

BLACK FACED. Whether in a mood for "periodical diversions"—a "peculiarosity" attributed to Senator Allen of Nebraska, by W. E. Curtis, or not, that muscular statesman on the 13th of March, 1900, with his usual force declared:

"Nothing that I ever said could by any kind of torture be construed as a lack of faith in my party platform, which declares for the free and unlimited coinage of both gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1."

Mr. Allen read the colloquy between himself and Mr. Aldrich, which, he said, was the basis of the report concerning him.

"I want to repeat," said he, "and I want the public printer to put this statement in black-faced type, that I am a firm believer and always have been in the doctrine of the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, and I do not believe in waiting for any other nation."

Mr. Allen was proceeding with an elaboration of his views when he was interrupted by Mr. Turner of Washington who had yielded to him, and was reminded that "it was for a personal statement for which he had yielded and not a speech."

Perhaps red-faced type would better typify that debate. It was an initiative to "a diversion" and closed by Mr. Aldrich saying that the Associated Press account of the colloquy was a fair and accurate statement of what occurred.

Probably Aldrich had been drinking! only a perfectly sober man could aver "I am a firm believer, and always have been in the doctrine of the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of sixteen to one, and I do not believe in waiting for any other nation!" No drunken man could speak so eloquently.

**LETTER FROM
TING-FANG,
ORATOR.** WASHINGTON.—

His excellency, Wu Ting-Fang, the Chinese minister in Washington, is making a great reputation as an orator, and scarcely a week passes but he receives an invitation from some part of the country to make a speech. He goes to Philadelphia tomorrow to deliver an oration at the Washington birthday exercises, and his speech will be of more than usual interest and importance because it deals with the problems confronting the United States in the East. He takes his text from the farewell address of General Washington and draws therefrom lessons of great value to the American people.

Mr. Wu's speeches are usually bubbling over with humor, but this will be entirely serious. His knowledge and pronunciation of the English language are perfect, but he sees its defects more clearly than those who have always spoken it, and one of his favorite themes

is to point out its solecisms. Mr. Wu's repartee and his bonsmots are quoted at every dinner table in Washington. He is able to take care of himself in a rough and tumble debate. He likes to satirize and ridicule the follies and errors of the American people, particularly when he is surrounded, as is often the case, with boosters and braggarts.

Not long ago, while attending a banquet of the Silk Manufacturers' Association in New York City, he crushed Lieutenant Governor Woodruff, the candidate for the Republican Vice Presidential nomination. Mr. Woodruff made a spread-eagle speech, in which he declared that the Americans were the greatest people on earth, and had done almost everything that was good in the world. He spoke particularly of our superiority in the silk industry, and eulogized Mr. Blaine as the discoverer of the reciprocity policy in trade. Mr. Wu who happened to be the next speaker, listened with great amusement to Mr. Woodruff's braggadocio, and proceeded with mock humility to describe his own embarrassment in standing in the presence of such an eminent representative of the greatest people on earth, who had done everything worth doing. He added that it would be a privilege for him some time to go home and tell his people of the honor he had enjoyed. China was only about 6,000 years old, and its achievements as a nation were, of course, mere trifles compared with the accomplishments of Governor Woodruff and his friends. He then told of the silk industry in China, which existed 3,000 years before America was discovered, and quoted from the writings of Confucius to show that he had advocated the theory of reciprocity in trade many centuries before the birth of Christ.

The audience was, of course, immensely amused at the manner and the tact with which the oriental philosopher walloped Mr. Woodruff, and punctuated every sentence with a cheer.

PUBLICITY. It is now claimed by many speakers and writers that a panacea for all the ills that come to consumers from the big trade combines called trusts will be found in publicity. By publicity they mean the opening of their books to the people by publishing in newspapers the proceedings of all the stockholders and directors in the great industrial combines. Some even advocate detailed statements of cost of raw material, cost of manufacture, salaries of officers and wages of employees and the per cent of profit on all the output of finished goods. This publicity enforced upon corporate capital and not required of individual or co-partnership capital would give the latter great advantages over the former. But why is large capital, controlled by many, more dangerous to the community than large capital

governed by one or two? Is a money monarchy less menacing than a money democracy?

The trades unions or guilds differ from the cash combines only in form.

Trades Unions. The latter concentrate money and try to control its profits in certain lines of commodities of which they endeavor to become monopolists.

The trades unions concentrate muscle and endeavor to fix the rate of wages which it shall receive. If it be true that the sole object of a trust is to increase the profits of capital, is it any less true that the main aim of a trades union is to increase the wages of labor? And if there is no good reason for legislating against a muscle trust or trades union what good reason shall be advanced for laws inimical to corporate capital?

But if publicity is to be enforced as to the meetings and doings of the directors of moneyed incorporations why shall not publicity be enforced as to the meetings and doings of the directories of the various labor organizations?

Secrecy, privacy is worth as much, no doubt, to the brotherhood of engineers and to other fraternal guilds as it is to bank directors, railroad managers and manufacturing syndicates. If publicity is demanded as to the capitalists it should also be required for the laborers. It will abolish all secret societies screening from gaze the capital and the labor, the dollars and the muscles of the United States.

PROPHETIC. Eructatory and direful prophecies were a specialty in the desultory discourses of Colonel Bryan during the campaign of 1896. On page 550 of "The First Battle"—a marital biography of the colonel—the seer with clarified eyes gazes into the future and exclaims:

"The gold standard means dearer money; dearer money means cheaper property; cheaper property means harder times; harder times means more people out of work; more people out of work means more people destitute; more people destitute means more people desperate; more desperate people means more crime."

The colonel omitted the fact that the gold standard would make his prophecies appear the cheapest things in the United States. A job lot of Bryan forecasts of the finances of the United States, made in 1896, have been analyzed and assayed to find that they contain only here and there a trace of truth to the ton of words and a grain of logic to the carload of fallacies. Any enterprising collector of oratorical and political curios, any lover of the mendacious in literary bric-a-brac, can make a glittering collection of such abnormalities by rumaging through the trash and waste paper of "The First Battle." Not a single verified forecast can be found in the wholesale predictions of that tremendous volume of verbosity and self-assurance.