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J. STERLING MORTON, EDITOR.

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**BRYAN EXPLAINS.** The self-assurance of Mr. Bryan blinds him as to the real and immediate cause of the disastrous outcome of the "second battle." That he wholly and completely fails to comprehend the temper of the American people and the reasons prompting their political action, is evident from the statement he gave to the press a few days after his defeat was known, in which he said:

"The republicans were able to secure tickets or passes for all their voters who were away from home, and this gave them a considerable advantage. We have no way of knowing at this time how much money was spent in the purchase of votes and in colonization."

Mr. Bryan here intimates that the main factor contributing to his defeat was corruption and bribery. No thinking man will for an instant believe that so great a number of the American people, as repudiated Mr. Bryan and the policies he advocates, are as viciously dishonest as Mr. Bryan's charge would imply. Mr. Bryan himself, in the same letter, makes an admission which destroys his theory, when he says:

"We seemed to have gained in the large cities and to have lost in the smaller cities and in the country."

It is impossible to bribe, colonize or intimidate an isolated people like those who live in the country or in the smaller towns. It is a fact, acknowledged by all students of civics, that the most capable, independent and conscientious class of voters are the farmers and the voting population of our villages, the

very people among whom Mr. Bryan says he sustained the most severe losses. The implication from Mr. Bryan's interview is that these, instead of being the most conscientious, are the most dishonest of our people. It is only in the large cities, the great centres of population, the places where Mr. Bryan says he made his gains, that corruption is possible and "bossism," the source of it, flourishes. Are we to conclude that Mr. Bryan reasons from introspection? Can it be that he assigns to a large majority of his fellow citizens base and unworthy motives upon the theory that such motives prompt his own political action? Does he allege that the gains made among the farmers, by the republicans, were due to a corrupt use of money because of a conviction that his gains in the city of New York were brought about by liberal expenditures, on the part of his friend and financial agent, Mr. Croker, of the blood money raised for his campaign from the dives and brothels or other forms of criminal revenue?

#### A PICKLED PROPHECY.

The following card appeared in the Chicago Record Tuesday:

"LINCOLN, NEB., Nov. 4th.—To the Editor of The Record: The fight has been made and won. Money and coercion robbed us of a victory in 1896, but I believe they will be powerless to change the result this time. The people are in earnest, and very few can be bought. Our organization is much better than it was in 1896, and therefore there is less danger of frauds. So far attempts at intimidation have been rare this year, where they were very common in 1896; and even where intimidation has been attempted it has angered the employees rather than coerced them.

"W. J. BRYAN."

The fight has been made and one more forecast de-verified.

"Very few can be bought," therefore Bryan and Croker, J. K. Jones, Tillman, Coin Harvey and old Tombstone of Missouri, with the long moss locks, shall enter upon the administration of the government. Keep this specimen of canned forecast for use again when the "peerless prophet" begins to lay wires for the next upheaval of spontaneous adulation by those who seek prominence and office not for honor but for money.

THE CONSERVATIVE is glad that

NO FOURTH OF JULY IN 1901. the Chinese fire-cracker and the Roman candle is no longer to emphasize American paroxysms of patriotism.

And there will be no more discordant vocal music during the sweltering and sweating of citizens on the anniversary of the independence of the United States. Because a prophet, even the peerless W. J. Bryan, in welcoming the Bryan Home Guards and Traveling Men's Club on their return from the national convention, July 7, 1900, said:

"The fight this year will be to carry out the sentiment of that song we have so often repeated, 'My Country, 'Tis of Thee;' if we lose, our children and our children's children will not succeed to the spirit of that song, and celebrations of the Fourth of July will pass away, for the spirit of empire will be upon us."

The spirit of empire has arrived. The Fourth of July is dead, and yet not deader than Moses and the prophets.

#### ENDORSEMENT.

"The kind of democratic re-organization that J. Sterling Morton would accomplish would receive the unqualified indorsement of M. A. Hanna and J. Pierpont Morgan."—World-Herald.

That endorsement among the business men, the merchants, manufacturers, mechanics, farmers and bankers of the United States would be quite as acceptable and creditable as the endorsement of Coin Harvey, Bert Hitchcock, Dick Croker, Billy Bryan and Senator Tillman of South Carolina.

#### DICKIE AND BILLY.

Dickie Croker has sailed for England, leaving his sons and bull dogs and Billy Bryan alone and entirely bereft of his affectionate care and protection. An enterprising publisher will soon issue a volume entitled "The Twin Prophets," or "How to Make a Forecast Without a Fault." The prefatory line on page one will read: "Great is Tammany and Croker is its prophet."

Since the remark of Rev. Burchard in the Blaine-Cleveland campaign of 1884 relative to "rum, Romanism and rebellion," no orator except "the peerless one" has turned so many votes with so short a speech. It was a hummer. But what profiteth it a prophet if he fool the whole world and lose his own election, together with the respect of decent people by hob-nobbing with the prophet of Tammany—the murderer Croker?