicked and dishonest, stultifying themselves, craven, palmed off, crawl out of it, unmasked*, and so on, all used in the sense in which they are familiar to us in similar connections. Altogether, anyone who studied Volapuk ten years or more ago will be reminded of the pleas put forth incessantly by the reverend Father Schleyer, of Constance, and of his denunciations of those wicked men who wished to claim part of the credit for that precious Volapuk of which he was the one, only, single, sole and unique inventor.

One difference is that the latter controversy was terminated, in the course of time, by the death of Father Schleyer, whereas this solution cannot be counted on in the former, since "Christian Scientists have absolute assurance that they are in possession of a Science which will, in its ultimate application, destroy death." And this amounts to a hardship, since when death is destroyed the weary listener cannot even take that avenue of escape from a debate which the protagonists will maintain throughout eternity.

One erroneous, or at least inaccurate, statement has escaped the proof-reader's eye in the paper in question. "A fundamental point of the Science is the unreality or non-existence of matter;" and yet it is claimed that upon the organization of a Scientific church at Santa Ana, Cal., "the hall was papered, floor covered, and chairs, pulpit and platform put in."

WIND AND WAVE.

A robust Wind met a wild Wave and said: "Let us go into Wall street and organize a Trust."

They went in and upon a stake of thirteen dollars, under the laws of New Jersey, capitalized an ancient Wind-mill and a Dry Ditch as "The Aerial and Aqueous Power Company, Limited" stocks and bonds fifty millions of dollars, at seven per cent, easy. All taken in twenty-four hours. There are a hundred suckers born into Wall street every minute.