HAS STUDIED NEGRO SONGS.

Mrs. Jeannette Robinson Murphy and Her Favorite Fad.

A drawing-room entertainment is hardly considered complete nowadays unless it includes something by a guitar or banjo performer. Among these few are more popular than Mrs. Jeannette Robinson Murphy of New York, herself a composer of not a few pleasing little songs. Her unusual success is the natural result of giving the subject of negro songs a great deal of attention. Born and raised in the South, she early imbibed a great love for the peculiarly plaintive airs with which the negro men and women lighten their work. Like all other Southern children of well-to-do parents she had a "mammy," and it happened that this colored woman was renowned for her ability as a singer. Mrs. Murphy recently said:

"As a child I used to follow this old colored woman about when she was busy just to hear her sing, caring more for the sound of her voice than for the sweetest Northern music. As I grew up I began to wonder as to the reason of the strange fascination of the negro songs for all classes of people. I found it was not merely in the music or words, for the quaintest of darky melodies rendered by one unfamiliar with the negroes instantly lost its charm. I finally grew so curious about the matter that a few years ago, in Tallahassee, I set about to solve the problem for my own satisfaction. I found to my delight that the weird effect of the plantation songs is from the observance among the darkies, probably unconsciously, of certain rules in regard to the accent and breathing. They never take breath, as we do, at the end of a line or phrase, connecting their sentences with that peculiar wavering tone so full of pathos and melancholy. Another singular thing is the heavy accent on the latter

MRS. JEANETTE ROBINSON MURPHY.

part of every monosyllabic word, thus giving two musical tones for each word of one syllable, with the same, long-drawn, wailing sound between the tones. There are many other peculiarities in the exact rendering of the plantation songs, but these are the most essential and the most strongly marked that have come to my notice."

Mrs. Murphy does not confine herself to parlor recitals, but gives her services gratuitously to prisons, hospitals and missions.

Only One Way to Get Volunteers.

There had been a lack of men joining the ranks, and the colonel was visiting a recruiting station, inspecting the workings of his recruiting sergeants. Suddenly a terrible noise of shouting and shuffling of feet came through the open window. Now it came from the stairway, intermingled with sundry loud bumps and knocks, and the door burst open, showing a red-faced, perspiring little sergeant pushing, hauling and tugging at a big country lad. The latter was doing his best to escape the firm grip of the soldier. "Halt!" cried the colonel. "How is this?" he said to the sergeant. "Is this the way you secure recruits—by force, sir?" The red-faced sergeant looked up and down, then at the colonel, and blurted out: "Sure, sir, the only way to get them volunteers is by force, sir."

Trained.

"Are you afraid, Lily, when you go driving with Mr. Phillips, that the horse will run away?"

"No, indeed. Mr. Phillips has trained his horse to drive without lines."—Exchange.

How mixed up divorced people must get in their kin affairs!

When the planet Mars is nearest the earth it is 36,000,000 miles away.

CONGRESS' FAILURES

Senator Stewart's Parting Remarks to the De-Nothing Congress Before It Adjourned.

Mr. Stewart: Mr. President, of course I shall not attempt to delay the adjournment of congress, but it seems to me worthy of remark that this congress, coming in as it did with high-sounding promises, has utterly failed to redeem any of them. It has left the country in a most deplorable condition. It has failed to put an end to a policy which means ultimate ruin. We have been for several years borrowing gold to pay interest on borrowed money and to pay fixed charges to foreign countries. During the present administration two hundred and sixty-two and a half millions dollars of bonds have been sold to borrow gold to maintain the gold standard. It has not maintained the gold standard, however, because we are paying a large premium for the gold. On sixty-two and a half millions dollars borrowed in February, 1895, we paid $16,000,000 premium, as the president informed us. On the sale of $100,000,000 there was also a large premium paid, or a discount on the bonds, which is the same thing. These were twenty-nine year 4 per cent bonds, and would have sold for 125 if it had not been for the necessity of paying a premium to buy gold. As we go on, and our credit gets worse and worse, the premium must necessarily be larger and larger.

Our farm products, which we export and upon which we must rely to buy gold and pay for what we import, are depreciating in price in foreign markets year by year as the competition with silver-stadard countries increases. See under what disadvantages our farmers labor as against the Asiatics. Take Russia, for example, which is on a silver basis. The Russian farmer has a hundred dollars of taxes to pay and the American farmer has a hundred dollars of taxes to pay. The Russian farmer takes a hundred bushels of wheat to Liverpool and sells it for 60 cents a bushel in gold. He takes that back to Russia, exchanges it for Russian money, and gets $120; pays his hundred dollars of taxes and has $20 with which to buy tea and coffee. The American farmer sells his hundred bushels of wheat for $60 and only has $60 when he gets home. He applies it on his taxes and finds himself in debt. This advantage goes to all the Asiatic and silver-standard countries as against the American farmer. The result is that the Asiatic has money with which to reproduce wheat and it does him some good; he has money with which to reproduce cotton and it does him some good, but the American farmer is left in debt every year, and still we say this must go on and debt must be piled up and there must be no relief.

Nonaction is the order of the day. We passed through the senate a bill to stop the sale of bonds, which would have required the executive to obey the law and pay out silver, of which there is an abundance. There are some $30,000,000 of silver coin in the treasury, and silver coin coming in daily. I am informed that more than half the revenue is paid in silver certificates, which are substantially silver coins, because the government can convert them into silver coins when they come into the treasury. We have an abundance of silver coin with which to redeem, and there is no possible necessity for involving the country in further debt.

What remedy for our difficulties have the Republicans of the house of representatives suggested? They have suggested more taxation; they say all we need is more revenue. When we point out to them that there is a cash balance in the treasury of available money amounting to nearly $270,000,000, and that one of the embarrassments of the country is this unhealthy surplus, the only remedy proposed by the Republicans of the house, in the bills they have sent us, was more taxation to increase the surplus and impound more and more money. About $125,000,000, if I recollect aright—over $120,000,000, at all events—of your greenbacks are retired in the treasury; prices are falling; times are hard, and growing worse; and we are going to adjourn this congress, for what? In the New York Sun today there is a description of the fight which the Republicans propose. They are to make a fight for what? For tariff. To show the character of the campaign upon which we are about to enter, and for which we are to now adjourn, I will ask the secretary to read the article from the New York Sun, a gold-standard paper, which appeared today.

Mr. Gallinger: The New York Sun does not speak for the Republican party.

Mr. Stewart: Oh, but it speaks the truth about the Republican party, and I think you had better hear it. I should like to have that article read.

Mr. Cullom: Is it brief?

Mr. Stewart: It is quite brief.

The Presiding Officer: Without objection, the secretary will read as requested. The secretary read as follows:

"The money question, the McKinley man keep on saying, is a secondary issue, although important. The main issue is the tariff, and the Republican party will make its fight on that."

This sentiment finds repeated expression from McKinley managers and McKinley organs in various parts of the country. It is pronounced so persistently and so emphatically that it must mean something.

What does it mean? What is the tariff issue which is to be the principal issue of the coming campaign? On that issue who is it, or what is it, that the McKinely Republicans expect to fight?

Certainly not the present high protective tariff, enacted by a congress Democratic in both branches and allowed to become a law by a Democratic president, who nevertheless denounced it as too atrociously protective to receive his signature. The present tariff is one of the highest protective tariffs ever in force in the United States. Its average rate falls short of the average rate of the preceding tariff, distinguished as the McKinley tariff, by very little. A presidential campaign waged in support of the general theory of protection as against the general theory of tariff taxation for revenue only is a conceivable thing. Such a campaign occurred four years ago. But a presidential campaign turning on the question of whether 41 per cent let us say, or 47 per cent shall be the average rate of protection is utterly inconceivable to the ordinary mind. You are not going to fire up much enthusiasm in the hearts of either the forty-oners or the forty-seveners.

Is the fight to be for the rearrangement or readjustment of the protection afforded by the schedules of the existing tariff? That undertaking might involve differences of opinion important enough to start a controversy in a committee on ways and means, or even to occasion a lively debate in the house, sitting as a committee of the whole. Hardly important enough to fill and inflame the length and breadth of the Union in a presidential year.

Or is it merely to contend in behalf of the theory of protection, that the warriors of McKinleyism are aiming themselves? Do they want to smash the last Democratic platform? The enterprise is superfluous; the Democracy has smashed the platform already. The Democrats themselves have abandoned the position which the McKinley Republicans propose to attack. The McKinley warriors may march forth to occupy a stronghold which has been evacuated by its garrison, but it is a strained use of the English language to speak of such a proceeding as a fight, much less as the principal fight of a great presidential campaign.

It requires two sides to make a fight. It requires two political parties, both earnestly interested and hot for the wager of battle, to make a main issue for a presidential campaign. What is the tariff issue which looms before the excited imagination of those Republicans who profess to regard the cause of honest money and the gold standard as of subordinate importance?

Nobody has yet told us this in language clear enough to be comprehensible."

Mr. Stewart: It will be observed by that article, which I think fairly dissects the situation, how inconsequential the purposes of the Republican party are except to obtain the offices. I do not know about the Democracy, whether the Democratic party has any purpose or not. It has been without a purpose for many years, and whether it will ever have a purpose it is for the future to determine. So far as the Republican party and the Democratic administration are concerned, they are one and the same; their purpose to maintain the gold standard by loading the nation with debt, paying a premium for gold, increasing that debt year after year—falling prices, stagnation and hard times. That is their purpose. They have indicated no other policy.

Not one gleam of hope has come from either the Democratic administration or the Republican managers. I defy any man to suggest a proposition put forth by either which by any possibility could relieve the present distress. On the contrary, they refuse to change the policy of borrowing money; they refuse to change the policy of impounding the the greenbacks in the treasury; they refuse to change the policy of buying gold for gold gamblers; they refuse to change the policy of contraction; they refuse any hope. They are in favor of retiring the legal tenders. They are in favor of depriving the people of money. They are in favor of an Asiatic tariff, built up by a difference of exchange, whereby the Asiatics and all silver-standard countries have at least 100 per cent advantage in the markets of Europe.

McKinleyism means what? It means to maintain the Asiatic tariff against American farmers. It means to build up for a special privileged class a tariff high enough to protect the manufacturers of the East. It means to make the necessaries of life dearer and dearer to the producers of this country. It means to make the products of the unprotected labor of this country cheaper and cheaper. It means to put the farmer in competition with 800,000,000 coolies, who are competing with him in the European markets. It means to impoverish the farmer. No one seeks to protect him. I have been a protectionist and I have advocated protection; but I never dreamed that the party to which I belonged would abandon the producers of this country and build up a protection entirely in favor of the millions of coolies and see the struggling masses of this country reduced to powder. I never believed that. Why, the first move in protection is to equalize exchange, to give our people money, to make it possible to manufacture in different parts of the country. Protection with the gold-standard means slavery for the masses. It means to build up classes, to build up and widen the gulf between the laborers and the money changers.

The Republican party in the house declared—Mr. Reed, who is the Republican party of the house, declared—that nonaction should be their motto; that they dared not disturb the present condition of things—contraction, falling prices, and hard times, and borrowing gold for gold gamblers—and they have not disturbed it. They are going forth to the country and say it shall not be disturbed, that the tariff shall be the issue; and here we have got a tariff only about 5 or 6 per cent below the McKinley tariff. Mr. McKinley himself stated in several speeches that perhaps his tariff was too high, and perhaps it was extravagant. Certainly the present tariff is higher, on an average, than any other tariff we have had except the McKinley tariff. It is higher than any other in the history of the country except the McKinley tariff. We are going forth now to fight for what? To fight for the gold standard. How are we going to do that? By smothering the real money issue and keeping this sham issue of tariff before the country. The New York Sun, in the article which has been read, describes what kind of a fight that is. They are going to fight bravely with nothing before them.

Now, as to the Democratic party, if any party could have done more to injure the country than it has done for the last three years it would have been something more than human.

I think the wit of man has been about exhausted to plunge the country into distress. Whether the party will reform or not, there are men in the Democratic party who do not like the present situation. There are men in the Democratic party who do not like loading the nation with debt in time of peace to buy gold for a set of gold gamblers. There are men in the party—here in the senate—who rebel against any such proceeding. There has been a strong vote of Democrats here against it, and some Republican votes, too, but the Republican votes came from men who are opposed to sinking the country under the gold standard and fastening the chains of bondage upon the people. There are men in the Democratic party, and in the Republican party, but more in the Democratic party, who do not like the single gold standard, who do not like the English gold standard, who want to restore the money of the constitution, who believe in the money of the better days of the Republic, who believe that there is not too much of both gold and silver for use as standard money.

There is a movement in the country which, if it can have expression, will sweep from the earth the policy which is afflicting mankind. Four-fifths of the people of these United States are in favor of the restoration of the money of the fathers and the wise laws of Hamilton, Jefferson and Jackson as they existed prior to 1873. If they do not give expression to their sentiments it will be because the leaders will manipulate and keep them apart. But they will come together if you will let them. They will embrace the opportunity if you give it to them. The great mass of them put country above party. They mingled together in their neighborhoods and make no distinction as to party. They want a party of patriots such as existed in the better days of the republic. They are anxious to throw off this load; they are anxious for the restoration of peace and prosperity as it existed in the better days of the republic, as it existed before the machinations of a few men destroyed one-half of the metallic basis of our circulation and brought on falling prices and enabled a few money manipulators to pool the gold in the world, to take the circulation from the people and to charge what they pleased for it.

There is no gold in circulation, but everything is to be sold at such prices as the gold kings may dictate. The gold is pooled, and the kings of that pool have held in bondage as slaves the politicians of both hemispheres, who have danced to the music of the stock jobbers, the smaller fry following on.

We are rushing to adjourn the senate for what purpose? One party is going out to make war between tweedledee and tweedledum. The Republican party cannot state an issue which they dare to meet. We see the papers filled for days as to how they can get a jumble of words to deceive somebody, not how they can express a sentiment upon which people may vote; but the whole discussion of the leading politicians of the day is how they can twist words to deceive somebody.

Nobody will be deceived this time. No jumble of words will do. In this campaign you must be for the single gold standard, as the English syndicate prescribe, or you must be for the restoration of the money of the constitution.

The common people have dropped on it; they understand it and they are moving from the lakes to the gulf and from ocean to ocean and all around the coast. They begin to understand how you have deceived them.

Let me tell you politicians, who care not for the country but are fixing words to deceive, the day will come when the common people will rise in their might and rescue this government from your hands and place it in the hands of those who use plain English and do not boast of their power of deception. What a spectacle these newspapers present; and we are going to adjourn congress to engage in a fruitles struggle, a struggle that will bring no hope to anyone, a struggle that will sink us deeper and deeper in poverty and want.

I tell you, senators, this congress ought to stay here and grant relief. If the gold men have any legislation to propose that will give relief, let us know it. Let them proclaim it. The only thing they have proposed or suggested was more contraction, more hard times, less money for the people, lower prices, more debt, harder competition with the Asiatics. This country, with its 70,000,000 people, ought to be the richest nation on earth, and it would be the richest if an English syndicate had not been allowed to rob us of our patrimony. If we could make American laws, if there was an American sentiment here so that we could make laws for America and not have them dictated from the other side of the Atlantic, we would be an independent and free people.

What an outrage it is that here, after thirty years of profound peace and abundant harvests, the opportunity for an honest, industrious man should be worse than it has been at any period since the landing at Jamestown! Never in all history have there been such galling hard times, such discouraging conditions, so much despair and want and misery among the masses of the laboring people, and particularly among agriculturists, as there is today. No young man can go forth into legitimate business and make money, because prices are falling, and if he produces property it is worthless in his hands. And this condition, known of all men, has been treated with ridicule and contempt by this congress! We have sat supinely here and never raised a hand to relieve the people from the burden under which they are groaning!

I suppose we may as well adjourn, for we shall do nothing. This is a do-nothing congress, and it is proposed to carry on the business of doing nothing and have no issue except an issue to grind the people and to avoid giving them any relief. That is all that is proposed for the future, and I suppose the sooner congress adjourns the better. I shall not prolong its session.—Congressional Record, June 10, 1896.

Plans to Reach Nansen.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg to the London Times says: "A lively newspaper discussion is proceeding between Captain Wiggins and Baron Toll as to the best means of reaching Dr. Nansen. Baldwin's Chicago expedition is also being discussed. It is agreed that the latter is quite useless for discovering Dr. Nansen, and if necessary it could be made more easily and quickly through Europe and the Siberian railway. It is supposed that Mr. Baldwin may intend to offer his services to Andree's balloon expedition in the event of the latter terminating on the northern coast of Siberia.

"Captain Wiggins proposes that the steamer Barnaul, belonging to his company and now on the Yenisei river, should be here in the spring to make a voyage to Cape Chelyuskin, the extreme northern point of northern Siberia, before vessels from the west can traverse the Kara sea."