

Daily Democrat.

POLITICALLY BLIND.

"O wad some power the giftle gie us,
To see ourselves as others see us!
It wad frae monie a blunder free us,
And foolish notion."

And Burns was right. If by some means man could acquire the power of seeing his own shortcomings as they are seen by his fellows, he would be able to steer clear of many a "blunder" and "foolish notion." So it would be of the Oregonians. That paper in attempting to show the inconsistencies of democracy as touching the tariff and silver questions says: "The eastern democrats want protection." This is untrue and Mr Scott could not have believed the statement when he wrote it. Mr Cleveland believes in a tariff for revenue, and the eastern democrats are in perfect harmony with him. The campaign carried on last fall in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Hampshire by the democrats was devoted to nothing else, scarcely, but the tariff issue as raised by Mr Cleveland, and the result was overwhelming victory. Mr Scott thinks democrats would vote solidly for Mr Cleveland on an anti-free coinage platform, and the fact seems to distress him very much. He, himself, is full of the lack of ability to see himself as others see him. For years he has been known as a strong free trader. The columns of the Oregonian a few years ago bear ample and indubitable proof of this fact. Nevertheless, during all the time he was writing these strong and unanswerable free trade articles he was devotedly supporting republican protectionists for offices from president down. Judged by the criterion which he has set up to measure democrats by, we find Mr Scott to have what he calls principles, (free trade principles,) but he always subordinates them to party success. He does not like the republican party but he does want to train with money bags and gold bugs for he believes they will bring success, hence he supports the candidate of Quay, Dudley and Elkins. The truth is that Scott's heart and mind incline to any man or any measure which has the check. In 1881 he wrote the ablest kind of articles in favor of free trade and then voted for Blaine who is, for excellence, the great Mogul of protection, and this he did with an unmovable front and an unfaltering stomach. During the intervals between elections he was solid and sentimental enough in his candid devotion to free trade, but when elections would come on his rapacious appetite for pelf and power would get the best of him, and as a dog returns to his vomit, so would he return to the foolishness of protection. Now, to show our readers how vacillating and unsteady H W Scott has been on the tariff question we give below a few choice extracts from his pen, begging our readers to remember when reading them that all the time he was making such vigorous and logical free trade arguments he was as steadily supporting candidates who were unalterably aligned with the fallacy of protection:

At one time he wrote: "This, (protection,) is a good policy to pile up the profits of the protected monopolist, but a bad one for us out of whom these profits are drawn." This statement is violently anti-republican but remarkably true, nevertheless. Again he said: "Protection is a system expressly devised and maintained to enhance the price of American manufactured goods, and to force non-manufacturing communities, like ourselves, to buy them, who otherwise would buy cheap goods from any body offering them." On another occasion this ablest of Oregon free traders said: "A duty ought to be laid upon those articles which will produce a clear revenue at least for collections. Sugar is one of them. Coffee and tea are admirably adapted to the same end, though our laws blunderingly exempt them from duty."

Again our eminent free trade friend said: "A limited class have conceived and put in practice the doctrine that it is a good scheme for them to make the great body of the people pay high prices for commodities which the comparatively small class have to sell, and the government is called in to rob the many for the benefit of the few. This is protection, and all there is of it. On no other subject is there so much effort to mystify and beguile people. Perhaps the reason is, that it pays to do so. It must be owned, too, that the beneficiaries of the system are highly successful in the practice of their dupery on the people at large." We might extend these brief extracts out to fill columns but the above will suffice to show the crookedness of the record of the man who sets himself up to abuse democrats for not being consistent. Is Mr Scott ignorant of the fact that thousands and thousands of low tariff republicans all over the land voted for Harrison on an outrageously high protective tariff platform rather than vote for Mr Cleveland upon a tariff platform which their inner consciences fully approve? No. Such papers as the Chicago Tribune, the Pioneer Press and many others with their thousands of free trade readers stood devotedly for Harrison. Why not abuse these men for lack of principles; Mr Scott acts upon the principle that it makes all the difference in the world whose ox is gored. Does not he know that the next republican

national platform will declare against free and unlimited coinage and that a million republicans who favor free coinage will vote for the republican candidate? Why not abuse these men? Why not abuse senators Mitchell, Jones, Squire Stewart, and a dozen other silver senators who "with unmovable front and unfaltering stomachs" will march to the polls at the next presidential election and cast their vote manfully for the gold bug candidate. Truth constrains us to say that H W Scott is politically blind.

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