

nearer to the Roosevelt administration than any other newspaper correspondent. Certainly no correspondent is more friendly to that administration than is Mr. Wellman; and it is interesting to be told by this administration correspondent that feeling that he has the people with him because of his "fight upon the trusts and the corporations," Mr. Roosevelt proceeds to display his "masterly skill as a politician" by seeking to win over to him the representatives of the trusts and the corporations.

According to this administration correspondent, Mr. Roosevelt discovered "that in New York and among these very people (the trusts and corporations) there was a general and earnest desire for a reformation of our currency system," and also that "the president has gone in for that reformation with his accustomed ardor and energy and IT WILL NOT BE HIS FAULT IF THE FINANCIAL PEOPLE OF NEW YORK DO NOT SOON LOOK UPON HIM WITH MORE FAVOR."

A very frank and candid confession, indeed, and perfectly in line with the idea which democrats generally have entertained of Mr. Roosevelt's disposition to "shackle cunning as in the past we have shackled force."

Demanding Army Increase.

At a banquet given at St. Paul, Minn., in honor of Col. George E. Pond, Mr. James J. Hill, the great railroad magnate, came out boldly for a large army. He said:

"It was not many years ago that everyone thought we needed but a small standing army. This feeling has changed. The transition was sudden and complete. The belief is now general, and I am glad to see the time come when it is acknowledged, that if we are to be a member of the great family of nations we must have absolute and undisputed power to enforce respect for our flag and for our commerce, both on land and on the high seas.

"I am not overrating the demand when I say that it is imperative that the United States maintain the nucleus always and the organization and the officers for an army of 200,000 men. With our varied interests, with our expanding commerce, and with our crowning and ever-increasing power, this strength is not more than sufficient for our uses in times of stress and danger. However that may be, I am thoroughly convinced that the United States should maintain at all times an army of 100,000.

"The people of the United States and the government, their own words dictate. But they are a people of peace, and there is no way so sure to maintain and promote peace as to be prepared to fight for it. We must have peace for our industrial and commercial growth, and peace we will have if we have to fight for it. Therefore I say that 100,000 men should be always at hand to take the field, with the knowledge always that 200,000 men can be at once brought forward should the need arise."

This can only be explained on one of two theories: either he thinks that imperialism requires an army four times as large as we had before 1896, or he is looking forward to labor troubles and wants a large army to enable the administration to enforce government by injunction at the request of the corporations.

Are the republicans ready for this situation? Have they counted the cost in money? Have they considered its effect on the national welfare? When the plain people of the United States come to consider the purpose of the republican leaders and the natural effect of their policies there will be a revolt that will shake that party to its foundation. The democratic party only needs to maintain its integrity, stand by the people on all questions and await a vindication of its position.

Education.

Coleridge wrote that "Thelwall thought it very unfair to influence a child's mind by inculcating any opinions before it had come to years of discretion to choose for itself."

On one occasion Coleridge showed Thelwall his garden and said that it was his botanical garden.

"How so?" asked Thelwall, "it is covered with weeds."

"Oh," replied Coleridge, "that is only because it is not yet come to its age of discretion and choice. The weeds, you see, have taken the liberty to grow and I thought it unfair in me to prejudice the soil toward roses and strawberries."

A very happy way this was of seeking to

impress upon men the importance of early education.

Mann declared that "education is our only political safety; outside of this ark all is deluge;" and Kossuth wrote: "It is in sound education of the people the security and destiny of every nation chiefly rests."

It should not be necessary to write long articles in order to impress upon the young men and young women of the land the importance of an education. Every young man and every young woman should seize the opportunity to obtain a college course. The Commoner is now making an offer which will place a college education within the reach of every young reader of this paper. Information concerning this offer will be found in another column of this issue and further details will be provided upon application to this office.

The Nebraska Conventions.

On August 25 the democratic state convention for Nebraska met at Columbus. On the same day the populist state convention met at Grand Island. The same state ticket was nominated in both conventions. John J. Sullivan, democrat, and now chief justice of the supreme court, was renominated. William O. Jones of Adams county and Dr. E. O. Weber of Saunders county, both populists, were nominated to be regents of the state university.

Mayor Reed of Kansas City addressed the democratic convention on the subject of monopoly, and delivered a speech that will be remembered for years by his enthusiastic auditors. Manton M. Wyvall, a young democrat from Ithaca, N. Y., delivered an earnest and eloquent speech. W. D. Oldham of Nebraska, famous in the west as a political orator, delivered a characteristic speech. The address delivered by George L. Loomis, the temporary and also the permanent chairman of the convention, was listened to with the greatest interest. Mr. Bryan also addressed the convention.

The platform is as follows:

We, the democrats of Nebraska, in convention assembled, reaffirm our faith in the principles of the party as enunciated in the last national platform, adopted at Kansas City.

We denounce the national republican administration for its failure to carry out its promises heretofore made and its subservience to special interests at the expense of and to the detriment of the interests of the public at large.

We are unalterably opposed to any form of asset currency legislation and to any legislation of the character of the Aldrich bill.

We demand that the attorney general of our state shall make application to the supreme court of the United States for permission to put the Nebraska maximum freight rate law into immediate effect, in accord with the suggestion of that court. In the campaign of one year ago the democracy of Nebraska charged that the election of a republican legislature would be a victory for the railroads and other corporate interests which presume to dictate in state affairs.

We call attention to the faithful manner in which republican officials have championed the corporations, enacting and applying statutes to the injury of the home owners, farming and business interests to the profit of the railroads and other public corporations. We charge that the late republican legislature deliberately substituted the Ramsey bill, intending thereby to deny to the farmers of this state all relief from the grain trust, the most burdensome and exacting combine now operating within the state.

We arraign the republican party of Nebraska for the failure of the last legislature to keep its ante-election promises; to provide a just and equitable revenue law, and charge that it surrendered to corporate influence and dictation, discriminating in favor of the railroads in the taxation thereof.

We arraign the republican state administration for its extravagant expenditures and for burdening the state with an immense floating indebtedness as a direct result of such action and we demand a more economic handling of the public funds. The shameful interference by Governor Mickey in the efforts of his deputies to properly and honestly enforce the provisions of the oil inspection law should meet the severe condemnation of every lover of law. His notorious and successful attempt to permit the Standard Oil company to sell in this state a grade of oil condemned by his deputies as dangerous to the life and property

of consumers must be construed as evidence of woeful ignorance or criminal collusion.

We believe the judiciary to be the cornerstone of American government, both state and national. Upon its ability, independence and integrity rests the future of American institutions. We therefore demand that the judiciary of this state be kept free from partisan bias and the undue influence of special and corporate interests.

We commend to the voters of Nebraska the record of John J. Sullivan as embodying our ideas of the high character the judiciary ought to entertain.

We invite all citizens, without reference to their political affiliations, who agree with us in the foregoing principles and who believe in an independent judiciary to support the nominees of this convention.

In the populist convention at Grand Island, the interest centered on the question as to whether the "Denver manifesto" would be approved. After a long discussion, it was agreed to refer the question to the populist state convention for 1904.

A "Weighty" Fact.

The New York Press, a republican paper, recently said many unpleasant things, and at the same time some very untrue things, about Grover Cleveland. The Washington Post, replying, skillfully disposes of some of the Press' misstatements and concludes with what it calls "another sober word to the Press," adding:

"The one man to whom far more than to any one of his contemporaries this era of prosperity is due is the president whose administration the Press reviles. He not only killed free coinage, but, in doing so, made sure of the election of the congress that passed the Dingley tariff act. Has the Press ever reflected on that fact? It is weighty."

In other words, according to the Post, Mr. Cleveland should be kindly treated by republican organs not only because he killed free coinage, to which the republican party is opposed, but also because in doing so he made sure of the election of a republican congress. And the Post calls this a "weighty fact."

Surely it must be a "weighty fact" with republicans. Perhaps with democrats it is also a "weighty fact" that Mr. Cleveland not only sought to kill that which the democratic national platform for 1888 described as "the coinage of the constitution," but also "made sure" of the election of a republican congress and made possible the passage of a high protective tariff bill.

What About Taylor.

Governor Durbin of Indiana has written an article for the Independent, referring directly to the riots that have recently occurred in the Hoosier state. In this article Governor Durbin says: "Either the supremacy of the law must be established beyond question or free rein must be given to the fury of riotous assemblages engaged in trampling all law into the dust. Anarchy and constitutional government may not thrive within the same geographical limits."

It would be well if the governor of Indiana could employ some of this spirit in considering the case of ex-Governor Taylor, who is a fugitive from Kentucky justice and who now finds protection in the state of Indiana by the grace of Governor Durbin.

If the Indiana governor really believes that "the supremacy of the law must be established beyond question," if he is devoted to constitutional government and bitterly antagonistic to anarchy, with what reason does he exercise his authority to prevent the return to Kentucky of Taylor, the fugitive from justice, in order that Taylor may not be required to answer for his alleged complicity in the assassination of Governor Goebel?

The governor of Indiana will find it just a bit embarrassing to write upon the "supremacy of the law" so long as he persists in extending protection to Mr. Taylor.

The Crime of Speculation.

The bank embezzlements which have come to light since the slump in stocks emphasize the necessity for a law that will make it a penal offense for a bank officer to speculate on the market. The gambling mania is so strong when one once yields to it that trust funds are always in danger if the holder of such funds is speculating. A law to prevent such speculating by a bank officer would not only protect the public, but would be a protection to the official as well.