

MR. BRYAN'S RESPONSE.

It was inevitable that Mr. Bryan should make some response to the action of the Ohio democratic convention. The vote taken in that body was so direct a repudiation both of the Kansas City platform and of himself as a leader of the party, that to leave it unnoticed would be interpreted as acquiescence in it. Accordingly we are quite prepared to learn that the Commoner contains a response of so decided a tone that it might be classed as the countercheck quarrelsome to the Ohio democrats, and to all others who agree with them. How numerous these are the public may gather from the extracts we are publishing from the leading organs of the party and from the interviews with democratic leaders. The acclaim that has come up from the South echoing the Ohio platform is the most significant demonstration of all, since it comes from a quarter which is able to lay down the law to the entire party. The competency of the southern wing of the party to control its action in national conventions, is not disputed, yet its power has seldom or never been exercised. It has been a latent power altogether. If the South had carried out its own purposes and given expression to its own beliefs at Kansas City last year, the platform would not have contained the silver plank which was adopted, or any other on that subject. The southern delegates, however, followed the lead of the northern ones, who followed that of Mr. Bryan himself. They will not make that mistake again. Nor will there be any occasion to do so, since the North is as completely cured of the currency madness as any other section.

Mr. Bryan's response in the Commoner confirms everything that has been said by those who are opposed to him in national politics. The great body of democrats and independents who either voted against him last year, or refrained from voting at all, said that he was so fanatical on the money question that, although the Kansas City platform made it subordinate to that of imperialism, he would, if elected, use the power of the presidential office to debase the currency, and that such action would plunge the business of the country into confusion, the end of which could not be foreseen. This was the opinion of men of calm judgment and independent thought, such as President Eliot, Wheeler H. Peckham, Charles Francis Adams, John G. Carlisle, Senator Caffery, Professor Laughlin, and many others, against whom could be imputed no leaning toward imperialism or McKinleyism in any form.

That these men were right is proved now by Mr. Bryan's insistence that the Kansas City platform ought to have been endorsed by the Ohio convention because of the silver plank in it. "The

money question," he says, "is not yet out of politics. Every session of congress will have to deal with it. Republicans declare that it is dead, but they keep working at it." Even more explicit was his private declaration to Congressman Levy during the campaign of last year, which the latter introduced into a public document, a few months ago, in the following words:

"Mr. Levy—. . . It has never been before stated, but the distinguished gentleman who ran for president of the United States last winter, when he was in Washington, told me that, if he was elected president of the United States, he would find a way to pay in silver under the present law. Now, we certainly ought to give the secretary of the treasury the power to issue bonds to protect that reserve.

"Mr. Hill—Do I understand that Mr. Bryan made that statement to you, Mr. Levy?

"Mr. Levy—Yes, sir.

"Mr. Cochran—Why, certainly; there is no question as to that."

This colloquy took place in the house committee on coinage, weights, and measures on the 10th of January last. It is of some importance still as illustrating Mr. Bryan's fanatical adherence to the silver question as an issue in national politics, and explaining his loud protest against the action of the Ohio convention.

That Mr. Bryan is out of the running as a candidate for the democratic nomination in 1904 is now quite certain. He may, however, be the candidate of the populists, or of some offshoot of that party. He may fall into the tracks of Gen. Weaver, who was the candidate of the greenbackers on so many different occasions. Mr. Bryan is essentially a populist. The aim and purpose of that party from the beginning has been debasement of the currency by fresh issues of greenbacks. To this end, silver was but a stepping stone. Mr. Bryan made a speech for the greenback delusion while he was in congress, and there is little doubt that it was this, and not the "cross of gold and crown of thorns" speech at Chicago, that gave him the populist nomination in 1896. The populists of the Ocala platform will be more than ever attached to him if he leaves the democratic party. That he should leave it, seems to be logically necessary if in 1904 it shall refuse to endorse the silver plank of the Kansas City platform, as it seems now certain that it will. There will always be odds and ends of parties sufficient to run a third ticket in any presidential campaign. For such distinction Mr. Bryan is now well fitted.—New York Evening Post.

EMBARRASSMENT.

One of THE CONSERVATIVE'S force recently wrote to the Newberry library re-

questing reference to some work, if there were any, which would throw light on a certain point in one of John C. Fremont's exploring expeditions; and received by return mail a reply from the obliging librarian, giving the names of thirty-four books which he recommended, and ending with reference to "general works on the subject."

There is such a thing as knowing too much.

TREE GROWTH SPOILS CROP FAILURES.

If thirty-three feet of all the county roads in Nebraska could be planted to maple, elm and ash trees, it would in 25 years be an endowment for the state, beside which the public school fund would sink into permanent insignificance. Hot winds would no longer terrorize the peaceful husbandman and make the family atmosphere such that the husband is a terror to the wife. Rains would come with regularity. Crops would be assured and the golden cornucopia would be upside down over the land from South Omaha to Lodge Pole (which has not yet sent in its returns). In the planting of trees over the treeless areas, and the preservation of the forests that have been left, are the only safe-guards for the agricultural interests of the country. Rainfall in Nebraska is sufficient every year if it could be distributed throughout the season. Violent rainfall is characteristic of treeless countries. It is characteristic of eastern states that were once heavily timbered, and where gentle rains covered the entire summer season before the timber was destroyed.—York Republican.

POLITICAL.

The republican congressmen in Illinois from outside of Chicago are said to be organizing against the candidacy of Charles G. Dawes for the United States senate. The reason given is that they do not like Mr. Dawes because he has outweighed all the congressmen and the senators in his influence at Washington in connection with Illinois affairs, especially appointments.

Gov. Nash, of Ohio, re-nominated by the republicans, and his democratic opponent, James Kilbourne, both reside in Columbus, and have been cordial friends for thirty-six years. No personalities are expected in their campaign. It is told of Col. Kilbourne that he never had a strike in his implement factory and has never reduced wages. When the panic of 1893 came, it was feared that he might have to cut down the pay of his men, and he went before them and asked if they would accept a reduction in case of necessity. They agreed, but the necessity did not arise.