

service in the hottest of battles of the war of 1812, and father of Cassius M. Clay, jr., Bourbon's present foremost statesman and parliamentarian, a man who preferred a tranquil conscience, and his own political convictions to party preferment—yes, Brutus J. Clay—from 1863 65, as a high type of representative of the agricultural interests of his section, did well his part as congressman from this famous district. Col. Wm. E. Simms, of Bourbon, too, as federal and confederate statesman, honored us at Washington and Richmond, as representative, and in later years, until his recent death, showed himself a man with rare capacity for affairs and business. Nor should the historian forget the living in his eulogies on the dead. There is Joe Blackburn, champion of free silver, considered by some the greatest of Kentucky's "stump speakers." Certainly ready at repartee and sarcasm in debate, he, as Woodford's statesman, was congressman from 1875 to 1885. Succeeding genial Joseph was one bearing an honored name, the rival of Henry Clay and Thos. F. Marshall in forensic efforts, the equal of the best New England representatives, in culture, in statecraft and all the elements of a varied versatility, the superior of them all in superb, magnetic, entrancing oratory, the gray-haired, silver-tongued Breckinridge.

Scott county sent Major W. C. Owens, an imposing and able representative, in 1894 from the district, who declined the race of 1896, because he was not in accord on the finances with his constituents.

And he whom God's finger touched all too soon, and removed a few months since from the scenes of his earthly successes, the gentle, genial, eloquent and lovable Evan E. Settle, whom "Sweet Owen" loved so well to honor, and who carried old Ashland's banner as her representative to further victories. Space and time forbid that I prolong the story, and this imperfect sketch is but a dim outline of a grand historic picture, a picture in which, perhaps, Henry Clay, the whig, and John C. Breckinridge, the democrat, will ever stand as the foremost figures, challenging and enhancing the reverence and admiration of mankind. In fact, these poor words are but a faint suggestion of the annals of a district whose representatives have made for it a name upon the heights of political history as high as statesman's skill has ever reached. Other Congressional districts, such as the Illinois district of Lincoln, Douglas, Hardin and Baker, and the Maine "bailiwick" of Fessenden, Blaine and Reed, or the Massachusetts district of Webster, Sumner and Everett, have rivaled but not surpassed, this Kentucky pastoral province of "the beautiful bluegrass." Let the present aspirants for Congressional honors from such a district ponder well upon the intellectual giants, their pre-

decessors of other days, and indulge in no unseemly scramble to reach a position of such weighty responsibilities, of such historic glories.

C.

In the Bluegrass, May, 1900.

THE NEW CURRENCY LAW.

Mr. Henry W. Yates, president of the Nebraska National Bank, of Omaha, in response to a private letter of inquiry relative to his views upon the new currency law, wrote the following able exposition of his opinions:

Referring to my Hartington address, in which I express my objection to any kind of credit money, but as you say, "champion the new currency law," you ask, "what kind are you in favor of?"

I think this question is clearly answered in my address. I state the qualities which in my opinion are demanded to constitute "real" or good money and say "only one money now fulfills these conditions and that is gold."

I champion the new currency law, for the reason that it is conceded on all sides that our volume of money must be maintained, and if we must have some kind of credit money, no better can be devised than that provided for in the law—"a money which is not only made payable in gold on demand but has the security of the public debt back of it to support the promise."

Payment of the National Debt.

"Are you in favor of paying the national debt? If national debt is paid, on what basis will you then issue national bank notes?"

I am not in favor of paying off the national debt until it can be accomplished without imposing an intolerable hardship upon the tax-paying classes. Most people I think would prefer an indefinite continuation of the debt at the low interest rate now obtained by the government.

I believe that taxation should be kept down to figures which will provide sufficient revenue for the expenses of the government and no more; but should there at any time be a surplus, I think it should be devoted to the reduction of the debt.

If this process should result in the gradual extinguishment of the debt, the country in my opinion could easily stand the contraction of the currency thereby occasioned. It would be a healthy contraction and no necessity would exist for the issue of national bank notes to take the place of those retired.

The Balance of Trade.

"The balance of trade now is largely in favor of the United States, but already large amounts (of gold) have been shipped. Why is this the case under the present circumstances?"

The export of gold has arisen from the fact that a better rate of interest

upon money loans can be obtained abroad than in the United States.

Money as a part of capital—and the representative of its uninvested part—naturally flows to the community which will pay most for it.

This movement is entirely independent of and distinct from that manifested in the exchange of commodities, although of course the amount required for the payment of balances arising from the exchanges must be affected by it.

The shipment of gold to or from the United States is as natural a procedure as the shipment of currency to or from Omaha or any other town in Nebraska.

We do not feel poorer because we ship money east to make exchange, nor richer when we import it to meet the current demands of our business.

The export movement only becomes serious and alarming when it arises from distrust and loss of confidence. In that case, the capital is withdrawn, not because some one else will pay more for it, but because the owners of the capital are not willing to continue its investment on any terms in the community from which it is taken.

Value of Gold if "Demonetized."

"What would gold be worth if the United States government should enact a law not to coin any more money out of gold and depriving it of a money redemption? What effect would such action have in the United States?"

In my opinion, gold would be worth just as much as it was before.

Of course such a law would be a silly and mischievous one and the country at large would be called upon to pay the cost of the inconvenience occasioned.

But, commerce could not be deprived of its only standard of value. Individual enterprise would supply in a way the facilities heretofore supplied by the government. Bullion and bullion certificates—representing bars deposited in safety vaults—and perhaps coins struck off by private assayers would circulate as money, and be generally accepted the same as if issued by the government itself. The volume of gold circulating as money would probably be unchanged.

I appreciate your statement that my answer is not intended for publication, and I thank you for the compliment conveyed in considering my opinion of some value, but I do not object to publication. The views I express have not been hastily formed but are the result of many years of study and experience, and I am willing that they should endure the test of criticism or else go for what they may be worth in the formation of public opinion.

Yours truly,

HENRY W. YATES.
Omaha, Neb., May 22, 1900.

Mrs. Grogan—"Pat's got a job in the tube works up on the Bronx." Mrs. Dugan—"Arrah! Oi've often rid av them bronchial tubes."—[Judge.]