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The republicans **NOMINATE YOUR OPPONENT.** in the United States have always shown great sagacity and fine strategic skill in their endeavors to nominate democrats for the presidency, to run against the nominees of the "grand old party." Seldom, since 1868 have national democratic conventions been entirely free from republican influences. But the republicans did not wish Cleveland nominated in 1892, therefore he was nominated against republican antagonisms and protests, which materialized in Chicago, through the Tammany delegates, headed by Bourke Cockran, who led a full fighting majority of the delegation from New York. Mr. Cleveland was nominated and elected, notwithstanding the bitter, well-commanded and unscrupulous opposition of the Platt-Crocker-Cockran combination. Mr. Cleveland was not selected by republicans for republicans to defeat. He was chosen by the older, more sagacious and conservative elements of his own party.

The affiliated bosses in both the old parties never intermitted their warfare upon Grover Cleveland. It continued from the day of his second inauguration, March 4, 1897, all through his administration. It materialized in the Gorman-Smith-Sherman combine against the Wilson bill, when tariff reform was attempted. It showed the force of fusion between alleged free traders and out-and-out protectionists, when five United States senators, who had been elected as democrats, fused with all the republican senators and

amended and revised the Wilson bill, until it came into vigor as a protection measure. It was so objectionably and pronouncedly a protective measure in many of its sections, that President Cleveland refused to sign it and permitted it to become a law, when, as it seemed then and seems now to THE CONSERVATIVE, he ought to have vetoed it. But the republicans were far-sighted and adroit. They were craftily planning to disrupt the democracy, and to name for its next presidential candidate an "easy mark"—some man known to incarnate all the vagaries, radicalisms and fallacies which animate the discontented citizenship of the country. Unless the republican leaders could accomplish that, they felt themselves forced to declare for free silver, as against the gold standard, which had ever been, from Jackson and Benton, a watch-word and inspiration to the democrats. The republicans, however, succeeded in the skilled culture of contention among the democratic senators and representatives. They aided the latter in their senseless crusade for free silver, in their denunciations of Cleveland, in their hue and cry against government by injunction, and in their condemnation of the use of United States troops at Chicago to put down riots and to uphold law and order.

In July, 1896, the results of republican strategy and planning became visible in the Chicago platform of an alleged democracy, upon which was nominated the populist candidate for the presidency. In Kentucky phrase, the alleged democracy entered for the presidential race, that year, "a likely, head-up, showy colt, out of Fusion, by Populism—dam bred at Platt-Crocker stables, and sire by Tom Watson, of Georgia!"

The contest was exciting. The colt pawed the air, snorted and pranced with all the symptoms of capacity for success. But the strategists of the republican party had handicapped him with sixteen-to-oneism, denunciation-of-the-United-States-supreme-court and other weights, and then bet against him!

They matched McKinley against him, who also had been neighing for free silver since 1878, when he voted to carry the Bland-Allison silver-abomination-act over the veto of President Hayes. But

McKinley lightened himself for the race by "going" with one ounce of gold, instead of sixteen ounces of silver. McKinley was ready to accept any sort of financial faith that his party platform might prescribe. He would have been for periwinkle currency, wampum, coon-skin, or any other that his party might have chosen to christen as its principles or as essential to its success. McKinley was colorless as to any fixed views in economics, politics or religion. But he was backed by all the force and energy of every element of American society which believed the triumph of his opponent would ruin the country. Against a record of patriotism and practical statesmanship—a record of deeds beneficial to the republic, instead of a record of repeated platitudes—McKinley could not have won. The choice was between two mistakes, and the lesser was chosen.

THE CONSERVATIVE, three years ago, began the agitation in behalf of a new political party for this republic. Such a party is needed.

The patriotic citizenship of the United States ought to call now, soon, a national convention. It ought to declare itself for honest administration; for taxation for public purposes only, and against inter-meddling with the affairs of other nations. It ought, of course, to declare for the gold standard. In short, it should proclaim a government for the sole purpose of protecting the life, liberty and property of the citizen, and not for any other business. It should, therefore, declare against the government ownership of railroads, canals and steamship lines, and also against subsidies of whatsoever sort.

Unless a new national political party nominates a presidential ticket for 1904, the republican party will nominate both candidates, as it did in 1896 and in 1900, and, as in those years it selected an opponent to be beaten, so will it select in the next canvass for the presidency, an antagonist for the same purpose.

Marcus A. Hanna is a very probable and formidable candidate, and his followers are doing all they can to nominate an experienced and disciplined loser to make the race again and against Hanna, whose election would be thus made a certainty.