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A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE DISCUSSION  
OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL  
QUESTIONS.

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#### A LIE.

Somebody has started a report that Ex-President Cleveland had written a letter to a member of his last cabinet stating that the defeat of fusion in Nebraska in 1899 would defeat Colonel Bryan in 1900. THE CONSERVATIVE knows that no such letter was ever written and that no ex-member of President Cleveland's official family has ever said that he received such a letter.

The World-Herald of the issue of Friday, October 20th, reiterates falsehood as to that letter, after its denial in The State Journal, by authority, of Tuesday, October 17th.

Perhaps Mr. Cleveland's admiration for Mr. Bryan began to decline when the latter proposed to the former the appointment of a relative, a nephew of Mr. Cleveland, to an important office in Nebraska.

#### THE THIRD PARTY.

The Anti-Imperialist League in Chicago on the 17th and 18th of this month assembled an enthusiastic and patriotic convention.

Speeches were made by Carl Schurz, Bourke Cockran and others to very large, remarkably intelligent and responsive audiences in Central Music Hall.

The business meetings of committees were attended with unusual promptness. The organization of the Anti-Imperialists of the United States will be, in sixty days, as perfect and vigorous as that of any other political party. A list of the officers may be found in this issue of THE CONSERVATIVE. The third party is born. It is a vigorous and

efficient combination of citizens who believe that the flag of the United States was made to represent self-governing peoples everywhere and nowhere to float over subjects. The constitution recognizes only citizens as members of this republic. There can be no subjects to any but an imperial government.

The names of Ex-Governor Boutwell, former secretary of the treasury, and of George F. Edmunds who recently resigned the position of United States senator from Vermont, coupled with those of Carl Schurz and Bourke Cockran, indicate the grade and quality of mind, character and patriotism which lead the new party which already holds the balance of power in the United States.

More than thirty states were represented at this first convocation of the anti-imperialists. More than one hundred and fifty delegates were in attendance. The movement, the assemblages of thousands who gathered to hear Schurz and Cockran, were the spontaneous outgrowth of that love of liberty and justice which permeates the best citizenship of this republic.

Before the nominations for the presidency in 1900 the anti-imperialists who are only just now organized will be admittedly able to determine the election. They may, like the gold democrats in 1896, be forced, however, to decide between two evils and to advance that evil which seems the least.

#### FREE SILVER.

The advocates of free silver at sixteen-to-one avow that such coinage of that metal would enhance its value. Colonel Bryan has declared repeatedly that if the United States would only open its mints to the free and unlimited coinage of that metal at the Heaven-decreed ratio of 16 to 1 every ounce of silver in the world would at once jump to one dollar and twenty-nine cents. And this acrobatic leap of silver would drag wheat and all other food products up to a higher level of prices. High prices, say these philosophers, are a good thing for plain people. They agree perfectly with the silver bullion syndicates who have formed the silver combine and already put up the price several cents an ounce. They being the agents and candidates of the silver bullion and mine owners, can only act in their interests.

#### FREE TRADE.

When eloquently advocating free trade because it would reduce the prices of many articles upon which a protective tariff had placed an artificial price, Colonel Bryan conclusively proved that the lower the prices of the necessities of life ranged, the better it would be for the plain people.

How can the same man now advocate free silver for the declared purpose of making all the things mankind has to buy in the United States higher?

What consistency is there in a statesmanship which emphatically endorses low prices in 1890 as the sole panacea for economic ills and in 1896-1899 solemnly proclaims for high prices as the sole cure for poverty?

#### PIOUSNESS.

In a popular play of not long ago Raymond described a Senator Dilworthy, who appeared in the character of a wholly disinterested politician, as a most excellent, unselfish and surpassingly patriotic man "chock full of piousness." But if one may credit the platitudes of McKinley while he declares his ardent affection for the flag, the country, the constitution and the people of the United States, Senator Dilworthy was not his equal in fervid love of country. And Colonel Bryan also admits that he too is without a freckle on his devotion to the plain people and that he is saturated with conscience and altruism from heel to head. Taking their own avowals as truth, McKinley and Bryan must realize that they are too good for this wicked world and that they are in imminent peril of being translated at any moment to run for office among the angels or be crowned in everlasting office in that delightful world which is always depicted as on a gold basis and where harps and crowns are made exclusively of that metal.

George A. Abbott, one of the founders of the people's party in Nebraska, in answer to a request from the chairman of the fusion committee for advice as to the conduct of the campaign, wrote: "By no means allow any of your speakers to talk state issues. The record of our men in power forbids any such thing. Tell your men to talk about the Philippine war, and keep the minds of the voters on the other side of the earth. That is all that is left for the hold-up gang and the free-pass grabbers to do."