

WIT AND WISDOM.

Private John Allen, of Tupelo, Mississippi, was famous for several congressional terms, as one of the most witty and attractive members of the House of Representatives. His droll method of speech, his quaintness of expression, and his original phrase-coinage, gave him a national reputation as a genial and most entertainingly agreeable humorist. But John Allen has, besides great wit, a large store of old-fashioned wisdom.

Quite recently, in a moment of reminiscent confidentiality, Private John Allen related this circumstance to a chummy republican friend, who has been a noted member of the United States senate from Montana and is now prominent as a member of the Louisiana Purchase commission, so that he and Private John are colleagues working together for the success of the great St. Louis exposition to be held in 1903.

"The fact is, Tom," said John, "that I shall never forget being one of a committee of members of the national legislature who called in a body upon Grover Cleveland during the year 1893, to solicit his influence in behalf of the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 in unlimited quantities. There were about twenty-five members of that committee. Each one presented the best possible arguments in favor of the fad and fallacy of free coinage of the white metal. Nearly all declared to President Cleveland that they believed that unless the administration favored silver and the monetary doctrine we all represented, re-election to congress or the senate would become an impossibility in their states. No cause was ever presented with more intelligent zeal than was that of silver on this occasion to which I refer. The friends of the money fallacy (as it has turned out to be) were fervid and ardent in requesting Mr. Cleveland to change his views so that the democratic party might be strengthened and each one of the statesmen then present returned to Washington.

"After we had all finished, Grover Cleveland, with great pathos and depth of feeling evinced in every feature, said:

"John, I would not willingly obstruct the path which for any of you leads to further political prominence and success. Towards each one of you I have only the kindest personal feelings, but this money question is of so grave and serious a nature that one's own feelings, preferences and desires must be subordinated to his sense of duty. The honor and credit of the United States are at stake. It

is my duty to adhere firmly to the single gold standard for this country. The government bonds have been issued with the distinct understanding, both by seller and buyer, that they are to be paid in gold. National honor and national credit are superior to any partisan considerations. Patriotism and the duty that it imposes, compel me, under my oath of office, to utterly disregard partisan success, and to firmly act for what I consider the honor, the integrity and the prosperity of our common country. If you gentlemen could only convince yourselves of the error of your views and come over to the support of the administration and the support of the gold standard, I honestly believe that it would not only do the country great good, but that it would make the democracy permanently the controlling political party of the republic."

"And now," said Private John Allen, "looking back to that momentous occasion, "I wonder why we did not agree with that old man. If we had supported his views and upheld the policies of his administration, the democratic party would have been in power today, and all of us gentlemen who have been left out because of our adherence to the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1 in unlimited quantities, would have been returned to congress again and again, with unlimited possibilities as to our political future.

"When the historian comes to write of Cleveland and the fact that when he ended his first administration he left \$300,000,000 in the United States treasury, and that when he returned to his second administration four years later, he found that treasury drained so low that there was not money enough in it to meet maturing obligations and current expenses, and that Charlie Foster had already issued his order for the printing of government bonds with which to raise gold to redeem greenbacks, he will characterize Cleveland as a wise and sagacious statesman and financier. That historian will also say that Cleveland's last administration was four years of lost opportunity on the part of the democrats and their pseudo-leaders. If that second administration had been upheld as vigorously and vehemently as it was denounced, the democracy would have remained in power time without end. The very things that were denounced by the Bryanarchists and thrown overboard as unacceptable, were taken up and adopted by the republicans. Upon the money question, just as Cleveland stated and adhered to, the republicans have twice ridden into power over the vagaries and fallacies which the democracy's false leaders had set up.

"The Bland-Allison act of 1878,

which McKinley favored and Hayes vetoed, and which a republican house passed over that veto, was the first foundation of the silver fallacy. That law did not produce the results expected. Its failure was succeeded by the so-called Sherman Purchase act. It too failed to maintain the market value of silver, and these two bills were the primary causes of our financial disasters in 1893. They were purely republican, and squarely antagonistic to everything that Benton, Jackson, Cleveland and the best exemplars of honest democracy have taught."

MODERN MEDICINE.

American doctors run a phrase mint in which they coin names for all sorts of allegedly American diseases. Astute physicians of the United States declare that because of the intense and strenuous life of the citizens of this republic there is evolved a type of diseases entirely different from types common among slow-going and old-fashioned people in Europe. Thus we hear every day a great deal about "nervous prostration." This disease afflicts, it is said, only persons with a plethora of money and of all those luxuries that money can purchase, and it scorns to invade the homes of the poor, or the domiciles of merely well-to-do, comfortably-fixed people. They have only the nervous elation and nervous exaltation which come of strenuous effort to better one's condition. But nervous prostration is a plutocratic disorder. It ought to be called "nervous satiety." It is nervous satiety because it is the outgrowth of undenied appetites, desires, fancies, whims and caprices. When a person, without endeavor or labor, has had everything that he or she could wish or ask for, nervous satiety speedily develops.

Another charmingly all-covering phrase of the doctors of today is "heart failure." When any human being dies of a disease unknown or un-guessed by the doctor, he corrugates his eye-brows, looks wiser than it is possible for any mortal man to ever get in this world, and says: "Died of heart failure!" The anomaly of dying without having a failure of the heart has not as yet been discovered and proclaimed by the medical men of this country. Their meekness makes the meekness of Moses high pride, for when they lose a patient they reverently and lachrymously remark: "The ways of Providence are past finding out!" But when a patient, who has withstood the assault of a disease, a drug store and a doctor combined, thoroughly recovers, the profession says: "How skillfully and wonderfully we did pull him through!" Thus it is evident that God does all the killing of sick people and doctors do all the saving and curing.