

A SOUTHERNER'S OPINION OF BRYAN.

"I suppose there is no danger of Bryan's election," said an eminent Southern banker to a friend in this city a few days ago. "What's that?" replied the interlocutor, "I thought you Southern people were all in favor of his election." "So we are—on the social question—but we expect you in the North to prevent him from coming in," was the rejoinder. This conversation actually took place a day or two ago in a New York hotel, and we print it because it is typical of the state of feeling in the business community of the Southern states. The great mass of the bankers, manufacturers, and traders of the Southern cities and larger towns—the class who have saved something and who have got ahead in the world—are just as much opposed to Bryanism, to the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1, and to business disturbance of every kind as the same classes in the North. They are entangled, however, in the meshes of what they call the social question, or the negro question, in such a way that they cannot separate themselves from the democratic party. Whatever bears that party's brand they must accept and ratify. This is to them the paramount issue. They perceive the incongruousness of their action in denying political rights to the negroes and demanding them for the Filipinos and the Porto Ricans. What they are most afraid of is negro equality, but next to that they dread the election of Bryan, because they believe that it would introduce an element of uncertainty in business. There is one Southern state, however, where business interests are not dominated by the social question. That state is Maryland. Her railroad men, bankers, merchants and manufacturers feel at liberty to act and vote without particular reference to negro equality. The gold democrats of Maryland have accordingly organized a campaign of their own which they confidently believe will result in giving the electoral vote of the state to McKinley. And yet they are not more enamored of McKinley's policy in the Philippines than the gold democrats of New York are.—New York Evening Post.

THE PRICE OF STARCH.

EDITOR CONSERVATIVE:

I am frequently asked the facts in regard to the price of starch, and understand that it is being stated in political speeches that the price of Argo starch has been doubled under the present ownership of the factory.

I believe it to be a fact that the one pound package, which has commonly sold for five cents, is in some cases retailed for ten cents at present. But it is the retailer that makes this price, and the manufacturer, whether a big or little corporation, a firm or individual,

cannot help it, and neither can the jobber.

When the retailer bought the one pound package for four cents, he sold it at five cents and made twenty-five per cent profit. But when asked to pay $4\frac{1}{4}$ cents, it seems that for some reason many retailers advanced their selling price to ten cents. It may be that this was because they could see no "handy" stopping point between five and ten cents; but undoubtedly in some instances it has been done deliberately with a political motive, to pervert a just advance, required by market conditions, into an unwarranted extortion.

Some jobbers appear also to be pursuing this unfair course. A Nebraska City jobber recently met, in a western town, a traveling salesman from a wholesale house in another of the river towns, whom he heard speaking quite bitterly of the National Starch Company, which he called a "trust" and charged it with having advanced starch without justification to $5\frac{1}{4}$ cents. Fortunately the Nebraska City man was able to correct this assertion, being prepared to take orders to any extent at $4\frac{1}{4}$.

This kind of thing is not business, and it is hard to see how it can do anybody any lasting good politically.

As to the present price of starch being unreasonable or extortionate, nobody familiar with costs would make such a statement.

The Argo factory is grinding corn today that cost 35 8-10 cents per bushel at the elevator. In one very recent year, the average cost of corn for the entire year was 19 8-10 cents, and in another it was just 20 cents.

The boxes in which Argo starch is packed cost at present 12 cents each; a short time ago they cost 8 cents.

The box-nails now being used cost \$3.55 per keg; the lot before cost \$2 per keg.

These are only fair samples of the way prices of raw material have advanced, as any one in any manufacturing business knows very well.

Very respectfully,

A. T. RICHARDSON.

Nebraska City, October 6, 1900.

CHINESE RESOURCES IN IRON AND COAL.

China has everything, from a material standpoint, that could be wished. It has people by the hundred million, food, peace, plenty, and, above all else, the two great requisites for natural supremacy today—iron and coal.

Already England is beginning to look with terrified apprehension at the rapid decrease of her coal and iron, for she knows that in the bitter competition for trade that nation will fare badly which has to import its machinery as pig iron and its power as coal. China has the unlimited possibilities of fertile lands, resourceful and painstaking people, and

great supplies of the raw materials, out of which prosperity is built. The question that confronts the other nations is, will China be able to build up such an overmastering prosperity that ours will be dwarfed into insignificance? Certainly, if the same difference in natural resources existed between Germany and England as does between China and England the British statesmen would be confronted by as gloomy a future as could be imagined. But the iron and coal and cheap labor of China are not of the same international value as they would be if they were found in England. From the foundation of the world iron and coal have existed, and for hundreds of generations men used sharpened sticks and chipped flints, until the resourcefulness of some genius moved into the larger field for metal weapons.

From the beginning of the world the ocean rolled its wild expanse between the distant shores, and the wind blew where it listed, and the mariners waited in port praying to the God of winds, Eolus, or any other God, for a favoring gale, until some one learned to tack against the wind, and, behold, the vast possibilities of sailing in any direction at will.

And so today in China the establishment of great iron and steel works at Hanyang, the Chicago of China, does not mean any great revolution in the iron industry of the world, for the Chinese are following in the steps of the more advanced nations, and following a great way off.

The works are situated at one of the greatest natural centres of commerce in the world. Within a few tens of miles lie coal and iron and limestone. On all sides are to be found thousands of patient and capable laborers. Strikes are unknown, the market is enormous and the works are operated at a loss. No nation and no man can at one minute's notice take up the method of life of another nation or man and hope by a single bound to reach where another has painfully climbed.

The Chinese may, and they probably will, develop their coal and iron to a high degree, but it will be generations before there will be any cause for alarm for those nations that have anything like similar natural resources.—Richmond Times.

BRYAN'S PLATFORM.

My platform is like Joseph's coat,
A crazy-quilt to get a vote.
The wildest hobby I will mount,
If I can call it paramount.

Come ye to me who nurse a sore,
And I will cure you evermore.
On one thing only I'm intent—
I want to be your President.

—Abraham Gruber, New York.