

# The Conservative.

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#### BEFORE AND AFTER.

During the tumultuous campaign of 1896, in the city of Richmond, William J. Bryan declared:

"I want to warn you who are contemplating deserting from the democratic party at this time, that the man who, in the face of such an enemy, either goes to the rear or is found in secret conference with the enemy, is a traitor upon whom the brand shall be placed and HE SHALL NOT COME BACK."

The capitalization of the last declaration was very sonorous, solemn and inexorable when vehemently proclaimed by the splendid lung-and-tongue power of the orator. The dictatorial and majestic manner in which Mr. Bryan, by his own authority, thus banished from the privileges of association with the sanctified silverites, all those who had adhered to the diabolism of the gold standard, was lofty in its imperialism and unparalleled in its modesty. But that cruel remark, calculated to intimidate and bulldoze the cowardly and the weak, was made before the election of 1896.

Mr. Bryan is better inclined to forgiveness and mercy now, for in a speech made at Louisville, Kentucky, during the last six weeks, the defiant and the dictatorial were erased and in their stead were served up the following persuasive sweetmeats. There is nothing of the bravado in this:

"I have been told that there are here a number of people who were democrats prior to 1896, but who, in 1896,

wandered away into the republican fold or waited for awhile at that halfway place known as the gold democratic party. Now, the people who were all right in 1896 are all right now. I do not need to talk to them. Those who went through the fiery furnace of criticism in 1896 are not apt to be dismayed now. But I want to talk awhile to those who left us in 1896, because I want them to come back and help us in this fight."

Really, can this be a true report of the speech? THE CONSERVATIVE clips it from The Richmond Times and hardly credits "I want them to come back and help us in this fight" to the same supreme dictator of the Chicago platform abomination who rampantly yelled in 1896 that whoever differed from that agglomeration of fallacies and blunders "is a traitor upon whom the brand shall be placed and he shall not come back!"

Is it possible that Mr. Bryan would accept enough of the ballots of those recusants to elect him to the presidency? After the last can he see better before the next election? If sixteen-to-one was beaten in hard times how can it win in good times? If it failed with money scarce how can it win with money plenty?

#### LABOR UNIONS CORPORATIONS.

A railroad company is capital incorporated. A trades union is muscle incorporated. Capital works for profits. Labor works for wages. Bryanarchists condemn the former combination and commend the latter.

Cash capital must not combine to maintain profits. But muscle capital is justified in consolidating as a trust to put up wages. Cash capital whenever it attempts self-preservation by incorporation is damned by Bryanarchists as plutocracy. Muscular capital is praised by the same herd of statesmen whenever it pools itself to put up wages, reduce the hours in a day or prevent non-union laborers from accepting a scale of wages which it has rejected.

How consistent are the Bryanarchists! To combine cash capital to maintain or advance profits is wicked oppression. To organize the muscle capital of labor to demand and secure more wages is Christian beneficence!

The profits of capital are only the leavings of wages. When the latter leave nothing the mills shut down.

#### INDUSTRIAL COMBAT.

If the Bryanarchists of the United States who propose to create an issue of antagonism to corporations upon which to allure votes to their candidate for the presidency of the United States would do something more than phrase-making and platform-building in the way of warding off the alleged dangers from large combinations of capital they would show sincerity and determination of purpose better than they do or can by mere mouths full of words. If those exasperated and hysterical citizens who are still suffering from the political prostration which paralyzed them in 1896 would chip in and establish competitive corporations and manufacture products to put on the markets as rivals of the products of the big combines they would exhibit more sense, and more courage, for a practical industrial combat. But mere gab will not cheapen anything except the imitation statesmen who evolve it and words and wind will never correct commercial abuses.

#### CREATING ISSUES.

The refrigerated impertinence with which self-constituted leaders of the consolidated appetite for office known as "the fusion party" declare their intentions of making new issues or withdrawing old issues from the presidential campaign of 1900 is rather refreshing.

These automobiles in politics are ready to travel any road surveyed or marked out for them, provided it leads to an office and a salary. They talk of no principles. They are for free trade in some things. They are for protection to silver. They oppose trusts because things are made higher by trusts, while they approve protective tariffs which always aid trusts. And these saints of statesmanship all stand up for the free coinage of silver at 16-to-1 without regard to any other nation on earth, in the moon or elsewhere among the planets. The head men and braves of the tribe of issue-creators however all agree to the insistence of the silver issue. And Webster's Unabridged defines one kind of issue as "an artificial ulcer, to produce the secretion and discharge of pus for the relief of some affected part."

Can the silver 16-to-1 issue be better depicted? If flabergastic oratory is not secreted and discharged as pus where can pus be found?