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MR. WILSON'S WORK FOR TARIFF REFORM.

We have long regarded Mr. Wilson's appearance to close the debate on his tariff reform bill as one of the finest incidents in the history of the house, and probably equalled by nothing since William Pitt was carried to the House of Commons to deliver his speech denouncing the war on the American colonies. Mr. Wilson was still weak from the ravages of fever. In addition to that, he suffered a most painful neuralgic attack. But on August 15, 1894, he was helped to the House of Representatives, and he made the closing appeal to his colleagues in favor of reduced taxation. With his throbbing head swathed in bandages, and with his eyes covered from the light by a handkerchief, and with every fibre of his body either weakened by disease or palpitating with pain, he stood in the house and reminded his colleagues, in the words of Burke, that the "battles of civilization were fought around the question of taxation," and summoned the democratic members to answer the roll-call of freedom which the Wilson bill, with all its imperfections, granted the American citizen.

The scene was one that will not be forgotten by anyone who witnessed it. He sat down amid the wildest enthusiasm on the floor and in the galleries, and submitted himself to the almost hysteric embraces of his friends. He had done something for human freedom. He had lifted some of the burden of taxation from the shoulders of the American people. He had led congress in a step towards civilization. What a pity that sordid and selfish interests have conspired by the aid of accidental circumstances to reverse that step.—Utica Observer (dem.)

THE SILVER PLANK.

Ex-Congressman Geo. E. Adams of Chicago advances the following explanation for Bryan's retention of the 16 to 1 plank in his platform.

"The only logical explanation has been given at Washington. It is said that Col. Bryan had that plank put in the platform to secure his own position as leader of the democratic party, which ever way the election went. It kept the silver end of the party up and



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it kept the gold democrats down. He would be glad to have the rank and file of the gold democrats come back and vote for him. He would rather not have the gold democratic leaders like Cleveland, Carlisle, Eckles, Morton, and the rest, come back if he could win without them, and he thought he could. If they came back they might make him trouble. He did not need them as leaders. He had leaders enough. He had himself and Altgeld, Croker and Tillman, and a few young and rising men of destiny. There was not room for more."

"Besides, Bryan, as a good politician, may have felt that if the Cleveland leaders came back they might hurt him, not only after the election, but during the campaign. It is a fact that when Olney and Bourke Cockran did straggle back the reasons they gave and the arguments they used made Bryan wince and made republicans chuckle."

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