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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Partly cloudy and occasional threatening weather; slightly cooler; winds mostly southerly.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 15

PROPHET OR MOUNTEBANK?

We have been looking over William J. Bryan's Great Book. The Oregonian possesses a copy. The book was published shortly after the author's defeat in 1896. It is entitled "The First Battle." The title carries with it the intimation that though that first battle for sixteen-to-one was lost, others were to follow, that the struggle for the sacred ratio and for the rescue of mankind from the cross of gold was to continue, and that there could be no doubt of final success. But now, in a speech of acceptance of 10,000 words, he wholly ignores the great question, leaves it to be inferred that the first battle for the sacred ratio was the last, and even expresses impatience that wicked men at this time are trying to press economic questions on the country.

We find great things in the Great Book. First, we quote from the speech on accepting the Democratic nomination in "the enemy's country"—at New York: "The gold standard has been weighed in the balance and found wanting." (Page 321.) "They err in saying that we have reached the end of the evil results of a gold standard; we have not reached the end. The injury is a continuing one, and no one can tell how long the world is to suffer from the attempt to make gold the only standard money. So long as the scramble for gold continues, prices must fall, and a general fall of prices is but another definition of hard times." "A gold standard discourages enterprise and paralyzes industry." (Page 322.) "A gold standard is ruinous to merchants and manufacturers." "Salaries in business occupations depend on business conditions, and the gold standard both lessens the amount and threatens the permanency of those salaries" (Page 323.) "The gold standard has compelled the American people to pay an increasing tribute to the creditor nations of the world—a tribute which no one dares to defend." (Page 336.) This last extract makes especially funny reading just now, when our people have just taken $50,000,000 of the new British loan, and British newspapers complain in turn that their country is becoming a "debtor nation," doomed to pay "an ever-increasing tribute" to the United States.

In his speech accepting the nomination of the National Silver party at Cleveland he repudiated with scorn the idea that a supporter of the gold standard could be a Democrat. He said: "I never believed that the Democratic party would indorse the gold standard, but when those who questioned me were not content with the probabilities, and asked me whether, in the possible event of the Democratic party declaring for gold, I would support the nominee, I said, as you may remember, that under no circumstances would my vote be given to a man who would use the influence of the executive to fasten the gold standard upon the American people." "I believe the gold standard is a conspiracy against the human race. I would no more join the ranks of those who propose to fasten it upon the American people than I would enlist in an army that was marching to attack my home and destroy my family." (Page 427.)

Every page, indeed, is sprinkled with utterances of this character, and with them are linked the most gloomy and dire predictions of disaster to follow the confirmation of the gold standard, even to the enslavement of the masses of the people of the United States. Just a few more excerpts, here and there: "I believe that nothing good can come to our people till we have turned over a new leaf in our financial policy." "The workingmen of the country will be compelled to withdraw their savings deposits to pay their living expenses." "The gold standard means dearer money; dearer money means cheaper property; cheaper property means harder times; harder times means more people out of work; more people out of work means more people destitute; more people destitute means more people desperate; more people desperate means more crime."

This will do for a climax. Mr. Bryan has now dropped this special line of lugubrious prophecy, and taken another, equally doleful, equally vociferous with the banalities of charlatanry, equally overloaded with cheap, memorised declamation. But what sane man believes that "imperialism threatens the destruction of our republican liberty"? These are the words of a phrase-maker. It is quite beyond belief that a man so completely discredited by his past utterances should expect to find an audience when he takes the role of prophet again. The chief struggle of a country ruled by general suffrage is to rid itself of its quacks and mountebanks. It may not always be so; but so it has been thus far. Yet hope remains that in our country politics may yet be raised to a rational basis. Another defeat of Bryan will help mightily toward this end.

If the silver question is no longer an issue, why did Bryan insist so positively on its insertion in the Democratic platform, and actually compel its insertion by threatening to refuse the nomination unless the silver plank was inserted? The convention did indeed want to get away from silver. But it dared not disobey Bryan's "imperialistic" demand that it be put in the platform; so it put it in, and then sought to neutralize its presence there by declaring something else the "paramount issue." But with Bryan silver was paramount, and "imperialism," which is mere buncombe, is part of the play.

SLAVERY FOR BRITONS.

No one can observe except in sympathetic grief and pain the indignation of the British public, or at least of a portion of it, at the patent conspiracy entered into between Her Majesty's Government and the American bondholder. The ground of complaint is set out suggestively if not fully in the Monday financial cable brought over from London weekly by the New York Times and commendably sent out over the country by the Associated Press every Tuesday morning.

From this week's letter it appears that London is furious at the action of the British Treasury in shutting the door in the face of home investors while it made a deal with certain citizens of the United States through which American gold was to be drawn across the Atlantic in aid of the Imperial Treasury and the Old Lady of Threadneedle street.

And well may London rave. For here we see duplicated, mutatis mutandis, an act of national perfidy that has long engaged the putative minds of peripatetic and phantomiferous statesmen on this side the water and incurred their most powerful imprecations. Great Britain is glad to get this gold. She is glad even to adopt measures designed to prevent withdrawal of British gold from British trade and exchanges, and to force the shipment of gold from the United States to relieve the London exigency, even at the cost of chagrin among London speculators.

This is because they don't know the startling and stupendous body of Bryanite truth. Their eyes are holden that they should not see the foreign bondholder and money-changer in his true guise; their ears are stopped that they should not hear the groans of the British masses even now being crucified upon a cross of gold. If the British Government will take a day off and read Coin's Financial School or explore the truths of financial history as they are embedded in Bryan's brain or in Croker's disinterested philosophy, it will see that the process of borrowing American gold when you are hard up and glad to get it, is in reality a damnable conspiracy on the part of the American lender to enthrall the British freemen with perpetual bonds and slavery.

How little does the British Treasury think, when smiling satisfiedly at the prospect of $30,000,000 in double eagles coming over to London, that the American lender, instead of trying to get a safe and profitable investment for his savings, is in fact contemplating the British freeman, and dreaming in ghoulish glee of the hour when he shall compel Great Britain to take the gold standard and give up all hope of a Chinese or Mexican currency!

The depravity of human nature forbids us to doubt that when these obligations are due and payable, the conscienceless American bondholder will expect to be paid in real money. There is no ground for hope that by that time the Bryanite system of finance will have gained such vogue in London that the debtor British nation will offer to pay the bonds in silver at its free-coinage value, or in costless currency of irredeemable and illimitable greenbacks.

JAPAN THE ULTIMATE VICTOR.

The anti-foreign uprising in Pekin has illuminated many hitherto dark places of international rivalries for commercial influence and territorial acquisition in the Pacific provinces of China and in Corea. Russia's reputation has suffered the most by this exposure, and Japan has obtained the most benefit. When the Pekin outbreak began it was at first ascribed to the intrigues of Russia, and to that power was attributed conspiracy with the Empress Dowager to open a way for Russian intervention and an independent march to Pekin of the Czar's troops. The course of events soon showed that not only was Russia as completely surprised by the anti-foreign uprising as was Sir Robert Hart, who ought to have been able to apprehend and announce it if any one could; but Russia was so utterly unprepared for the outbreak that she proves to have no considerable number of troops concentrated in Eastern Siberia and Manchuria. Instead of having 110,000 men in Manchuria, the total Russian force in the far East is but 52,652, of which number 45,000 were in the Amur district, as completely non-available for aggressive movement against Pekin as our Army of 60,000 men in the Philippines.

Furthermore, the Japanese report that the Russian troops in Eastern Siberia and Manchuria are of poor material. There were but 7288 Russian soldiers at Port Arthur, and from that small force the Russian contingent for the advance on Pekin has been drawn. The allied army at the battle of Peit Sang comprised but 14,000 men, of whom but 4000 were Russian and French, so that the Russian force is less than 4000 in this campaign. Of course, Russia would not be represented by so small a military contingent if she could have helped it, for nothing but the weakness of Russia, caught unprepared, has compelled the allies to allow Japan to secure all the influence and prestige that accrues naturally to her preponderant military contingent. Japan has thus far furnished two-thirds of the whole army moving on Pekin, and she has a regular disciplined army of 175,000 men from which she can easily multiply her present strength in China long before any foreign troops can arrive from Germany, France, Russia, or even from Durban.

The perfection of the Japanese military organization and discipline is the admiration of all their Christian comrades. The troops of the Mikado have thus far borne the brunt of the fighting, and when Pekin is occupied Japan will inevitably be in a position to decide upon the settlement which the powers will make with China, for she will be in a position to veto by her preponderant military weight any unacceptable terms of peace. Japan will stand with the United States against partition and in support of the integrity and nationality of China. As the largest military factor in the relief expedition, Japan will be the ultimate victor; for she will be able to enforce her demands concerning Corea. The China outbreak has increased the influence of Japan at the expense of Russia. The strength of Japan has been demonstrated, and the comparative weakness of Russia on the Asiatic Pacific exposed.

A CLOSE PARALLEL.

The Manila dispatches present a remarkable parallel between the situation there today and the situation in this country in 1864. A force is in arms against the Government and a great political party declares in its favor to the extent of voting the war of suppression a failure and demanding its cessation. The effect is the same—stimulus of the flagging rebellion. The country's answer must be the same—rebuke of the copperhead and assertion of the National dignity. The end will be the same—collapse of the rebellion and discomfiture of its home allies.

Information from the Philippines is of increased insurgent activity, explained in this pregnant sentence:

NEWSPAPERS CONTAINING THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM HAVE ARRIVED. THE REFERENCE THEREIN TO THE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE AND TO A PROTECTORATE TEND TO STRENGTHEN THE EXTREME ANTI-AMERICAN ELEMENT IN ITS INCREASING ATTITUDE OF DELAY AND OBSTRUCTION. IT IS BELIEVED THAT RADICAL STEPS FOR A SETTLEMENT HERE WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE BEFORE THE ELECTION.

Democratic opposition to the war in the Philippines is distinctly embodied in the Kansas City platform, which has reached Manila, and insurgent confidence will be further strengthened when Bryan's speech of acceptance comes along. In it occurs this meaning paragraph:

> If elected, I shall convene Congress in extraordinary session as soon as I am inaugurated, and recommend an immediate declaration of the Nation's purpose; first, to establish a stable form of government in the Philippine Islands, just as we are now establishing a stable form of government in Cuba; second, to give independence to the Filipinos, just as we have promised to give independence to the Cubans; third, to protect the Filipinos from outside interference while they work out their destiny, just as we have protected the republics of Central and South America, and are, by the Monroe doctrine, pledged to protect Cuba.

What will be the effect of this utterance upon the Tagal bandits? Plain as words can say, its message to them is to persevere. Its injunction upon them is to keep on fighting, and if they can last till November Bryan will help them. This is precisely what the Democratic party did in 1864. It voted the war a failure, and encouraged the South to redoubled efforts. The election of Lincoln precipitated the collapse of the Confederacy, and the election of McKinley in November must do the same thing for the Tagal rebellion.

The practical results of the Kansas City convention so far are a few more American soldiers picked off at their posts, a few more gallant bands of intrepid boys in blue ambushed and slain, a few more towns burned, friendly natives and treasure piled a little higher. Pretense of patriotism under such actual performance as this is exceedingly malapropos. But we shall hear much of it until November 7. And in 1904 something else will be uproariously substituted as "the paramount issue."

THE GREAT HUNTINGTON.

In the field he had chosen for the exercise of his great talents, Mr. Collis P. Huntington was supreme. His power in transportation circles, and especially in the relationship transportation enterprise sustains to government, was something no man ever attained before and no man, perhaps, ever will attain again. His career is another of those monumental rebukes to the assertion of charlatans that there is no show in this country for a poor man. Huntington was born a poor Connecticut country boy. All that his father could give him was a brief primary schooling, and, at an early age, his "time." He earned $84 the first year of self-support. His wages included his board and clothes, so that of the $84 he saved every cent. On his way to California he was delayed with others three months waiting for a north-bound steamer; but while others merely waited and used up their substance in being comfortable, he lived abstemiously, he worked and traded so as to increase his capital from $1200 to $5000. All that he acquired in wealth and power he owed simply and solely to his own exertions, iron will, patient accumulation and retention of useful information and application to sagacious plans and prudent safeguards.

It is impossible to speak of Mr. Huntington's career, great in achievement and inspiring in example as it was in many ways of patient industry, strenuous endeavor and bold enunciation of the practical views of life and society he held, without reflecting in regret upon the stupendous power he exerted in a political way for the benefit of the vast private interests with which he was identified. No man so influenced Congress in questionable ways, whatever be thought of the justice of the ends he sought. But if we are sincere we must recognize that the principal in these offenses is the corrupt official and the corporation is the accessory. The average man will prefer to carry on his business in a lawful and honorable way if he is let alone. The original source of railroad corruption is to be found in unscrupulous blackmailers who have sworn to do their duty to the state. With honest men elected to office, all that is unlovely in the public career of C. P. Huntington could never be. The first move of the corporation in politics is self-protection. The next step, to self-aggrandizement, is easy. Huntington, no less than Shakespeare or Lincoln, is the product of the life of his time.

It is clear that the army of the allies since their arrival at Yang Tsun have advanced on Pekin by the wagon road and the river, the same route pursued by the army of the allies in 1860. Had the allies, when they reached Pekin in October, 1860, proceeded to destroy it, they would have irreparably damaged the Manchu dynasty in the eyes of its subjects. They were advised to do so, but it was deemed inexpedient at the time to throw China into anarchy or promote the triumph of the Tai Ping rebels. So the allies, after looting and burning the Summer palace on the slope of the hills, about eight miles out of the city, consented to an arrangement whereby the soldiers of England and France were permitted to march into the capital, but were to pay for the provisions they might need and to retire quietly after the ratification of the treaties. The course of the allies of today when they enter Pekin will naturally be marked by more severity, for in the interest of future protection of foreign Legations they must insist upon the sternest punishment of all guilty members of the government, and their willing confederates. This done and ample pecuniary damages exacted for insults and injuries inflicted, the powers will probably put the progressive party in China in power by placing in supreme authority a sovereign of their nomination and choice, whether he be of the Manchu reigning family or descended from the Ming family.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of July, as compiled by the New York Journal of Commerce, shows a total of $13,609,100. A comparison of the losses by months during the first seven months of 1900 with the same period of 1898 and 1899 is given in the following table:

	1898.	1899.	1900.
January ...	$ 9,472,500	$10,718,000	$ 11,755,300
February ..	12,629,300	18,469,000	15,427,600
March	7,948,200	11,498,000	13,319,200
April	8,211,000	9,213,000	25,727,000
May	11,072,200	9,061,900	15,730,400
June	9,206,900	6,714,850	21,281,000
July	8,929,750	11,426,400	13,609,100
Totals ...	$67,166,850	$77,126,150	$116,908,000

In July there were 191 fires of a greater destructiveness each than $10,000. They may be classified as below:

$ 10,000 to $	20,000	63
20,000 to	30,000	41
30,000 to	50,000	28
50,000 to	75,000	10
75,000 to	100,000	..
100,000 to	200,000	20
200,000 to	1,350,000	8
Total		101

The principal losses were these:

Miles City, Mont., wool warehouse....	$ 250,000
Constable Hook, N. J., oil works.....	1,350,000
Prescott, Ariz., business part of town	1,000,000
Dunsmuir, Cal., Summer hotel.....	200,000
St. Paul, Minn. storage warehouse....	740,000
Buffalo, N. Y., grain elevator.....	750,000
Chicago, Ill, cold-storage warehouse..	225,000
Brockville, Ont., iron foundry.....	300,000

With the exception of February, every month so far this year shows a heavier loss than the same month in 1898 and 1899. The fire loss is rapidly increasing, and to an extent which should attract public attention. Much is heard about the pension list, but in its heaviest year it amounted to $139,000,000.

Now that the license committee is endeavoring to raise funds to defray the expenses of the various departments of the city government, it would be a proper thing for them to restore the tax on dogs to the figures from which it was reduced a few years ago. Dogs have no place in a city, and are generally a nuisance to everybody except their owners. It is understood that the reduction referred to was brought about by several Councilmen who owned yellow dogs, with a view to encouraging the keeping of dogs and thereby increasing the amount of tax to be collected on them. The scheme has proved a failure, as the city is overrun with curs of every degree, and but few of them wear license tags. In looking into this matter the license committee might consider the propriety of a sliding scale in taxing dogs, or some will be complaining that it is unjust to have to pay as much on a fice as on a huge mastiff or St. Bernard. A tax that will effectually lessen the number of dogs in the city is much to be desired.

The first important office to which Adlai Stevenson was nominated was that of Presidential Elector in Illinois in 1864, on the McClellan and Pendleton ticket, on the platform declaring the war a failure and demanding its immediate cessation and the withdrawal of Union troops from the field. He was elected to Congress as a Greenbacker in 1874; was defeated for re-election in 1876; was again elected to Congress as a Greenbacker in 1878, and was beaten for re-election in 1880 and 1882.

Announcement of a 5 per cent dividend on the common stock of the Rio Grande Western, in addition to the dividend paid last Fall on the company's preferred stock, testifies to the continued prosperity of the road. Taken in connection with the Denver & Rio Grande, this scenic and mine-serving line's record shows that people have money for sight-seeing and that the gold standard is not so ruinous a thing for silver men as they imagined.

With Mr. Huntington's death will collapse many an ambitious scheme for further election of United States Senators on the basis of subservience to railroads in exchange for heavy contributions. The fountain has been one from which thousands have flowed into many a state for use in primaries, conventions and Legislatures. But it is dried up now, and the effect upon certain of our Oregon politicians is obvious.

The American people never have greatly admired a white-feather party. They who, on this Philippine question, attempt to mask cowardice under the name of patriotism, may find themselves mistaken; and they certainly will, unless the spirit of the country has greatly changed since 1864, when a political party came before the country with a "surrender" platform, in a crisis of war.

Wellington's support of Bryan is now offset by Billy Mason, who comes out for McKinley. The opposition of either is worth more to the Republican cause than their assistance, among thinking persons, but, unfortunately, the other sort have votes and need to be reached.

It is not at once apparent why the Pekin Government should resume its attack upon the Legations, except their object be the seizure of the envoys for the purpose of expelling them from the capital.

Bryan's Reference to Weaver.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Bryan gives General J. B. Weaver, of Iowa, the credit for first proposing an amendment to the Constitution to provide for the election of United States Senators by the people. Mr. Bryan cites the progress which the proposed reform has made, in the 18 years since Mr. Weaver's proposal, as evidence of the "irresistible force of a good idea." But, as is shown by the New York Times, not only was the idea suggested in the convention which framed the Constitution 113 years ago, but it was received on almost innumerable occasions long before Weaver was heard of; notably by Congressman Storrs, of New York, in 1826; by Andrew Johnson, while in Congress, and by a long list of other Representatives and Senators, whose names are given and whose proposals are printed in the Congressional Globe and Record. The last incident is valuable only as showing Mr. Bryan's noticeable failure to qualify himself by historical reading for the position to which he aspires. It corresponds with the superficial character of his mental furnishings throughout. Compare his puttings forth with those of Lincoln, to whom American history was a household word and an inspiration; with those of Benjamin Harrison, to whom it has ever been the armory of the scholar, the statesman and the patriot; with those of William McKinley, always accurate, reverential and uplifting—and the difference is so marked as to draw the attention of the most careless observer. Bryan poses as a statesman without having studied that primer of American statescraft, American history.

CAN'T BE IGNORED.

What Would President Bryan Do About the Gold Standard?

New York Times.

In pursuance of the trick and pretense that imperialism is the paramount issue of the campaign, Mr. Bryan devotes his long speech exclusively to that topic. In order that the voters of the country may know what to expect of him he announces a definite programme of action:

> If elected I shall convene Congress in extraordinary session as soon as I am inaugurated, and recommend an immediate declaration of the Nation's purpose—first, to establish a stable form of government in the Philippine Islands, just as we are now establishing a stable form of government in the Island of Cuba; second, to give independence to the Filipinos, just as we have promised to give independence to the Cubans; third, to protect the Filipinos from outside interference while they work out their destiny, just as we have protected the republics of Central and South America, and are, by the Monroe doctrine, pledged to protect Cuba.

That will do very well for the imperialism issue, but what the voters want to know from you, Mr. Bryan, is whether you would recommend to that extraordinary session of Congress the repeal of the act of March 14, 1900, establishing the gold standard, and the enactment of a law opening the United States mints to the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1? You may utter twenty times ten thousand words about the turpitude of our attempt to maintain civil order in the Philippines, and you probably will before the campaign is half over, but you will not meet the just expectations of the American people until you tell them whether you still hold and intend to put in practice your well-known opinion that the free coinage of silver will cure every commercial ill caused by the crime of 1873, and make us a happy and prosperous people. In your speech at Madison Square Garden on August 12, 1896, you said:

> We contend that free and unlimited coinage by the United States alone will raise the bullion value of silver to its coinage value, and thus make silver bullion worth $1 29 per ounce in gold throughout the world. This proposition is in keeping with natural laws.

Do you still believe and maintain that the opening of the mints to free coinage, instead of flooding the country with a debased and unstable currency of silver and paper, would raise the price of silver all over the world to its coinage value? And if you are elected President do you intend to try the experiment?

In the Madison Square Garden speech you advocated the payment of Government bonds in silver:

> The right of the debtor to choose the coin in which payment shall be made extends to obligations from the Government as well as to contracts between individuals. . . . It is impossible to justify the policy which makes the interests of the one person who holds the obligations superior to the rights of the many who must be taxed to pay it.

Again, in your speech at Buffalo on August 27 you said:

> My friends, there is no way of taking the Government out of the clutches of those who have been bleeding it except for the Government to resume its legal rights and use its silver or its gold wherever it pleases whenever it has a dollar to pay.

In the opinion of the great majority of the American people, Mr. Bryan, an honest debt due from a solvent debtor should be paid in full. Four years ago you contended that all debts, public and private, should be made, at the option of the debtor, payable in coin demonstrably worth one-half its face value. That is repudiation. If you are elected President do you intend to instruct your Secretary of the Treasury to repudiate any part of the just debts of the Government?

Mr. Richardson's English.

New York Commercial Advertiser.

What is an "unfortuitous condition"—Congressman Richardson informed Mr. Bryan in that part of his notification speech which he was able to deliver before the crowd requested him to "cut it short" and "shut it off," that his first contest for the Presidency was "made against stupendous odds, in the face of a hostile press and with unhappy division in your ranks"; and then he added: "I congratulate you and the country that all these unfortuitous conditions do not confront you today." Did the erudite Richardson reach out his mental hand for "unpropitious" and get hold of "unfortuitous" by mistake? If he did, how did the mistake escape his eye in reading the proof sheets of his address when they were laid before him preliminary to being sent to the press of the country? We may be in error, but it is our impression that Mr. Richardson has coined a word quite unbeknownst to himself. His grip upon the English language seems tentative in various other passages of his speech. He told Mr. Bryan that when, in the previous contest, "partisan rancor ran high, occasionally coarser things" were said of him, and then added: "But you were perhaps stronger for them." Why "perhaps"? He told him also that he and his party have this year been characterized as "dishonest and lawless at home and as cowards abroad," but he felt sure, Richardson did, that "it will stop at this, or, at least, if such hyperbolic flowers of speech are used at all, it will be in rare instances, and only then by some one whose coarse manners before the public are equaled only by the roughness of his riding habit." There is nothing "unfortuitous" about the phrase "hyperbolic flowers" in that passage. Its use there was purely fortuitous.

Gold Democrats Against Bryan.

General John Gill, one of the best-known and highly respected Democrats of Maryland, follows the lead of General Palmer and declares his intention of voting for McKinley. He says that Bryan at the head of Populism menaces the best interests of a safe government, that he is unalterably opposed to him and all that he represents and he asks:

> How can sound-money Democrats and reputable citizens join in supporting this Populistic candidate? It seems to me that the practical question of this campaign and the question which every good citizen should ask himself is: Will the success of the Democratic party this Fall and what Mr. Bryan stands for be for the best interests of the country? If the party were successful, would Bryan, Altgeld, Tillman, Debs and a host of Populists at the helm be to the advantage of the party itself? Is it well, under the circumstances, for the party to win in this election? I unhesitatingly answer no.

That is undoubtedly the position of the great body of the Gold Democrats of 1896. Here and there one is found who tries to convince himself that Bryan is not the same man with the same following that he had four years ago, but he is the exception, and even he is not likely to be found voting for Bryan when election day comes.

The "Happy Coincidence."

New York Journal of Commerce.

The coincidence that the convention which nominated Mr. Bryan met on the National birthday seemed to Mr. Richardson, who informed Mr. Bryan of his nomination, a happy augury. As the day was carefully selected by the National committee, and as any National committee was at liberty to select that day, no one but an infatuated Bryanite could derive much inspiration from the date on which that extraordinary collection of persons got together in Kansas City. That the convention was the "most intensely American convention that ever came together" is a statement that recalls the savage remark of Dr. Johnson, that patriotism was the last refuge of scoundrels. It is the propensity of foolish and ignorant and irrational Americans to characterize their folly, their ignorance and their irrationality as Americanism. Silverism is certainly being dropped by other nations pretty fast, but we see no indications that the majority of the American people are going to adopt it. That "the Republic is in peril" may possibly be believed by some persons, because there is no belief so foolish that believers of it cannot be found, even in the centers of light and civilization; but very few even of the politicians who think the phrase a good one for political use this season have the least idea that it is true.

HIS CROOKED MIND.

Excessive Disregard of Truth on Three Main Topics.

New York Evening Post.

We find in the opening of Mr. Bryan's Indianapolis speech an ad-captandum appeal more refined and guarded than the one of four years ago, but of the same general scope and tendency. He says that the Republican party is dominated by influences which constantly tend to elevate pecuniary considerations and ignore human rights, as though the Democratic party were measurably free from influences of this kind. If there is any place where money counts for more than it does in Tammany Hall, or where its use is more brazen and flaunting, we have yet to hear of it. If there is any region where human rights are more systematically violated and trampled on than in the Southern States, where the Democratic party finds the bulk of its strength today, we should like to have it pointed out. Evidence to show how the Republican party tends to elevate wealth and ignore human rights is pointed out in detail by Mr. Bryan. He instances their preference for the gold standard and their attempts to "give the National banks control of the Nation's paper money," their attempt to beguile themselves with the delusion that there are good and bad trusts, etc.

In all this there is a color of truth, but the suggestions and inferences are essentially false. The motives which prompt Republicans (and many Democrats) to favor the gold stanrard and the National-bank notes in preference to Government paper are quite apart from any thought of siding rich people to make more money or of robbing the poor, and this Mr. Bryan knows very well. He is not such a dolt as to be ignorant of this fact. As to trusts, any one desiring to tell the truth would say that the responsibility for them does not attach to any party, that however bad they may be, they are an outgrowth of modern conditions of trade and are without political bias except as the Democrats have made rather noisier attacks upon them, and have thus caused them to lean rather toward the Republicans.

The weakest part of Mr. Bryan's speech is that in which he defends his attitude and action on the treaty with Spain. He says that he favored the ratification of the treaty in order to "end the war, release the volunteers, remove the excuse for war expenditures, and then give the Filipinos the independence which might be forced from Spain by a new treaty." He goes on to explain how much better it would be for the American people to rise up gloriously and bestow independence on the Filipinos than to put it in the treaty by an amendment and thus extort it from Spain. This has a hollow sound when we contemplate it by the light of subsequent events. Mr. Bryan had his way in the matter of ratification, yet war did not end, the troops were not released, war expenditures continued and multiplied, and all these things were shown to be inevitable by Mr. Bryan's fellow Democrats who occupied seats in the Senate at that time. If the things that Mr. Bryan yearned for as the result of ratification had come to pass, there would have been no occasion for Mr. Bryan's speech at Indianapolis at all, and we shall never be quite satisfied that it was not a part of his plans to keep this issue alive for political use.

No Stagnation in Kansas Politics.

The new boss in Kansas politics is Mrs Annie L. Diggs. She is a Populist; she is State Librarian, and she it was who "held up" the fusion convention the other day and made it put a Populist candidate on the ticket for Associate Justice. And this, notwithstanding there is no woman suffrage in Kansas. The Paoli Spirit records the business in this style:

> There was a three-ring political menagerie and circus at Fort Scott last Tuesday and Wednesday with one Annie Diggs, in swallow-fork attire, as ringmaster. She was "it," and a holy show of herself and the whole thing she made. Democrats who hadn't carried a bucket of water or an armful of wood for their wives at home in years gone, carries her trail, petticoat and all, while the Populists swept and carpeted the path in front of her and the Silver Republicans bore her fan and smelling salts.

Hint to a Trust-Crusher.

Richmond Times, Dem.

We have no quarrel with Chairman Jones for being interested in a successful enterprise. He has a perfect right to be, and he is in great luck to have stock in a company that is progressing and making money. But when he pockets his profits he ought to "draw it a little milder" upon the other fellows who are also making money in successful corporations.

MEN AND WOMEN.

Though in his 73d year, Jules Verne is at work on a new book of travel.

Edmond Rostand has lately been receiving royalties on "Cyrano de Bergerac" and "L'Aiglon" averaging $500 a night.

Henry G. Blasdel, the first Governor of Nevada, has just died in Oakland, Cal. He was 75 years old, and first went West in 1850.

The Prince of Wales has been presented by a British officer with the sword which General Cronje wore during the early part of the Boer war.

Sylvia Dunham, of Southington, Conn., celebrated her 100th birthday last week. Her father, Rodney Langdon, was a Captain in the Revolution.

"Pierre Loti," or Captain Viaud, of the French Navy (for that is his real name), sailed from France for China on Saturday last. He is Flag Captain to Admiral Pottier.

Rear-Admiral Hichborn, after graduating from the Boston High School, became a shipwright's apprentice, and has worked his way, step by step, to his present position.

A 72-year-old recruit has passed the doctors' examination for the Imperial Yeomanry. He had served 28 years in the Black Watch, the Gordons and other Highland regiments, and has six sons serving in the army, four of them at the front in South Africa.

Walter Crane has designed a tablet to designate the house in Chelsea where the painter Turner died. It was during his residence there that Turner took the name of Booth, which belonged to his landlady. The old salts who haunted Chelsea used to call him "the Admiral," on account of his blue coat and brass buttons and his ruffled beaver hat, while the small boys, less impressed, dubbed him Puggy Booth. Steps have been taken to preserve this quaint old cottage, which stands in Cheyne walk.

When the Critic Went Away.

Chicago Times-Herald.

Oh, he criticised his country
And the way affairs were run;
He upbraided those in office
For the bad things they had done;
He swung his arms, declaring
That the ship of state was doomed,
And he tore his hair and fretted
And he clawed the air and fumed.

"We are going down and backward,"
He announced in wrathful tones;
"We are robbed and we are plundered,
We are starved to skin and bones!
We have lost our noble birthright
We are only toiling slaves,
Weak and meek and mean and trembling,
Going down to shameful graves!

Then he sailed away to Europe,
Where he heard a scoffer say:
"What a spectacle your country
Is before the world today!
How misgoverned, how besotted!
What a wretched, ruined land"—
Whereupon the noble Yankee
Licked him till he couldn't stand!

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The official yamun at Lincoln will be reopened in a few days. Colonel Bryan is homeward bound.

Victor Emmanuel is the smallest sovereign in Europe in stature, but he proposes to be every inch a King.

An Illinois young man fainted when the County Clerk refused him a marriage license on account of the youth of his fiancee.

If the Seattle idea in mathematics obtained in the census, the population of the United States would run into the hundreds of millions.

The German vote in some of the principal states is: Illinois, 192,400; Ohio, 161,400; Wisconsin, 150,000; Michigan, 76,000; Minnesota, 66,800; Indiana, 64,200.

With Oom Paul of the dynamite trust, the Tammany ice trust and the Clark Senatorial trust all helping, Bryan ought to run like a scared wolf this year.

An old-time visitor to the Seaside House, who was down there a few days ago, says no one who goes there now is likely to imagine that he is the only pebble on the beach.

This is Li Hung Chang's last chance. If his diplomacy shall fail this time, the official gazette of Pekin will be overflowing with news of the loss of the peacock feather, the yellow jacket and perhaps of the porous plaster.

Ignoration of 16 to 1 is contagious among the silver leaders this year. Bryan snubbed it, Coin Harvey lectured on "Religion of Politics" for an hour and a half at Virginia, Ill., the other day, and he never once mentioned 16 to 1.

A restaurant-keeper at the beach who gives a dance once a week acts as his own "spieler." One of his favorite remarks is: "Walk right in, boys. The floor manager knows his business and will give you all the 'knock-downs' you want."

In view of the number of protests and complaints in regard to the blanket-license ordinance presented to the license committee at its meeting yesterday, they must feel thankful that they passed the ordinance before they advertised to receive objections to it.

W. S. Stratton, who recently sold his Independence mine at Cripple Creek for $10,000,000, gave $25,000 to the Democratic campaign fund in 1896, and was one of Bryan's most enthusiastic supporters. This year he says he will give more than $25,000 to the Republican campaign fund, and will support McKinley.

It is noted that never before have so many party leaders begun a campaign suffering more or less from physical ailment. Senator Platt has one broken rib; Senator Scott has two broken ribs, rapidly mending; "Joe" Manley has a sprained ankle, and Senator Hanna's tendency to gout compels him to use a cane. But all these party captains agree that there is about them not a trace of political disability.

Queen Victoria is said to have a knowledge of every detail not only of the various houses, but also of the parks and gardens connected with the many royal palaces, which is wonderful. Within a very few hours of the court arriving at Osborne the Queen makes a tour of those gardens which are close to the house, her first visit generally being paid to the lovely myrtle planted by the Prince Consort in 1858 from a sprig taken from the Empress Frederick's wedding nosegay. The sprig flourished, and is now a fine bush, and during the last 40 years it has supplied innumerable pieces of myrtle for the embellishment of royal bridal bouquets.

Mrs. R. Corbin, an aged woman, blind and penniless, has pitched her tent in the desert around the Gran Quivira ruins, 150 miles south of Santa Fe, to look for the Spanish treasure which legend says is buried there. Water is brought to her by shepherd boys from a long distance. She has cord strings attached to her tent and fastened to stakes so as to enable her, notwithstanding her blindness, to roam about the ruins, using the strings as guides to retrace her steps to the tent. Nevertheless, she was found the other day out on the desert lost and mystified as to her location. She had a bottle of water, a saw and a pistol, and said that she was on her way to Colorado Springs to raise $100 among friends to further prosecute her work of finding the treasure of Gran Quivira.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

A Hero.—Edith—The man I marry must be a hero of the gridiron. Ethel—He will be; if there is any cooking done he'll have to do it.—Judge.

"Yes, sir; he's de champeen scrapper of dis ward." "Why doesn't he go to school?" "Oh, his mother thinks he's too delicate."—Harper's Bazar.

Eternal Remorse.—"Any news from local seats of war?" "Yes; Kentucky, St. Louis and New Orleans all send word they are very much ashamed of each other."—Indianapolis Journal.

He Helped Him Out.—"And your stepfather told you to get out into the world and earn your own living? He should have given you a helping hand." "He gave me a helping foot."—Cleveland Plaindealer.

Horace—Uncle George, I see a good deal in the papers about roof gardens. What are roof gardens, Uncle George? Uncle George—They are places, I believe, where young gentlemen sow wild oats.—Boston Transcript.

And He Made a Sweeping Bow.—"I know that a great many people do not like my business," said the chimney sweep; "but it soots me." After due acknowledgment of the courteous smiles of his audience, he went up the flue.—Baltimore American.

The Old Jealousy.—"Just home from London, eh?" "Yes," replied the Western man; "I took in everything worth seein' in the town." "How did St. Paul's Cathedral impress you?" "Didn't go near it. I'm a Minneapolis man, myself."—Philadelphia Press.

Mendacity as an Art.—"So that young Chinaman is studying here to perfect himself as a court official in his own country." "Exactly," answered the professor. "What works is he reading now?" "Baron Munchausen, Marco Polo and the European Summer resort circulars."—Washington Star.

The Very Good Old Days.

Baltimore American.

Oh, for the days when shirts of mail
Were quite the proper thing,