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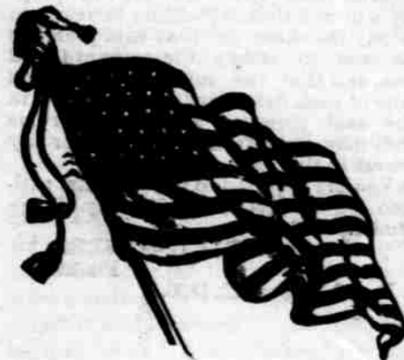
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OBSERVATIONS

There is one idea underlying Mr. Bryan's plea for support in his candidacy or president of the United States—one idea in all his speeches, one idea in all his appeals. That is that every man who has a dollar is a thief. He is logical enough to contend, by implication, that the man who has not a dollar is honest. We have said in these columns that Mr. Bryan is revolutionary. This is disputed. We have said that Mr. Bryan advocates repudiation. This is also denied. Will anyone contend that Mr. Bryan, who claims to be a democrat, a populist and heaven knows what else, is not a socialist?

For four years Mr. Bryan has been a socialist of socialists. He left the democratic party and joined the populists because the populists were nearer socialism than the democrats. Mr. Bryan attacks prosperity. He assails success. Wealth is booty. He looks upon the possession of money as a crime, and yet he would give it to those who have it not. He calls the man who has a dollar a robber and he would take

the dollar from the robber and give it to the man who would like to have it. This is a peculiar platform for a man who would be president of the United States.

The trouble with Mr. Bryan's argument is that his premise is wholly wrong. Honesty isn't a question of dollars. Because a man is worth \$1,000, or \$10,000, or \$100,000, it does not follow that he is a scoundrel who should be dragged to the post and flogged and his money given to the poor. Mr. Bryan is a rich man. He is not as rich as William Waldorf Astor, or Cornelius Vanderbilt or his friend Senator Stewart, the silver king; but he is a rich man comparatively. The great mass of the people are poorer than Mr. Bryan. How many of the "tolling masses" that he tells us about are able to live so comfortably as Mr. Bryan, without any visible means of support? The popocratic candidate for president lives in his own house and keeps servants and has a little money loaned out. So compared with the multitude, he is a rich man. Were we to judge Mr. Bryan by his own code we would be compelled to find him guilty of grand larceny. But we do not believe Mr. Bryan is a thief any more than we believe John Wanamaker of Philadelphia, or Dr. Paine, of this city, is a thief. We do not believe Mr. Bryan has acquired his money dishonestly. We believe that many rich men are honest.

The minute we assail the right of property, that minute we become anarchists—worse than socialists. And Mr. Bryan's campaign is a systematic, adroit attack on all property, on the right of the men who have accumulated property to be protected in their lawful possessions. He tells us that the money owners—and he is a money owner himself—must be overthrown. Has any candidate of any considerable political party in this country ever made his canvass on a plea so dangerous and revolutionary?

There are a few men who advocate Mr. Bryan's election who say openly: "A great many people are bankrupt already; let us go farther and bankrupt everybody; let us burn all the ships and make everybody take to the sea with us." And Mr. Bryan, standing for this destructive, revolutionary, anarchistic idea, has the effrontery to tell us that it is a "good thing." Would you make prosperity by creating poverty? Would you build up by tearing down?

Mr. Bryan has admitted that his election would be followed by a financial panic. He says it would not last long. What does Mr. Bryan know about how long it would last? The present panic commenced May 15th, 1893. Ever since wise men have told us that it is about to end. It is still on. How are the "tolling masses" to be benefited by another crash that will absolutely paralyze the commerce of this country? With the banks closed, railroad companies bank-

rupt, factories shut down for want of money, it seems to us that the "tolling masses" would be infinitely worse off than they are now. And for how many years could the "tolling masses" stand such a condition as would be brought about by Mr. Bryan's election? If the fear of Bryan's election causes Burlington stock to drop from eighty to fifty-four and all other stocks to lose from one fourth to one third of their value, and causes depositors to withdraw nearly \$60,000,000 from the national banks of New York city in six weeks, and brings on a more serious money stringency than we have seen since 1893, what would be the result if Mr. Bryan should be successful? The issue in this campaign is a simple, business proposition. Is confidence to be restored and business resumed, or are we to plunge still farther into adversity and put from five to ten years between us and prosperity? The "tolling masses" in this country include from 50,000,000 to 60,000,000 people. These are the people who are affected by the business condition. Is it a "good thing" to destroy the earning and producing power of this number of people?

Governor Altgeld, in opening his campaign for Bryan, free silver and Altgeld in Illinois brought out in the most striking manner the contrast between present conditions, brought on by distrust and shaken confidence, and the conditions that obtained four years ago when the political party that is now out was in. The governor said: "There was a time in the history of our country when a healthy body, a healthy brain, an honest heart and two willing hands were all the capital that a young man needed to start on a successful career. He had his choice of employment. There was novelty on every hand, and he could enter a field that suited his tastes."

There are millions of farmers who once were prosperous and could sell the products of their farms for such prices as enabled them not only to pay their taxes, pay their debts, but to supply their families with the comforts and even the luxuries of life. They had money to spend at the store, at the shop and at the college.

There are in this community mine operators who once found a broad market in which to sell their coal and could realize prices which enabled them to pay living wages to their men.

There are in this state thousands of miners who make their living by the hardest work known to man, digging in the bowels of the earth. Once there was a demand for their labor. Instead of having to tramp over the country and seek jobs they were sought for at their homes. They were able to earn enough money to not only support their families but to educate their children.

There are all over this country merchants who once were prosperous and

active. Their business was large, and the farmers and laborers came to their stores and purchased freely.

There was a time when the manufacturers were all busy making various things that were used by a prosperous and progressive people. There was a buyer for everything they could make. Their shops were filled with laborers receiving their wages.

There was a time when our railroads were all busy. There was a time when there was activity everywhere in this land. There was a demand for brains and a demand for muscle. Every man willing to work had his choice of labor. The great common tolling masses of our country were contented, were educating their children, were good citizens and were happy. All this has changed and there is paralysis, stagnation, want, suffering and discontent all over this the richest land under the sun."

What a contrast between the sensationalism of the Blaine and Cleveland campaign of 1884 and the seriousness of the contest that is now on? Twelve years ago the people of this country were disgusted with the nauseating details of a campaign of personalities. Now they are interested almost solely in a discussion of principles. No presidential campaign in a great many years has been so free from personalities as this contest between McKinley and Bryan. The youthfulness of the democratic candidate as emphasized by certain boyish manifestations has contributed the only personal element of the canvass. The people have accepted the integrity and high character of Mr. McKinley and Mr. Bryan as indisputable fact, and there has been no disposition to invade the sanctity of the private life of the candidates.

Twelve years ago principles were, for at least a part of the campaign, almost entirely lost sight of. Newspapers became detective agencies, and stump speakers turned scandal mongers. It was a campaign of mud slinging, and before it was all over a good many people were bespattered. The incidents of that campaign are seldom referred to now. One of the candidates is dead and his name is given an important place in history. The other is president and in the intervening years has become one of the most striking public figures this country has produced. Many of the details of this memorable campaign have passed out of recollection, and it is a good thing.

Samuel J. Tilden who was the choice of a great many democrats, wrote to Daniel Manning, chairman of the democratic committee of New York, under date of June 10th, 1884: "Having now borne faithfully my full share of labor and care in the public service, and wearing the marks of its burdens, I desire nothing so much as an honorable discharge. I wish to lay down the honors and toils of even quasi-party leadership, and to seek the repose of pri-