

East Oregonian

A SPEECH FROM THURMAN.

He Speaks Like a Real Live Man and an Orator, and Not as if He Were Near a Grave, as Republican Papers Would Like to Have People Believe.

The Thurman Club got up a demonstration at Columbus, Ohio, on Thursday evening last in honor of the nomination of Allen G. Thurman for Vice President. When the large procession arrived at the old Roman's residence he addressed them as follows:

"My friends and fellow citizens—I sincerely thank you for the manifestation of your good will and esteem. It has been well said, find how a man is thought of by his neighbors, and you can form a correct judgment of that man's character and worth. If I may judge from this demonstration, as well as from all actions of kindness that I have received from a goodly number of the people of Columbus for more than a third of a century, I may indulge in a hope that I stand well in the affections of my neighbors, and when, in addition to that, I have every reason to believe, from the attendance here to-night of that splendid body of men, the Randall club, of Philadelphia, that I stand well in the grand old State which used to be called the Keystone of the democratic arch, and which I hope will ere long become our keystone again, then I shall have every reason to congratulate myself and believe that I stand well with my fellow men.

"My friends, I should be the most insensible and cold-blooded man in the world if I did not feel grateful for the kindness you have manifested toward me to-night. Yes, and I may say that you have manifested toward me before to-night; and yet I do not know about that quite. I say kindness; was it kindness? I was living in my own quiet home, with my good old wife, and my children and grandchildren, and friends around me, wishing for nothing in this world but peace and quiet, when you and others like you forced me once more in the political arena. Whether that was kind or not, time will tell; whether it was well advised or not, time will disclose. Just one thing I need not wait for time to disclose, and that is that I owe to you the deepest and profoundest gratitude, from the very bottom of my heart. I got so much of that fire and brimstone down my throat that I can hardly talk, and that is not very fair, for some of my enemies may say of me that I will get fire and brimstone quick enough without getting it now. You will not expect me to make a political speech to-night. When the two parties shall be fully marshaled in the field, when the issues, as the lawyers call them, shall be distinctly declared; when all the candidates have their harness on and are ready for the tilt, then it will be right for me to bear my humble part in the fray. Then, I give you my word that I shall be heard according to my abilities. I think there is life enough in me yet. I think that there is still in this old head some remnant of brains to enable me to tell the people why it is that all my life long I have been a Democrat and mean to die one. And I think that I shall be able to give them some reasons why they should be Democrats from now until they are laid in their graves.

"My friends, it is not my purpose to say anything harsh of our political opponents. That has never been my style of speaking, even when I was a very young man, I might say no man at all, for the first stump speech I ever made I was nothing but a boy. Ever since then I have always endeavored to keep a civil tongue in my head. I always recognize the right of every man to do his own thinking, and if he would only think honestly, and be as tolerant of me as I was of him, there should be no harsh words fall from my lips in respect to him; and so it has been that in contests that have happened in our party, it has never been my habit to quarrel with those who did not think just as I thought. I have been before your convention at St. Louis without my will, against my will, as a candidate for a great office. I was warmly, nobly and generously supported in that convention. I was also warmly and earnestly opposed. Toward those who opposed me I have nothing in the world but feelings of kindness. It was their right, if they thought some other man was the man to be nominated; if they thought it was more politic or advisable, however well they might think of me, to nominate somebody else, it was their right to think so. They were sent there to exercise their judgment, and God knows they have created not a single ruffle in my bosom, nor the least symptom of ill will towards them. No, my friends, I am here to advocate the right of every free American citizen to think for himself. I believe in it, and always have believed in it, as the very essence of democracy and free government; and therefore I wish to say to you all, for it is time I was concluding these remarks, and if I do not conclude them soon our friends from Philadelphia will scarcely find time to reach the depot in time for the train. I must therefore bring what I have to say to a close, and it is that so long as God gives me strength to speak to my fellow men, so long shall I talk to them good, honest democracy, on which I was schooled and in which I believe.

"And now, friends, I should be playing the part of Hamlet, with Hamlet left out, if I did not say another thing that I am going to say, and which I have reserved, upon the teaching of the testament that the master of the feast brings the best of his wine last. I tell you, my friends, that the St. Louis convention did a thing itself which should immortalize it. It did a thing which of itself should command the gratitude of the American people. It did one thing which set a magnificent example for all time to come to the American people, and indeed to all other people who have anything to do in the choice of rulers, and that thing was to re-nominate Grover Cleveland by the unanimous voice of the convention. Now, my friends, when I speak of Grover Cleveland I do not speak of a stranger to me. I never saw him until after he was inaugurated President of the United States, but I have seen him many times since, talked with him much, consulted with him much, and although I have not

seen him for months, I know that man, I think, and I think I know him well; and if there is a brave, honest, upright, courageous, patriotic man on the face of God's earth, Grover Cleveland is such a man. Why, my friends, if he is not such a man, if his administration has not been a grand success, if the people have not found that he was worthy to sit in the chair that Jefferson, and Madison, and Monroe, and Jackson occupied, if such is not a fact, how can it be accounted for that he received every vote in the convention at St. Louis, and that there was not a dissenter from one end of the United States to the other? I do not get such endorsements as that. Traitors to the country and party don't get such endorsements as that; men of small brain don't get such endorsement as that; men of doubtful integrity don't get such endorsement as that. No, it is because Grover Cleveland is upright, honest, and a brave, able man that the whole Democratic party in the United States, from one end to the other, be it State or Territory, be it on the Atlantic wave or be it where the Pacific rolls her mighty volumes of water on our western coast, be it on the great lakes, or be it on the gulf, every man of the Democratic party, every one who has the least claim to honesty, is heard to exclaim, "Give me Cleveland for four years more."

"Now, my friends, I have spoken to you longer than there was any necessity to speak; longer than I ought to have spoken, considering that our Pennsylvania friends have so long a march to make and little time to catch the train. I give you my heartiest thanks for the kind compliment you have paid me, and wishing you one and all happiness in your life, I bid you good night."

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