

SPEECH OF GENERAL BRAGG.

General Bragg in his speech at Milwaukee Oct. 10, spoke in part as follows :

It will be from the standpoint of a national democrat, by education, conviction and affiliation—I may say, and from heredity — that I speak tonight, extending in some regard beyond mere party duty to the more exalted duty of every loyal citizen in the land, to rally in the defense and support of his country in times of danger, trouble or need, foreign or domestic, and never by word, act or deed “give aid or comfort to its enemies.”

I have never yet voted for a chief magistrate of this nation whose name had not been presented for the suffrages of the people by a democratic convention. There is no taint of “trimmer” in my blood or lineage. It has always been my pride to be able to rise in place, and using the words of a great leader of the party in New York, before the spell of expediency overthrew the convictions of his judgment, “I am a democrat!” But I have a pride infinitely greater than that—that I have always held my life and service subject to my country’s call, irrespective of the politics of the head of the government.

The heart of this great people has always beat loyal to the government when the war trump sounded, and has never tolerated, and will never tolerate, encouragement to a public enemy, while he is robbing, fighting, slaying the brave men, your sons and brothers, whom the government has sent forth to do its mission, whether that enemy be an Englishman or Mexican, a Spaniard or a Filipino.

It matters not how specious the plea, how earnest and honest the pleader, charm he ever so sweetly, or ever so wisely, the American ear may listen, but the loyal heart is sealed against its influence.

Looking over the history of the past and comparing it with the present instincts of the American people as I know them, it seems beyond possibility that any party or any candidate, no matter upon what high plane of morals, of sympathy for the oppressed, or of constitutional rights, he affects to plant himself, can succeed in reaching the support of the electors of the United States, when in the face of bloody war, he classifies the treacherous Aguinaldo as a patriot, and his guerrilla bands who are shooting down our soldiers, as subjects of our sympathy, if not of our open commendation.

Cleveland’s Administration.

Mr. Cleveland was the first democrat to reach the presidential chair after the war. He was a man not remarkable for his personal graces, but was possessed of a clear, well-trained, logical mind, and as his state papers bear witness, was a statesman, well equipped to assume the responsibilities and discharge

the duties of the high office to which he had been elected. His judgment was not technical, but eminently practical; his honesty was above suspicion, and he had the courage of his convictions. He won his way to the high office as a tribute to his personal character, and to the faithfulness with which he had discharged the trust reposed in him as mayor of Buffalo and governor of the Empire State of the Union. He never led a crusade for delegates, he never vaunted his qualifications upon the stump; but believing it contrary to the traditions of his party, contrary to good taste, and repulsive to the better sense of the people, to travel from town to town to expose and laud his wares, he remained quietly at home during the exciting canvas which followed his nomination, and was chosen by the people upon his merits, without personal solicitation of the voter for his suffrage.

In his first inaugural address, touching the great financial question upon which the campaign of 1896 was waged and won, he said :

“A due regard for the interests and prosperity of all the people, demands that our finances shall be established upon such a sound and sensible basis as shall secure the safety and confidence of business interests, and make the wages of labor sure and steady.”

In his first annual message he points out the results of the compulsory coinage bill of February, 1878, under which, up to that time, 215,759,431 silver dollars had been coined, and the fact that only \$50,000,000 had found their way into circulation. In this message he fully exploded the theory that cheap money benefits the wage-earner, and in addition to his own argument, cites the great Webster, who declared in the United States senate in 1834 :

“The very man of all others, who has the deepest interest in a sound currency, and who suffers most by mischievous legislation in money matters, is the man who earns his daily bread by his daily toil.”

The message recommended that the provisions of this Act be suspended, and it was done, and the war to avenge the so-called crime of '73 was renewed by the silverites against Cleveland, and the distrust of a democrat was so easily aroused, that upon his candidacy to succeed himself he was defeated at the polls, and was succeeded by General Benjamin Harrison, in whose administration a truce was affected on the silver question, by the Act of July 14, 1890, commanding the purchase monthly by the secretary of the treasury, of 4,500,000 ounces of silver bullion, paying in treasury notes, redeemable in gold or silver coin, etc.

Re elected in Spite of Free Silver Antagonism.

Mr. Cleveland, in spite of his free silver antagonists, was re-elected in 1892, and in his inaugural address, with-

out regard to the effect to be produced upon himself, in bugle notes sounded the alarm in these words :

Manifestly nothing is more vital to our supremacy as a nation, and to the beneficent purposes of our government, than a sound and stable currency. Its exposure to degradation should at once arouse to activity the most enlightened statesmanship, and the danger of the depreciation in the purchasing power of the wages paid to toil should furnish the strongest incentive to prompt and conservative precaution.”

After a careful consideration of the evils threatened, and of the preventives to soften, or avoid the effect of them, which he saw were sure to come, on the 8th day of August, 1893, he summoned a special session to repeal the law, which was the root of the evil by destroying business confidence in our financial system. No man can read that message and not fully endorse the foresight and judgment of the president. The law was repealed, by a senate hostile, politically, to him, the correctness of his views, being so manifest, and the impending danger being so great. But it was too late; the financial system was tottering, past bracing up. The crash came. It was a legacy bequeathed to him by his predecessor, but its effects were charged to Cleveland, and soon the war dance of Mr. Bryan was prepared, and the great crusade, which in his book he compares to the work of Peter the Hermit, to raise an army to retake Jerusalem and the tomb of our Savior from the Saracens.

The members of the party who were unwilling to forswear democracy as it had been taught them by the fathers, organized themselves as National Democrats at Indianapolis, simply to preserve the sacred fires of the faith burning upon the democratic altars, and keep them burning, to await the arrival of the bridegroom, when the folly, fanaticism and madness that led to the leprous union of silver republican, socialist, anarchist, populist and quasi-democrats, should be dissolved, and its tenets discarded and the old faith be restored. That body of national democrats declared their faith and placed at the head of their ticket that gallant soldier, sound statesman and good citizen, General John M. Palmer.

Imperialism.

In his great speech in New York a few days since, Mr. Schurz ignores Mr. Bryan and his incompetency, and his dangerous following, and puts his opposition to Mr. McKinley, not on any newly acquired confidence in the man he now supports—far from it. He has no new-born respect for and trust in him, but he casts his eyes to the distant Philippines, and sees through the mist, looming up, a ghost pushing for a seat at the banquet table of the nations, and that ghost which he christened “Imper-