

BRYAN ON BOLTING. The following extracts are from a letter written by William Jennings Bryan to Hon. Geo. A. Carden of Dallas, Texas, on February 18, 1896. They were published in the Chatham, N. Y., "Republican" in September, 1896:

"In June, 1895, I was discussing the silver question at Jackson, Miss., when a gentleman in the audience asked me if I would support a gold-standard candidate on a gold-standard platform if the democratic convention would nominate such a candidate. I answered that, while I did not believe the democratic party would take such action, I would refuse to support the nominee in the event that it did select a gold-standard candidate on a gold-standard platform. * * * I never retracted what I said at Jackson, and I do not intend to. No convention can rob me of my convictions, nor can any party organization drive me to conspire against the prosperity and liberty of my country.

"I deny the right of a convention to depart from the principles as taught by the party in the past and then attempt to bind those who shall participate in the hope of holding the party to its ancient position.

"Men who agree upon a principle can submit their personal preferences to the arbitration of a convention, but men who honestly differ upon the paramount public questions cannot afford to be harmonized by a national convention.

"Mr. Cleveland would not support a free-silver candidate for the presidency, and he should not do so if he really believes that free coinage would ruin the country, because a man's duty to his country is higher than his duty to his party."

THE CONSERVATIVE avers, without fear of successful disapproval, that Col. Bryan, in 1892, did not vote for Cleveland electors, but voted for Weaver electors.

FROM A PARTICULAR TO A GENERAL. Col. Bryan, before his friends, Croker and the looting legions of Tammany Hall, raised his corn-husking and calloused hands and related the report of his own prosperity as a farmer and proceeded to show that the report was a gross exaggeration. "If" he said, "I am a sample of what is going on on the farm I have some idea of what is taking place there."

The farmers who "farm the farmers" are well represented by the fake farmer Bryan. He plows with his tongue, fertilizes with oratory and reaps with self-contradictory prophecy. His "First Battle" was the fruit of 1896 and he garnered his dollars from the fools who followed his fallacies. THE CONSERVATIVE agrees with Col. Bryan when he remarks: "If I am a sample of what is going on on the farm, I have some idea of what is taking place there." And he might have added that also the photographic artist must have the same "idea"

and the yield of bucolic boots, patched breeches and dilapidated felt hats in rural-life photography, will be enormous for the autumn of 1900. Reasoning from a particular to a general, Bryan can forecast a platoon of photographers at work on every other twenty-acre farm like his in the United States. Bryan posing as a farmer is absurd. He is no more a farmer than he is a statesman; oratory cannot plow, plant or harvest a crop any more than it can build up and administer a republic.

BRYAN. The New York Evening Post, in its leading editorial, October 18, said:

"Before Bryan came to New York it had been made plain that the dominating issue of the campaign for the overwhelming majority of voters was not Imperialism, or Trusts, or Silver, but Bryanism as a whole—Bryanism as they had already learned it. Since the visit of the democratic-populist candidate to this city, Bryanism itself has become a more comprehensive thing than it was before, including as it now does an open alliance with Tammany and a personal endorsement by the candidate of the Tammany boss. Bryan's tribute night before last, "Great is Tammany, and Croker is its prophet," became at once a part of his personal platform. His open companionship with the most detested politician in the country, and his apparent insensibility to the disgrace of such an alliance, illuminate his own character. That the incident is bound to have a powerful effect, in turning away from Bryan voters who have been hesitating hereto, is already clear."

Not here. The elements of Bryanic society in Nebraska, which are wildly enthusiastic, are akin to the whooping-up Croker elements in New York. The chum-like intimacy between Bryan and boodle, represented by Croker in New York, will only intensify the admiration of the personal following which Bryan has in Nebraska for—with here and there an honorable exception—they are as alike as two herds of sheep, swine or donkeys. They bleat, squeal or bray in accord with their "boss."

LIBERTY AND MONEY. Addressing the assembled convicts of the Sing Sing penitentiary, during his New York tour, Col. Bryan could say: "I am not opposed to liberty for men who do not steal, murder and ravish."—with the same propriety that he said to Dick Croker and his howling boodlers: "I am not opposed to honestly acquired wealth."

Croker got his wealth out of the blackmail, levied upon criminality in New York by Tammany hall, so did every yelper at Bryan's heels in that great procession of burglars, blacklegs, and vagabonds. Vote for Croker and you vote for Bryan—for Bryan and you endorse Croker.

WILLIAM L. WILSON. William L. Wilson, former post-master-general of the United States, and more recently president of the Washington and Lee University at Lexington, Virginia, died suddenly on October 17, 1900. His career was brilliant and blameless. He became a diligent student in his earlier years and a ripe scholar in middle life. His neighbors and friends sent him to congress, taking him from a professorship in the University of West Virginia with spontaneity and without asking him whether they might do so or not. In congress he soon made his mark as a man of sincere convictions, profound research and absolute honesty of purpose. He was lovable as a friend and admirable as a teacher. In all the relations of life, public and private, he did his duty with cheerfulness and always conscientiously. It is impossible to brief his career in the small space allotted to his memory in the present number of THE CONSERVATIVE.

He was our guest here at Arbor Lodge from April 29, 1900, until his return on the 1st of May to his home in Lexington. Since his departure we have received two or three letters from him, all of them cheerful, although each one indicated his conviction that he was gradually declining in life. Hereafter from time to time THE CONSERVATIVE will endeavor to do justice to the memory of this great, good and faithful man.

A REFORM GUESS. At Baltimore, Maryland, on Sept. 19, 1896, Mr. William J. Bryan said:

"If we win this fight now reform will begin at once; if we are defeated in this campaign, there is nothing before the people but four years more of harder times and greater agitation, and then the victory will come. Our opponents say that they want to restore confidence, but the republican party cannot restore prosperity in this country so long as that prosperity is doled out to us by foreigners who profit by our distress."

NOTABLES. On Saturday, the 20th of October, 1900, a great crowd gathered at Nebraska City to greet Senator Hanna, of Ohio. He addressed the people briefly at the court house. He talked plain business in a straight-from-the-shoulder style. He made a favorable impression.

In the evening the distinguished and eloquent Stewart L. Woodford, spoke at the "Overland." Gen. Woodford. His remarks were logical, in good taste and without abuse. He made many friends by his instructive and captivating oratory.