

lunatics, cranks and crooks, from Croker down, who follow Bryan, complains of or criticises his being an advocate and attorney for the all grasping, all-corrupting combine of the silver mine and bullion owners. Not even do they denounce the one hundred thousand dollars retainer fee handed over by the immaculate, silver-plated statesman from Montana to Mr. Bryan's committee. That is all right from their point of view. And the short-termed and kicked-out statesman Clark of Montana, is a real, genuine, patriotic reformer, but when the other prodigy, who writes sweet verses about white roses and sings them under the windows of beautiful women, who makes orations in the senate so mellifluous, so pathetically melodious that they move Thurston himself to tears and transport him into delicious swoons, so that he is carried by his admiring senatorial chums into the cloak room for resuscitation, becomes attorney for the Standard Oil Company, all populism screams, howls and yells about the impropriety of a statesman acting as an attorney.

It was all right in the other twin. But it is all wrong in Thurston to act for a corporation as its advocate and counsel.

When will Smyth begin an action against the silver smelter trust at Omaha? How long shall these discriminations between silver and oil continue in the attorney-general's office of Nebraska?

DON'T KNOW. The Springfield Republican, which has been a long time the especial organ of the extra-Bostonese style of statesmanship, declares in an editorial on August 28th:

"We are not in the secrets of the Bryan councils. We do not know what his purposes are or his acts would be, if elected, in respect to gold and silver."

The editor of the Springfield Republican ought to begin the careful study of that interesting and modest volume of Bryan biography called "The First Battle" at once. In that the editor may get "secrets" of "the Bryan councils" and the purposes "of Bryan in regard to gold and silver." In that volume of dogmatic utterances may be found:

"The money power and its allies throughout the world have entered into this conspiracy to perpetrate the greatest crime of this or any other age *i. e.* to establish and perpetuate the gold standard."

Referring to Secretary Carlisle on page 451 of "The First Battle," Bryan says:

"The Secretary of the Treasury whom I will appoint if I am elected, will be as different from him as possible."

That is, the Bryan Secretary of the

Treasury will pay off government dues, bonds and all, in silver dollars.

And again the Springfield Republican will find, on the same page, this allusion to the Cleveland democracy which sustained the honor and the credit of the government and adhered faithfully to the single gold standard:

"The democratic party has been rescued from the people's despoilers."

Of this class the Springfield Republican was a vigorous defender.

And on page 452 may be found in his speech at Raleigh:

"The man who leaves the democratic party to-day * * * if he comes back he must come back in sackcloth and ashes."

Up to this moment THE CONSERVATIVE notices no abnormal demand for the sackcloth-and-ashes style of dress goods either in Nebraska or elsewhere.

The eloquence of Mr. Bryan at the Chicago convention in 1896 which gave him leadership in that collection of paroxysmal patriots, contained this which the Springfield Republican "in sackcloth and ashes" may now ruminate:

"And now, my friends, let me come to 'the paramount issue.' If they ask us why it is we say more on the money question than we say upon the tariff question, I reply that if protection has slain its thousands the gold standard has slain its tens of thousands * * * When we have restored the money of the constitution (meaning silver free, in 412½ grain dollars) all other necessary reforms will be possible; but until that is done, there is no other reform that can be accomplished."

Now, does the Springfield Republican know the purposes of Bryan as to gold and silver?

REFUSES TO ANSWER. Prominent, reputable and highly responsible citizens of New York are said to have asked Bryan whether, in the event of his election to the presidency, he would instruct the secretary of the treasury to pay off the accruing interest on government bonds and the bonds themselves at maturity in silver dollars or not?

And Mr. Bryan, it is said, declines to be interviewed thereupon and refuses to answer. Is this the same stump-speaker who in 1896, when promenading in majestic defiance upon the Chicago platform, proclaimed:

"The democratic party has begun a war of extermination against the gold standard. We ask no quarter, we give no quarter. We shall prosecute our warfare until there is not an American citizen that dares to advocate a gold standard policy."

"I believe we shall win now. But whether we win now or not, we have begun a warfare against the gold standard, which shall continue until the gold

standard is driven from our shores back to England."

And now is it possible that this inflammable and incandescent statesman will not so let his light shine as to illuminate his position upon the use of silver as the money of redemption?

How can he refuse to answer? Has he not pledged himself to overthrow and forever destroy the gold standard?

BLESSED WEALTH. All money contributed to the cause of an honest currency in the United States is denounced by the pop-fusion orators and organs as wicked, corrupting and malignant money. But the \$100,000 contributed by U. S. senate-seat-buying Clark of Montana to the vote-getting power of Bryanarchy is blessed wealth, properly applied. And his gifts and those of silverites are for a righteous cause, the cause of the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1 in unlimited quantities.

Without a reaffirmation of that cause in the Kansas City platform Bryan declined to run. He knew where the money for his campaign in 1896 came from. He knew that the silver bullion and mine owners had "paramount" interests in his election. Bryan comprehended that silver, doubled in price by legislative and executive action, would enrich the plutocratic owners of silver property everywhere. Unless silver had been put in at Kansas City, no money could have been secured for 1900 by Bryan. Is the silver cause tantamount or paramount?

THE OLDEST SETTLER. On September 3rd, 1900, "the old settlers" of Otoe county convened at Morton Park in Nebraska City in goodly numbers. The day was full of sunshine, tranquillity and contentment. The ranks of the pioneers had been somewhat thinned out since the last annual meeting of the association. As the storms and the strong currents of the swift winds had stricken here and there the strongest trees in the park and hurled them to destruction, so the never-ceasing tides of time had taken, in their resistless course, many of the prominent pioneers from life to death.

THE CONSERVATIVE, however, entertained that day Wm. Low, the oldest settler of Otoe county. He, as a youth, drove team and hauled lumber to build the block house, in the year 1846, of old Fort Kearney, which occupied the site of Nebraska City. Mr. Low is now seventy-two years of age, has few grey hairs, never drinks, uses no tobacco, always tells the truth, and is an exemplary and honest citizen. He enjoys, as he deserves, the respect of all who know him and his patient goodheartedness and splendid sincerity.