

NON 16 TO 1.

EDITOR THE CONSERVATIVE :

DEAR SIR:—Hon. James Denton Hancock gave a letter to the Pittsburg Post, Nov. 14, counselling ignoring the Chicago platform and the sixteen to one folly, in order to get harmony in the ranks of the democratic party for the campaign of next year. The letter is admirable as everything is to which Mr. Hancock puts his pen; but I do not believe he will object to my saying that the situation demands a much more vigorous treatment than his letter administers. He advises harmony when what we want is common sense. Wherever a democratic state has dropped Bryan and Bryanism the democratic party has been victorious; and wherever the republican ticket has run up against Algerism and Hannanism and imperialism it has had a very dusty hunt for success.

**Courage Needed.**

But this does not give us any definite idea of how we ought to make up our minds when we go to the primaries for the selection of delegates to the state and national conventions next year. Three years ago we were told that if we would keep quiet the anarchy and populism that had thrust themselves into the management would subside and things would right themselves. This was when we were afraid to denounce Quayism because our money was invested and deposited in the banks where Quay keeps the funds of the state treasury. We were willing enough to go in for sound money but we did not care to disturb the deposits. Some of us were directors in the bank. But "things" are worse now than they were then. The federal administration has traded the scandalous appointments to military office for the scandalous support of its Hawaiian job. It has robbed the mails to get materials for the partisan accusation of American citizens. The bulk of the army and navy in active service is employed to subjugate foreign people who want to be free and who have a right to their freedom. So far as he has been permitted to go the president stands shoulder to shoulder with "the tramping saxon" and the army contractor. He flies the flag of "benevolent assimilation" and "the advance of civilization" which have been the mottoes of the Turk and the Spaniard for five centuries of the worst tyrannies the world has known; and he abuses the stars and stripes by consorting the flag of freedom and independence with the methods of slavery and subjugation. "Benevolent assimilation" and "the advance of civilization" are the worn-out formulas of insincerity. They serve the president in his present effort "to busy giddy minds with foreign quarrel." So with the position of the administration respecting civil service reform; nothing it has done accords with the republican

party professions or the sound morals of the president's inaugural. It has evaded the law by invading the public sentiment which compelled the law.

**Harmony Not Needed.**

But what are we to do? If Bryan is nominated and the Chicago platform is again forced upon us, what can we do? What can we offer to prevent the perpetuation of Quayism and Hannanism and Algerism and imperialism and militarism? We cannot vote for Bryan and the Chicago platform, or for Bryan and some other shifty platform designed to catch our votes. If Bryan is nominated he will be the same Bryan he was in 1896. He will be the platform whatever may be the formula adopted by the convention; and he and his platform are offensive to every democratic principle to which we have been born and bred. We cannot vote for McKinley and the republican platform, whatever it may turn out to be, because we have not the slightest faith in the sincerity of the president or the integrity of the republican party. If Quay and Hanna and Platt should think it advisable to adopt the Ten Commandments and the entire moral law as the republican party platform, they would not hesitate to do it, yet no one would have any faith in the sincerity of the president or the integrity of the republican party. Its recent exploitation of a currency reform bill which it purposes to use as a tentative measure for the seduction of voters at the next election is another pretence of an intention that is not sincere.

But the nomination of Bryan either with or without the Chicago platform, will not give us a decent alternative. Mr. Bryan cannot raise a living issue. None of the statesmen who are opposed to the policy of the administration will support him. The issue of antagonism to trusts is the issue of tariff reform by which alone the monopoly of the trusts can be prevented and controlled. McKinley pretends to oppose the trusts but he stands for the "protection" of the Dingley bill which is the father and mother of the trusts. The issue of currency reform is that raised by Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Carlisle by a policy which had the support of the whole country. The most important issue of banking reform is that which the Indianapolis convention formulated. Mr. Bryan stands for none of these and they are the bed rock of democratic doctrine. The Chicago platform contains no single sentence of sound practical policy touching any of the real issues. It is nothing but the silver issue and anarchy. The silver issue is too dead to skin and nobody but a fool wants anarchy.

**More Chastening Needed.**

And yet! what are we to do if Bryan is nominated and the Chicago platform

is reasserted? Or, better still, what should we not do to prevent it? Samuel J. Tilden is dead; he would have given us good advice and he would have shown us how to follow it. Governor Russell of Massachusetts is dead; he would have been our logical leader. Mr. Cleveland has retired to the classic shades of presbyterian Princeton. Here and there the gangrene of the Chicago platform is working out its function. Sibley has sloughed off and it is to be hoped that a lot of the populism and communism for which he stands, has gone with him. It looks as if he sees that Bryan's nomination will lead to certain defeat; and it may be taken for granted from the evident purpose of the republican managers to bring it about.

I am inclined to think we do not want "harmony" just yet. If we can get a reliable candidate on a reliable platform we shall have all the harmony we need; and to get this we want agitation and conflict of the most vigorous kind. The harmony that comes of the righteous settlement of vexed questions is the only harmony that is worth having and likely to last. But what are we to do? And how are we to do it?

BENJ. C. POTTS.

Media, Pa., Dec. 19th, 1899.

**NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.**

The annual meeting of the Nebraska State Historical Society for 1900 will be held at the chapel of the State University on the evening of January 9th and 10th, at 7:30 o'clock, with the following program. It is desired that all interested in old overland freighting will attend, on Wednesday especially, bringing all old maps of freighting routes with them.

Tuesday Evening, January 9.

President's Annual Address—J. Sterling Morton, Nebraska City.

The State Republican Convention of 1870, and Incidents of that Campaign; a Character Sketch of Governor Butler.—Dr. L. J. Abbott, South Omaha.

Ex-Senator Thomas W. Tipton.—Hon. Robert W. Furnas, Brownville.

Hon. Champion S. Chase—Clement C. Chase, Omaha.

Our First Settlement of Nebraska—David Anderson, South Omaha.

Pioneer Days in Boone County—John Turner, Indianola.

Wednesday Evening, January 10th—Old Freighters' Evening.

Reminiscences.—Eugene Munn, University Place; William Fulton, Kansas City; R. M. Rolfe, Nebraska City; Thomas J. Majors, Peru.

This will be followed by ten minute talks by old freighters present.

Business meeting.

H. W. CALDWELL, Secretary.

Horticultural Society meets same dates during day.