

## QUIET PATHS.

There are quiet paths in life  
That lie in ways unseen,  
Sometimes they lead through haunts of peace,  
Where harvest fields are green.

Like the hidden streams that run  
Beneath the dark earth's breast,  
They oft unheeded wind below  
The busy world's unrest.

O'er the quiet paths of life  
Cross eager, jostling throngs  
Of men intent on selfish needs  
Or overcome by wrongs.

And the souls who seek for good  
And men with weary feet  
And sinful ones who shrink from light,  
Here welcome greetings meet.

Here the little children grasp  
Firm hands and know fond care,  
Here tender arms lift straying feet  
Away from harm and snare.

And the aged ones who come  
With steps grown weak by years,  
Find staffs in paths where pilgrims pass  
With smiles to banish tears.

For in quiet ways that run  
Midst human hearts' great needs  
Is seen beside each footprint left,  
Fair blossoming of deeds,

Where the pilgrims onward step,  
Their souls by faith made strong,  
And move to melodies that chant  
Their trusting hearts' true song.

But the songs are low and hushed,  
God, only, hears their tone  
And listens to the steadfast strains,  
The singing of His own.

—MARY FRENCH MORTON.

## DEMOCRATIC REORGANIZATION.

EDITOR CONSERVATIVE:

Paper money reform seems destined to play an important part in the reorganization of the democratic party. Any plan which includes it will likely meet with opposition from fusion leaders; while its exclusion in no wise promises either party union or party success. It is the purpose of this article to state some of the reasons why the party should now advocate this reform.

In the first place such is the logic of recent events. The result of the battle for sound money, begun by the last democratic administration, is so far only the firmer establishment of the gold standard. The marvelous benefits thereof, the credit for which is now claimed by the republican party, are only a part of what can be brought about by complete monetary reform. In the middle of that administration fusion with silver and populism prevented democracy from carrying out the beneficent policy then proposed; but the result of fusion has been only an abatement, and not the destruction of this great purpose. It is uppermost in the minds of all thinking people, made so, not only because the last panic is believed to be due to deficiencies in the money system, but because the return of prosperity is attributed to the gold standard. Money was the real issue of the campaign just closed, in spite of other "paramountcies." It is likely to remain dominant, and in the light of what is now history, democ-

racy should renew the battle for a sound paper money.

Nor should the party avoid this course for another good reason. It is so interwoven with other political questions and democratic policies in respect thereto, that both the solution of the questions and the success of such policies depend largely upon such monetary reform. Take, for instance, the tariff question. If to keep "greenbacks" and other credit money now in use as good as gold, it is necessary that some Americans sell their products abroad at a discount for gold, and buy what they want at home at greatly enhanced prices, thus creating a large trade balance and a tendency of gold to flow into the country, as against the tendency of our present credit money to drive it out. Under such conditions, how can tariff reform be made a success? Remove this burden from the American farmer, give our present credit money a chance to drive gold out of the country, and we stand face to face with panic and depression.

## Paper Money.

Take, again, the matter of "trusts" and include corporations as well, for no one can deny that the consolidation of industries is proceeding at a break neck rate of speed, nor that this should be relieved against so far as due to political causes. One of the most potent of these causes exists in the present paper money system. It tends most strongly towards the centralization and congestion of money in the great cities, and there the money rate is the cheapest. All business depends largely on securing such money, for the money rate is all important. But ordinary enterprise situated a thousand or more miles away can secure it only in one way, and that is by incorporating with other like businesses all over the country, forming a big concern with its stock quoted on the market; when both the concern and the holders of its stock can secure such money. If the local bank could loan its own credit and thus furnish cheap currency to local enterprise, this most material cause of consolidation, both in banking and other businesses, would cease to exist.

But why should not democracy take up the cause of monetary reform for its own sake? The party is not the parent of "greenbacks," nor of national bank notes based upon bonds. The former were created out of the necessities of war, were a temporary forced loan upon the people with legal tender qualities, and were issued upon the express promise of their early retirement by the government. The latter were also a war measure, created at the expense of free, economic banking, to make a market for national bonds. That such money should be retired is as plain as that the national faith should be kept.

## Strict Construction.

Monetary reform is purely democratic.

The cardinal doctrine of the party is strict construction of the constitution. Under such teaching what true democrat can say that the government can emit "greenbacks" or bills of credit and make them a legal tender? The constitution gives no such power. Indeed, at the time that document was framed and adopted it was proposed to grant such power, but the proposition was lost by the vote of all the states except New Jersey and Maryland. On the other hand, what true democrat can say that the 10 per cent. tax on bank issue is constitutional, or that it is not class legislation? No one claims that bank issue should not be regulated by law, but who can claim that this tax brings one cent into the federal treasury? Is congress given the power to tax for any other purpose? One of the functions of the farmer is to raise corn—that is his inalienable right. Suppose the government should tax him \$20 on the acre and thus destroy the right. Who could defend such despotism and the evil consequences which would follow? Yet the ten per cent. tax on bank issue is the same despotism and the same evil consequences, less only in degree. It is cowardly not to defend and protect the rights of a citizen because he is a banker, and the loss of his right is the detriment of all.

## Monetary Reform.

Monetary reform is a progressive movement. It means to tear down obstructive, evil-breeding legislation, and give due operation to economic law, the exercise of greater liberty, and the enjoyment of greater blessings. It means to supplant a clumsy, antiquated old vehicle of exchange with a light-running, elastic, interest-saving one, as the modern mower supplanted the scythe. It means to furnish money more readily and to reduce the rates of interest to the farmer, the artisan, the retailer, and to meet the demands of industry everywhere. It means to localize if not to abolish panic and depression. It means to place the prosperity and security of the country upon a sounder basis than uncertain trade balances in our favor. It means to check and moderate the tendency towards industrial consolidation, to restrict that tendency to its natural causes and provide against its evil consequences. By advocating it democracy can prove itself the progressive party.

## Populism no Longer a National Factor.

That democracy should now champion this cause is both opportune and expedient. During the years of populism and fusion the friends of such reform have kept it to the forefront as an academic and economic question. Sound money organization exists almost everywhere and can be brought to the support of the party. It is especially strong in pivotal states, and in the south the