# BRYAN

## Replies to Mr. Cleveland.

### Shows Up Grover's Wail at McKinley's Policy.

In a Lincoln, Neb., special, W. J. Bryan says:

The presence of Mr. Cleveland, two members of his cabinet and such eminent Gold Democrats as Ex-Congressmen Turner, Bynum and Patterson made the banquet an important political event, and the address delivered by Mr. Cleveland may fairly be accepted as setting forth the present views and future purposes of the bolting Democrats.

Probably the most unexpected thing in the address was his reference to the Republican administration. He borrows emphasis from a Scriptural text and accuses the Republicans of returning in hot haste to their wallowing in the mire of extreme protection. This is an unfair criticism, because the Republicans have never shown any disposition to abandon extreme protection. Mr. McKinley won political fame as the apostle of high tariff, and during the late campaign reiterated his devotion to this policy. Those Democrats who voted for Mr. McKinley voted so with their eyes open to tariff possibilities.

M'KINLEY'S FINANCIAL POLICY.

Neither have those Democrats reason to complain of Mr. McKinley's attitude on the money question To be sure, the president has sent an argosy abroad in search—not of a golden fleece—but of an object equally elusive, namely, an international agreement for the restoration of bimetallism, but in so doing he is only carrying out the pledge contained in his platform. Unless the Gold Democrats were in possession of assurances notgiving to the public generally, or expected the president to abandon his platform, they ought to be satisfied with his financial policy. He promised to maintain the gold standard until relief come from abroad, and he is doing it in spite of the continued distress caused by such a policy.

The Democrats who supported the Chicago platform can consistently condemn both the tariff policy and final complicity of the administration, but those who supported Mr. McKinley are only receiving what they had a right to expect.

PAYMENT FOR PARTISAN SUPPORT.

Mr. Cleveland accuses the Republicans of a determination "to repay partisan support from the proceeds of increased burdens of taxation placed upon those already overladen." He knew that the Repuublcans had collected a campaign fund larger than ever before known in politics. Did it never occur to him that the contributors would expect repayment through legislation friendly to their interests? Has not the Dingley bill been drawn exactly upon the plan of the McKinley bill? It may differ in its schedules, but it does not differ in its general plan and preparation.

But if those Democrats who supported McKinley have no reason to criticise his course, what shall we say of those Democrats who supported the Indianapolis ticket? What claim have they to consideration at the hands of the President? Mr. Cleveland asserts that when the fate of the Nation seemed in the balance, deliverance came through bolting Democrats. Does he mean though those Democrats who voted directly for McKinley, or through those who voted for the Indianapolis ticket?

THE PALMER AND BUCKNER MEN.

The leaders among the gold Democrats claim to have voted for Palmer and Buckner. Certainly, this did not entitle them to pose as saviors of their country. They knew the contest would be close. Even Mr. Cleveland refers to the campaign as one of doubt and fear.

Was it patriotic for the gold Democrats to throw their votes away upon a ticket which had no chance when their support might have decided the contest? There is a touch of humor in the boisterous intentions of those who, during the contest, watched the strugle from afar and after the battle was over claimed all the credit for the victory.

The important part of Mr. Cleveland's address, however, is found in his declaration of war against those who supported the Chicago ticket. In this last address he has given more aid to his opponents than to his supporters, just as he did by his official acts. His surrender of the Executive branch of the government into the hands of Wall street financiers during his last administration did more than any other one thing to arouse the American people to acknowledge the iniquity of the Gold standard.

HELPING HIS ENEMIES.

His thinly disguised support of the Republican ticket in the late campaign did much to drive Silver Republicans out of the Republican party, and their loyalty to bimetallism has not been shaken by defeat. In his address Saturday night he aided the silver cause still further by removing whatever danger there might have been of concessions from the regular Democrats to bolt us. If he had discussed the fundamental principals of Democracy and then urged a union of forces upon a platform comprising the differences on the money question, he might have done harm in some sections, but his dogmatic insistence upon a foreign financial policy, in his emphatic endorsement of the organization of Gold Democrats, will have a wholesome influence in convincing timid Democrats of the folly of any attempt to reunite Democrats who believe in bimetallism with Democrats who are wedded to gold monometallism.

Mr. Cleveland recognizes that the contest over money, instead of being ended, is just beginning; he recognizes it as an irrepressible conflict, and in this he reasons rightly. The Democratic party will in 1900 reiterate its demand for the free and unlimited coinage at 16 to 1, and it will be opposed by those who at that time believe in a gold standard. This being as certain as any future event can be why should those affiliate now who expect to engage in combat so soon hereafter? We now have a harmonious Democratic party, and we have a bolting organization which claims to represent another kind of Democracy. Let them both exist and time will determine which is fittest to survive. If any bimetallist is converted to the gold standard, he can join their organization; if any gold Democrat repents, he can return to the fold.

CLEVELAND'S SUPERB COURAGE.

However much we may differ from Mr. Cleveland, we must admit his courage. A less resolute man would hesitate to assume the leadership of a little band of 130,000, many of whom voted the Indianapolis ticket by mistake, and then accuse 6,500,000 voters of being either designing agitators or dupes of designing agitators. A man of less self-reliance would reexamine his own conduct to see whether it was his folly or theirs which separated them from 5,000,000, of Democrats who once idolized him, but in the lexicon of Mr. Clevelaud's maturer years there is no such word as "mistake."

The gold Democracy is impotent in bringing any relief to the country. It is long on platitudes and short on performance. It reached its maximum at a banquet and its minimum at the polls. It is the toy of those financiers who prate about national honor while they fatten on the nation's extremity, and is powerless to protect the people from the extortion of trusts and the greed of unrestrained corporations.

Those Democrats who believe in equality before the law will naturally gravitate toward the regular Democracy, and those Democrats who believe in a government by syndicates and for syndicates will naturally drift into the Republican party, because it offers them the best prospect of success.


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