

BRYAN, WILLIAM JENNINGS.

Editor, valedictorian and retired politician. Born, Salem, Ill., March 19, 1860, with a silver ladle in his mouth. Has been using it ever since. Reckoned on basis of sixteen to one, he was sixteen years of age at the end of his first year, which accounts for his extraordinary precocity, and is now 656 years old, which accounts for his marvelous sagacity.

In 1887, acting on the principle of "sweets to the sweet," he moved to



EDITOR BRYAN IN HIS "SANCTUM."

Lincoln, Neb., "Lincoln to Lincoln" being his motto. Entered congress in 1891, and was chosen Almost-Senator in 1893 and 1894, as a member of the Near-Silk wing of the Nebraska democracy. In 1896 he was sent as a delegate and correspondent to the national democratic convention at Chicago, and knowing how to write, an accomplishment early acquired in the public schools of Illinois, he framed a silver plank in the party platform. As a reward for this achievement, augmented by a ten-minute speech of the 16 to 1 order—sixteen parts eloquence and one of reason—he received the nomination for the presidency of the United States defeating William Sulzer, Benjamin R. Tillman and Andrew Jackson, by the signal majority of a unanimous vote.

An active campaign followed, and Mr. Bryan traveled six thousand leagues and made four hundred thousand miles of speeches, with such effectiveness that he was granted leave of absence from public service for four years, although his platform, calling for an eighteen-cent dollar and the execution by hanging of the supreme court of the United States, appealed strongly to a large number of his fellow citizens. Renominated in 1900 and was again defeated by acclamation. Since 1900 has retired to Lincoln, Neb.

During the Spanish war Mr. Bryan raised an infantry regiment—the Third Nebraska volunteers—becoming

its colonel. It penetrated Spanish territory as far as Jacksonville, Fla., but met with such unexpected resistance from the forces entrenched at Washington that it never succeeded in reaching the front.

Mr. Bryan was mustered out in 1900, and has remained on the outside ever since. He has his fine points and is every body's friend, but has practically renounced his presidential aspirations by becoming an editor. In rejecting 99 per cent of the MSS. submitted by his fellow democrats, as required by the limitations of space to do, he has naturally weakened his hold upon his party, and it is doubtful if he is ever again chosen to lead it to defeat. Business address, Lincoln, Neb.; permanent home, Way-Back-on-the-Sit-Down, Salt River, U. S. A.—Kansas City Star.

POSTAL CURRENCY.

A unique feature in congressional legislation this winter is presented in the promotion of a postal currency. The system was devised, perfected and patented by a private citizen, who offers the result of his effort to the government free of all cost. The system has the approval of many officials, and is endorsed by a long list of manufacturers and business houses throughout the country. Publishers and farmers are especially interested, in that the new currency promises an easy way for a man in the country to promptly send remittance for his favorite publication. Under the present inconvenient money-order system the individual desiring to send a small sum of money through the mail is met by the necessity for a time-killing journey to the postoffice to obtain safe money. This sets up a barrier to the prompt transaction of business and results in much loss from the fact that many people never carry out their original intention to subscribe or purchase. The need is for money in the hands of the people that can be safely and instantly sent by letter.

The provisions of the "post check" currency bill, now before congress, introduced in the senate by Mr. McMillan, and in the house by Mr. Gardner, of Michigan, provides for printing the one, two and five dollar bills in the future with blank spaces on the face. These bills, of course, pass from hand to hand before the blanks are filled. When it is desired to send one in the mails the blanks are filled in with the name of the payee, his city and state, a 2-cent postage stamp is placed in another blank space and canceled with the initials of the sender in ink, the name of the sender is signed on the back, and, presto! his money has suddenly ceased to exist as

currency and has been transformed into a check on the United States government, having all the safety of any bank check, and ready for inclosure in his letter. When the payee receives this check he treats it just as he would any other check—indorses it, goes to the nearest bank or postoffice and deposits it or has it cashed.

The paid check finally reaches the treasury department, when it is replaced by a new one with the spaces unfilled. This keeps the circulation at par. No change whatever is made in the financial policy of the government, the only change being in the character of the printing on the bills of five dollars and under.

The bill also provides for the issue of \$75,000,000 of fractional currency, with blank spaces similar to the larger denominations, in place of an equal amount of money of larger denominations, presumably twenty and fifty dollar bills. The provision under the new system for a continual reissue insures clean money both in the fractional currency and in the larger bills. The government fee on the five, ten, fifteen, twenty-five, and fifty cent pieces is to be one cent each.—Washington Star.

MYSTERY IN THE SCHLEY CASE.

It was supposed that four official inquiries and the fervid discussion of the Santiago campaign for nearly four years by the press had left nothing unsaid about the Schley case. The English language had apparently been exhausted in giving expression to every shade of opinion that could be imagined or tortured from the one undisputed fact of the destruction of Cervera's fleet.

But yesterday's Chicago Journal contained the following enigmatical and highly sensational line imbedded in its report of the house committee on naval affairs refusing to consider the subject further:

stcl3rtrglar&(r mstoi,b:ff?@notbaa,m

This necessitates a reopening of the whole case, but the American people have an unquenchable curiosity for the solving of cryptograms. If Admiral Schley is not our "baa" whose "baa" is he?—Chicago Record-Herald.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

We have been for some weeks past publishing little extracts from the Journal of Captains Lewis and Clark, illustrating the adventures that befell them on their road across the continent, by way of the Missouri and Columbia rivers, in the winter of 1804-5.

We begin with this issue of The Conservative a series of articles on other early explorers and inhabitants of the Louisiana Purchase and the