

CONSISTENCY VS. HONESTY.

The question of Mr. Gresham's consistency in accepting the portfolio of secretary of state from Mr. Cleveland, after having been such a prominent candidate before the national Republican convention for president, is being discussed by prominent New York papers. It is claimed by the Brooklyn Eagle that Mr. Gresham could not accept the protection plank in the platform of 1888. This is affirmed by that paper on the word of Mr. Gresham himself and of the two other men who were secured for counsel at the time. In reply to this allegation the Post-Express of Rochester shows that after the platform had been adopted, and he knew all about it, Mr. Gresham allowed his name to go forward to the convention as an aspirant for the presidential nomination. The paper appears to rely for proof of this upon the speech of Hon. Leonard Sweet, who presented Mr. Gresham's name and said that he had "always stood by his party for the protection of American labor against foreign competition."

The discussion at this time may be considered in bad taste, as the man is dead and not able to protect himself from false aspersions; but it will open up the broader question of the consistency of public men changing their opinion on matters of, or more properly the mind growing and the side of the official Democratic "goldbugs" whose "driving the party to ruin" was one of the purposes for which the convention was held, yet the denunciation did not take place. In its platform the convention did not mention the president's name, "refer to his name" and "advocate indirectly." All the courage and indignation that its members had when they were at home and in their individual capacity evaporated when the opportunity came for them to declare themselves as a representative body. A gathering of that sort can inspire neither fear nor respect. The national committee will disregard its demands, and if it attempts to get up a national convention on its own hook it will call out the laughter of the country. The Democratic silver crusade has collapsed miserably and ignominiously. As of old the numbers on the side of the silverites, but the intelligence, the character and the courage are with the sound money men.

HOPE FOR KENTUCKY.

Since adversity followed so closely upon Democratic victory in 1892, even the south is awakening to a true realization of the fact that the party is not to be trusted, and that hopes of prosperity built upon its promises are liable to fall into shapeless ruins. West Virginia will have a Republican in the next United States senate, the last election Tennessee gave a majority to the Republican candidate for governor, and Kentucky may be counted in the Republican column. The candidates here vote next fall. All these make the fact more emphatic that the people are losing confidence in Democratic competency, and desire no more experiments with Democratic free trade. The New York Sun is a staunch Democratic journal, but has always opposed the administration of Cleveland, and in speaking of Kentucky, says: "The election of a Republican governor of Kentucky this year would be a crowning indignity and humiliation inflicted upon the Democratic party. The burden imposed by present administration of the Democratic party, whose members elected it to office in 1892, a burden of reproaches, betrayals, evasions, surrenders, omissions and humiliations even the Democrats of those states which have resisted successfully repeated assaults from the enemies of their party in Kentucky in doubt! Talk of electing a Republican governor this year! Such declarations are not encouraging twelve months in advance of the Democratic national convention of 1896."

A NOTABLE EVENT.

A great congress of women will be that which will meet in Memorial Hall, London, today. This will be the most notable of the events which in the past twenty years have distinguished women, and will be a crown upon the wonderfully successful work of the W. C. T. U. The organization, which has been for one and a half centuries as well as of international importance, is but twenty-one years old, dating from 1874, when some twenty ladies, at the head of whom were Frances E. Willard, Louise S. Rounds, and Mary Clement Leavitt, effected it for the purpose of conducting temperance work on a Christian and non-sectarian basis. Two years later both Canada and England had similar associations, since which time the organizations have grown in influence until they not only have a strong religious value, but are important factors in political movements as well.

There is hardly a corner of the civilized globe that does not feel the impress of these great bodies of noble-spirited, high-minded women, and it is no small honor to Chicago that this city was the home of the originators of the union, says the Inter-Ocean. Its creation were Chicago women, and its growth and success in spite of many and trying antagonisms were due in large measure to Miss Willard, the woman of all others the best known throughout the world as a friend of temperance, and the implacable enemy of intemperance. Quite proper it is then that Chicago should have the largest representation in London, and we feel sure that the delegates and visitors from that city will reflect honor upon the congress. Though Lady Henry Somerset is the woman by right of position entitled to preside over the London congress, in these times of religious wars in these two countries, and would form an inseparable bond of union for the future.

THE SILVERITE COLLAPSE.

Hirshon, the leader of the Illinois Democratic silverites, says the Democratic national committee must call a national convention to be held not

CONFUSION OF CAUSES.

The speech of Governor Altgeld before the state convention of the silver wing of the Illinois Democracy last Wednesday was evidently a studied attempt at diversion, says the Inter-Ocean.

The basis of his thought was that the country is suffering from industrial and productive paralysis, and needs a change. This is true, but he must have a short and deceptive memory if he really thinks, as he tried to make his audience believe, that the hard times on which he descended date back to the demonetization act. This is an error of twenty years, so far as concerns industrial paralysis. It is true that the farmers have been feeling the pinch of hard times for quite a long series of years, but it was not until the free coinage of silver dollars was stopped.

Never in all its history was this country more prosperous than at the very time John P. Altgeld was going up and down the state insisting that the people wanted a change. The change demanded was not only a transition from gold to silver, but from protection to free trade. The farmers did not take much stock in the cry, "It was the demonetization of silver that ruined you," but they were not so stupid as to believe that the demonetization of silver was the cause of their troubles. The Populists did not at any time lay stress on the tariff. They never carried a flip of a copper was done in that line. They were always insisting that free coinage was the one thing needed. The consistent thing would be for the Altgelds to go over, bag and baggage, to the Populists. But instead of that they propose to stay in the old Bourbon camp and fight it out with the goldites.

PERNICIOUS AGITATION.

The prevailing agitation of the silver question is to be deplored, because of its mischievous effect upon business conditions and the influence of returning prosperity. There is no necessity for so much talking and maneuvering about a matter which may safely be left to adjust itself in the future course of events, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The demand for the solution of the so-called currency problem is not at all urgent, and the politicians who are hammering away at it could do the country much better service by being quiet. Nothing can be gained by premature discussion of an issue that may be presented in an entirely different shape a year hence. It is not true, as these noisy agitators would have us believe, that we are facing a serious emergency, and one that calls for speedy and positive action. As a matter of fact, the situation would be quite satisfactory if the statesman who are engaged in the work of making speeches and calling conventions to settle the silver controversy would subside and give us a rest in that respect. There is no trouble in our financial affairs so serious as is produced by those who lead the people to suppose that there is something radically wrong, and that it can be righted only by the operation of political machinery.

CITY ELECTION.

The coming municipal election is one of more than usual importance, as the mayor and councilmen, under the new charter, have not only the management of the city affairs, but the appointment of the city marshal. Citizens should watch this annual event with a great deal of anxiety, and the election on Monday, the 18th inst., will be of unusual interest as being the first one under the new regime. Taxpayers are directly interested in the economical administration of city affairs, and to this object the proper men should be placed in nomination for the offices. The nominations are always postponed to too late a date, and the election takes place too soon thereafter to insure wise discrimination in the ballot. There are but ten days to the time when the choice will be made, and the subject of nominees should be canvassed thoroughly. Next Monday evening the primary should be held, if there are not other conventions for nominating purposes planned, and then barely eight days will elapse before the ballot will be cast. To citizens of The Dalles there is nothing of greater importance than a good and careful city government, and our people have been entirely too negligent this year. We hope that this matter will receive the most careful attention, and that there will be no regret in the future on account of the neglect or apathy that have been manifested.

DIVERSITY OF OPINION.

The homiletic discourses of the press of this country will be difficult to follow. One claims free silver as the panacea for all the ills to which flesh is heir; another that nothing should be taxed but land; then comes the free-trade advocate, and the prohibition organ. To decide which is the best doctrine could only be done by actual experiment. As far as the theory is concerned there never was a better, safer or more convenient system in operation in any country, and any change would work injury. The monetary policy pursued by this government is perfect and could not be improved. Regarding taxation on land alone, it is simply a theory, and experiments are very hazardous. Well-established governments have proved inadequate to cure the evils caused by the use of intoxicating liquors. The better plan for the patriotic citizen to adopt is to study well the history of nations, become thoroughly conversant with the institutions of his own country, and exercise common sense in forming his opinion with which party he should affiliate. By all means he should re-

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