

They will bribe every election judge who can be bribed. They will corrupt every count that can be corrupted. I do not understand how it is possible for the plain, every-day republican to close his eyes to what is going on, when he knows that if he aids these influences to carry the election at this time, the same means can be employed to carry other elections, when those who are supporting the republican ticket today will be opposing the republican ticket."

He charges that his defeat will be the result of corruption. Only by being bought can people be kept from voting for him. He announces to the world that a majority of the people of the United States will yield to bribes. A people who would thus be influenced by corrupt practices, who would sell their franchise as merchandise to the highest bidder, are unfit not only to govern others but are not fit to govern themselves. By making such a charge against his fellow citizens, Mr. Bryan impugns their capability for self government. Never before has a candidate for the presidency been so forgetful of the dignity of the office to which he aspires as to thus malign those who oppose him. Never before has a presidential candidate declared that his defeat could be accomplished only by the use of money. Mr. Bryan in thus appealing for votes is embittered by the presentiment of overwhelming defeat, a fate richly deserved.

To show the changed feeling on the part of the press of the country toward Mr. Bryan, we quote the following from well-known papers:

"If Mr. Bryan really believes what he says, he is so utterly lacking in mental stability that he is scarcely fit to be intrusted with the duties of the office to which he aspires. If he does not believe it, he is a blatant blatherskite, who is maliciously striving to set class against class for his own political advantage. In either case Mr. Bryan presents a pitiful spectacle to the American people."—Detroit Free Press. (Dem.)

"We do not remember ever hearing such accusations brought against any great political party by the candidate of the opposition. Partisan newspapers may misrepresent and abuse the opposition, and petty shouters may rant, but for a candidate for president on the ticket of one of the great parties to utter such charges is beyond all precedent. It is not only the impropriety we object to; but they are dangerous. Does Mr. Bryan suppose for a moment that the lower elements of society, which support him, can hear such words (and they have been emblazoned in bold type in the newspapers supporting him in every city), believe them, and go about their work in his own cheerful and good-natured way? Not by any means. Such accusations, when coupled, as they are by Mr. Bryan, with constant attacks on the substantial persons and parts of society, the enterprising and the

prosperous, are bound to incite these unruly revolutionary spirits to acts of violence.

"In the presence of riotous mobs, whose inspiration came from such words, what influence could Mr. Bryan exert? How could he throw up his hands in righteous horror and deplore such outrages? What different effect would be likely to follow these words and others of like import, such as the charge made by him in Wisconsin last week, that the government is building forts near large cities in which to maintain troops to put down any efforts of laboring men to obtain their right? Such speeches cause disgust, and no one can put faith in the man who utters them.

"Least of all does it befit the candidate of a party whose foundations rest on Tammany Hall and the negro-disfranchising South to charge bribery, coercion, intimidation, and corruption of the republican management." — Boston Evening Transcript (anti-imperialist) Rep.

"The decision of the Staats-Zeitung to advocate the re-election of McKinley as the 'lesser of two evils' is highly significant. It both illustrates and strengthens a tendency which has been visibly increasing of late among conservative men, however disgusted they may be with the president's policy, to regard the evils which would come from Bryan's success as the more threatening. This tendency must be accelerated by the more demagogical tone of Bryan's speeches, as he tries in the last month of the canvas to arouse class hatred in his own interest. The Chicago Record, an independent journal, expresses a widespread feeling when it quotes the democratic-populist candidate's recent talk about the republicans seeking a large army in order to overawe labor, and says:

"The man who sows discord among the people for his political profit, who arouses class hatred in a land where there should be no classes, in order that he may get an office, is unmistakably working his own undoing. Mr. Bryan's cause cannot prosper from the moment that he begins to cry out that Americans are seeking to infringe on the liberties of Americans."—New York Post.

**MONEY TO THE FRONT.**

In spite of the efforts of Mr. Bryan and his managers, the money question is now the most seriously considered issue of the campaign. Upon this issue will hinge the result of the election. The financial question has been brought more prominently to the front as a result of the statement recently issued by Mr. Cleveland in which he reaffirmed what he said five years ago when he stated in a letter to Chicago business men:

"Disguise it as we may, the line of battle is drawn between the forces of safe currency and those of silver monometalism.

"I will not believe that if our people are afforded an intelligent opportunity

for sober second thought they will sanction schemes that, however cloaked, mean disaster and confusion, nor that they will consent, by undermining the foundation of safe currency, to endanger the beneficent character and purposes of their government."

Referring to this Mr. Cleveland now says, "I have not changed my opinion as then expressed in the least." The schemes to which Mr. Cleveland refers, the schemes to give us a debased currency although "cloaked" this year with "imperialism" and "militarism," will not be sanctioned by the American people. The voters of this country have already penetrated the disguise and recognize the real, the vital question of the campaign, viz: the maintenance of a sound and stable currency. This must be determined now. This is the immediate issue confronting us. Other questions can wait. Congress may deal justly with the Filipino with either Bryan or McKinley but a sound currency and industrial progress are impossible with Bryan.

**TABULATED LIES.** Mr. H. L. Sively and Mr. E. L.

Fuller, of Scranton, Pa., call the attention of THE CONSERVATIVE to a lot of "Labor Statistics" which have been manufactured to order by the "Trust" committee of fusionists which is running Bryan for the presidency. They send the entire table and wish specific denials of each one. But life is too short to even say "No" to the innumerable fabrications which the fusion candidate trust is putting on the market.

The presidential candidate of the combine and his supporters, who declare that times are no better in 1900 than they were in 1896, can not expect people to take seriously any of their detailed tabulated mendacity.

However, to show the utter falsity of the whole list of "statistics" it is only necessary to answer the assertion that "it requires twenty bushels more corn to buy a wagon than it did in 1896." Any well informed person knows that in 1896 corn was selling for from 10 to 15 cents per bushel and that a standard farm wagon was then worth \$60. In other words, it took 400 bushels of corn at 15 cents to buy a wagon in 1896. In 1900 wagons have increased in price to \$65, but with corn selling at 35 cents a bushel in Nebraska, it requires less than 200 bushels to buy the wagon. The same is true in regard to all the other articles of merchandise referred to in the "statistics." It is admitted that the prices for farm machinery and utensils have increased during the last four years, but the fact remains that the purchasing power of farm products—corn, wheat, beef, pork—is greater today, by a large percentage, than it was in 1896.