TURNCOAT POLITICS.

AN EXTRAORDINARY RECORD OF PARTY STULTIFICATION.

DEMOCRATIC STATE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH SINCE CHICAGO HAVE SWALLOWED THEIR PROFESSIONS AND PARADED THEIR POLITICAL APOSTASY.

A marciful Providence fashioned us holler,
O' purpose that we might our principles swaller.
An' of a man can, wen pervisions has riz so,
Eat up his own words, it's a marcy it is so.

It seems almost a perversity of fate that the great humorist and satirist who in "The Biglow Papers" lashed the weaknesses and cowardice, the insincerity and hypocrisy, of an earlier generation of American politicians should not have lived to see his choicest sarcasms revitalized and repointed by the extraordinary self-contradictions and stultifications of the present political campaign. American public men and political parties of few periods have escaped the charge of inconsistency or freed themselves wholly from the taint of temporizing policy. Perhaps the "doughface" Whigs of 1846, at whom the irony of Lowell's verses was aimed, represented the extreme type then known of political hypocrisy and cynicism. But surely, in point of open contempt of principle, repudiation of past political professions and shameless surrender of personal self-respect and consistency, the "doughface" leaders of ante-bellum times are easily outclassed by the Democratic politicians of to-day, under whose direction the party organization in some fourteen States has within two months utterly reversed its opinions and policy, and accepted as unquestioned party truth what it had already denounced as flagrant and damnable party heresy. No more brazen exhibition of political cynicism is to be found in American public annals.

THE SOUND-MONEY PROTESTANTS AT CHICAGO.

Fifteen States—exactly one-third of all, but entitled to slightly more than one-third of the total representation—sent delegates to the Democratic National Convention at Chicago pledged to resist the adoption of a free-silver coinage platform. In the list of commonwealths—chiefly Eastern and Northwestern—opposing the Repudiation programme of the Western and Southern wings of the party, were Maine, New-Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Michigan. Nebraska was also represented at Chicago by a gold-standard delegation, which obtained seats in the temporary organization of the Convention, but was excluded subsequently without opposition on the recommendation of the Committee on Credentials. The anti-free coinage delegates obviously did not reflect the real sentiment of the Democratic party in Nebraska, or represent the majority of the Democratic voters there, and for that reason Nebraska is not added to the list of States definitely committed, before the meeting of the National Convention, to the sound-money cause.

Michigan's attitude at Chicago was also the subject of a vehement and bitter dispute. The State Convention, which, after a good deal of clever manipulation, was captured by the anti-silver managers, and elected a delegation bound by the unit rule to the support of a sound-money programme, adopted a platform which, while mildly denouncing the free-silver coinage heresy, left the question of local party policy to be determined largely by the declarations to be made subsequently at Chicago. Contests were entered against four of the district delegates and the National Convention, after an exciting and heated contest, unseated them, thus carrying the whole vote of the State, by an application of the unit rule, into the free-silver column. Under the circumstances the Michigan Democracy, like that of Nebraska, will have to be absolved from inconsistency and stultification in accepting subsequently the new and revolutionary platform promulgated by the victorious Bryan-Tillman-Altgeld wing of the National party.

With the other fourteen States no such apology or justification for a shameless reversal of political principles and traditions is possible. Each and every one had committed itself freely and without reservation to the cause of sound money and had denounced the free coinage of silver as a preposterous and suicidal National policy. Yet within two months the Democratic organizations, or what is left of them, in these fourteen States seem engaged in a scramble to see which shall go furthest in subservient acknowledgment of the Chicago Convention's authority or show greatest zeal in repudiating what it formerly held as unquestioned truth.

MAINE LEADS THE WAY IN APOSTASY.

Maine, the home of the Boy Orator's running mate on the Democratic end of the Repudiation ticket, was the first State to experiment with political apostasy. The State Convention which met on June 17 to choose delegates to Chicago had made this direct and emphatic declaration:

We oppose the free coinage of silver and favor the single gold standard, unless a different standard is adopted through international agreement.

A strong gold-standard Democrat, Edward P. Winslow, was also selected as a candidate to head the State ticket at the September election. Mr. Sewall's nomination for the Vice-Presidency on a free-silver coinage platform put the Democracy of Maine in a most embarrassing and painful position. Either the National candidate or the State platform had to be sacrificed, and the platform, as was to be expected, was preferred for martyrdom. Mr. Winslow was induced to withdraw from the race for the Governorship; a new State Convention was called, Melvin P. Frank, a free-coinage Democrat, was chosen to replace Mr. Winslow as a party candidate, and, finally, the following bald and cynical resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That we take from our State platform the following declaration: "We oppose the free coinage of silver and favor the single gold standard, unless a different standard is adopted through international agreement," and that we indorse the National Democratic platform, with Bryan and Sewall.

On this lame, impotent and impudent compromise between principle and expediency the State campaign was relaunched. That it should have ended in last Monday's crushing and well-deserved disaster can surprise no just or right-thinking observer.

VERMONT AND NEW-HAMPSHIRE RECANT.

The Vermont Democrats, though likewise conducting a September State campaign, avoided the open and flagrant challenge to political morality involved in Mr. Sewall's policy in Maine. The State Convention, which met on May 27, to choose delegates to Chicago and nominate a State ticket, had passed this resolution:

We demand the maintenance of a gold standard of value, as being in the true interests of all our people, especially those obliged to labor for what they receive; and we are opposed to the free coinage of silver, except by international agreement.

The Democratic candidate for Governor, Dr. J. H. Jackson, announced that he had accepted the platform made at Chicago and would stand upon it; so no further party action was deemed necessary. Dr. Jackson was defeated on September 2 by the largest plurality ever cast against a Democratic candidate for Governor in Vermont.

The Democratic organization in New-Hampshire seems to have been infected with a zeal to swallow its former political principles equal to that shown across the Maine border. The State Convention, which met on May 20, had expressed this view of the financial question:

We declare that under present conditions there can be but one standard of value, and that every kind of currency should rest upon a gold basis so long as gold is the standard recognized by the great commercial nations of the world; and we heartily commend the action of President Cleveland in so firmly maintaining our public faith and credit in the face of formidable opposition.

On September 2 the New-Hampshire Democracy reassembled in State Convention and laid down this rather different policy:

We, the Democracy of New-Hampshire, in delegate convention assembled, recognizing the action of the National Convention held in Chicago on July 7 last as authority for party action on all political subjects therein stated, hereby adopt the platform of said convention and pledge ourselves to the earnest support of William J. Bryan and Arthur Sewall, candidates for President and Vice-President.

An additional resolution was passed denouncing the course of the seven New-Hampshire delegates who, after the Tillman-Altgeld platform was pushed through at Chicago, would take no further part in the proceedings of the National Convention.

IN RHODE ISLAND AND DELAWARE.

Rhode Island, the fourth of the New-England States to pass upon the work of the Bryan-Tillman-Altgeld coterie at Chicago, meekly followed the lead of its New-England neighbors. The State Convention of April 21 had adopted this pointed declaration of principles:

It is to the interests of our people that there should be no departure from the gold standard to which all money, whether gold or silver, should conform, and we are opposed to the free coinage of silver until at least four of the great powers of the Western world shall come to an international agreement establishing the ratio at which gold and silver shall be admitted to mintage.

Yet a new convention, held August 26, completely reversed traditional party sentiment by accepting the Chicago platform outright and indorsing Bryan and Sewall as National candidates. The resolution of recantation read as follows:

Resolved, That the Democrats of Rhode Island, in State Convention assembled, indorse the candidates and platform of the Chicago convention and cordially commend Bryan and Sewall to the support of this State.

The attitude taken by the Democracy of Delaware toward the National ticket and platform was a curious and exceptional one. Though three of Delaware's six delegates to Chicago remained active participants in the work of the convention to the end, and though two of the six were active silver men, the State organization did not dare openly to indorse the Tillman-Altgeld platform. The State Convention of June 16, which chose the delegates to Chicago, adopted this sweeping declaration on the silver question:

We are in favor of maintaining the present monetary standard and are opposed to the free coinage of silver at any ratio, or to the compulsory purchase of silver bullion by the Government.

At a new convention held August 18, to nominate a candidate for Governor and put an electoral ticket in the field, this somewhat vague and equivocal resolution was passed, no other allusion being made to the National canvass:

Pledging the electors this day nominated to the support of the candidates, William J. Bryan and Arthur Sewall, for President and Vice-President, by the National Democratic Convention, held in Chicago on the 7th of July last, it presents to the thoughtful consideration of the citizens of Delaware the high character and citizenship of the candidates nominated for the trusts which the votes of a free people alone can confer.

HOW NEW-JERSEY STULTIFIED ITSELF.

The Democratic leaders in New-Jersey and Pennsylvania—those who remained at least after the exodus to the new National Democracy had spent its force—showed fewer scruples about pocketing their self-respect and swallowing their former political principles. No party organization could well be more firmly committed to the maintenance of the gold standard than the New-Jersey Democracy was when it entered the Chicago Convention. On May 7, the day when the National delegates were chosen, the following drastic resolution had been passed with unanimity and enthusiasm:

We are in favor of a firm, unvarying maintenance of the present gold standard. We are opposed to the free coinage of silver at any ratio, and to the compulsory purchase of silver bullion by the Government. We believe that the interests of the people demand that the earnings of trade, agriculture, manufacture and commerce, and especially the wages of labor, should be paid in money of the greatest intrinsic value and of the highest standard adopted by the civilized nations of the world. We are, therefore, unalterably opposed to all devices and schemes for the debasement of our currency.

On September 9 the same organization met at Trenton, nominated a Bryan-Sewall and Bryan-Watson fusion electoral ticket, and made this turn-coat deliverance:

The Democratic party of New-Jersey, in convention assembled, ratify and indorse the National Democratic platform adopted at Chicago and the candidates nominated thereon, the Hon. William J. Bryan, of Nebraska, and the Hon. Arthur Sewall, of Maine, and hereby pledge our honest, earnest and hearty endeavor to secure the election of these, our candidates; we insist that the platform adopted at Chicago is thoroughly Democratic and purely American, and with its enforcement we firmly believe that relief will come to the toiling masses and will advance the general prosperity of our country."

PENNSYLVANIA'S BETRAYAL OF PRINCIPLE.

The Democracy of Pennsylvania, which has been ever ready to abandon principle at the behest of expediency, rose with equal facility to the task of repudiating its pre-convention utterances and accepting the heresies promulgated at Chicago. At Allentown, on April 29, the State organization had put itself on record thus:

We are in favor of a firm, unvarying maintenance of the gold standard. While we favor the most liberal use of silver consistent with the enforcement of a gold standard, we are absolutely opposed to the free coinage of silver and to the compulsory purchase of bullion by the Government. We believe that the interests of the people demand that the earnings of trade, agriculture, manufactures and commerce, and especially the wages of labor, should be paid in money of the greatest intrinsic value and the highest standard adopted by the civilized nations of the earth. We are, therefore, unalterably opposed to all devices and schemes for the debasement of our currency, and to all evasions and compromises of a question so closely affecting individual and National honor.

Yet on September 10 the same organization, weakened, it is true, by the secession of its abler and more reputable leaders, met at Harrisburg and passed this shameless resolution:

That the platform of principles adopted by the late Democratic National Convention at Chicago be accepted by this convention as the expression of opinion of the majority of the duly accredited representatives of the Democracy of the United States upon the issues involved in the present canvass; and that we heartily indorse the same, and particularly that plank in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of both silver and gold at a ratio of 16 to 1, and that this convention confidently appeal to the people of Pennsylvania for the support and vindication of those principles at the coming election.

This reversal of attitude was not accomplished without a protest on the part of a self-respecting minority, which withdrew from the convention after submitting this emphatic protest:

We deny the right of this convention to change a line of the body of sound Democratic doctrine unanimously proclaimed at Allentown by the authorized convention of our party. We protest against the unlawful organization of this body in violation of party rules, and against your arbitrary action in unseating lawful delegates for the offence of fidelity to Democratic principles, and the substitution of others whose only claim to recognition lies in their abandonment of Democratic doctrines. We especially protest against your substitution of the so-called Chicago platform for the Allentown declaration of principles. We conceive the declarations of the Chicago Convention to be unpatriotic, vicious and un-Democratic. On all the pressing questions of the hour they violate Democratic doctrine, subvert Democratic precedent, falsify Democratic history and trample on Democratic purposes and aims.

It is scarcely necessary to add that the headlong majority leaders paid no attention whatever to this pointed and searching remonstrance.

RETROGRESSION IN THE NORTHWEST.

In the three Northwestern Sound Money States—Wisconsin, Minnesota and South Dakota—the Democratic party has surrendered completely and unconditionally to the heresies of the Chicago platform. Wisconsin has long been noted for its political conservatism and practical views of business and finance. Both political parties have been on record for years as opposed to the reckless experiment of free silver coinage by the United States alone, and only as recently as June 23 a Democratic State Convention adopted this clear and definite declaration in favor of a single gold standard:

We believe that the demands of a commerce built upon the broad and enlightened doctrine of free trade require a currency that cannot be discredited in any civilized country. Realizing this logical demand for the best money for international trade; realizing also the dangers of a flat currency in domestic use, and well aware that the present condition of commercial distress calls for the patriotic and sturdy maintenance of National honor and financial integrity, we declare ourselves opposed to the free and unlimited coinage of silver and in favor of gold, the highest monetary standard of the world.

Nothing could be more explicit than this avowal. Yet barely two months later, on September 3, another Democratic State Convention met and passed this surprising resolution:

We, the Democrats of Wisconsin, in convention assembled, hereby ratify and indorse the nominations and platform made by the Democratic National Convention held at Chicago in July last, and pledge to the support of our standard-bearers, William J. Bryan and Arthur Sewall, the entire strength and energy of the Democracy of the State. We believe that a Nation of 70,000,000 free men, determined to secure and enjoy its liberties, is able to maintain a financial policy of its own. America was always a leader, never a follower. We therefore declare that the interests of the people of the United States imperatively demand the restoration of the free coinage of silver as it existed at the time of the demonetization in 1873, and that, too, without waiting for the consent of any other nation on earth; and we cordially invite all persons, irrespective of party, to join us in securing the triumph of this principle, so closely connected with the prosperity of our countrymen.

It is to the credit of Senator William F. Vilas and General Edward S. Bragg, the most prominent Democratic leaders in the State, that they both bolted the Chicago ticket and platform immediately after the adjournment of the National Convention. But other important leaders, like ex-Governor Peck and National Committeeman Wall, have remained in the organization and actively co-operated in the party's recent extraordinary change of face.

SOUTH DAKOTA AND MINNESOTA RETRACT.

South Dakota's Democratic organization has been controlled for some years past by the Federal office-holding element in the State. Its influence was consequently cast for Sound Money in the fight for the control of the Democratic National Convention. The State Convention, which met on May 20, took this view of the financial problem:

The Democratic party of South Dakota is in favor of the present standard of value in our money system, and the use of full legal-tender silver coins and paper, convertible into coin on demand, in such quantities as can be maintained without impairing or endangering the credit of the Government, or diminishing the purchasing or debt-paying power of the money in the hands of the people; and it is not in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver.

But on the return of the delegation from Chicago arrangements were made at once to repudiate this declaration and fuse with the Populists and the Pettigrew Silver Republicans in support of a Bryan-Sewall, Bryan-Watson electoral ticket. A recent State Convention effected this fusion and carried the party definitely over to the support of the repudiation platform and nominees.

The Minnesota Democrats have plunged as headlong into the mire of the free-coinage heresy as their brethren across the South Dakota border. At a State Convention on June 11 last they formally declared:

We are unqualifiedly in favor of the present gold standard of value. We favor the use of both gold and silver as money, and believe our Government should coin and keep in circulation as a part of the circulating medium as large an amount of silver as can be employed without destroying or threatening to destroy the existing parity of value between the unit in gold and the unit in silver. We oppose the free coinage of silver by our Government at the ratio of 16 to 1 without co-operation on the part of the other commercial nations of the world.

Yet on August 4 the Minnesota Democracy, following the lead taken by other States, pledged itself to a fusion with the Populists and other miscellaneous political elements on Presidential electors, each faction to have representation on a mixed Bryan-Sewall, Bryan-Watson ticket, and enthusiastically indorsed that plank in the Chicago platform which says:

We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1 without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation. We demand that the standard silver dollar shall be a full legal tender, equally with gold, for all debts, public or private, and we favor such legislation as will prevent for the future the demonetization of any kind of legal-tender money by private contract. We are opposed to the policy and practice of surrendering to the holders of the obligations of the United States the option reserved by law to the Government of redeeming such obligations in either silver or gold.

CONNECTICUT AND NEW-YORK TURN TAIL.

New-York and Connecticut, whose recanting State conventions have just disbanded, bring to an end this melancholy and discreditable record. The Connecticut Democracy only three months ago, on June 10, declared its opposition to free silver coinage in one of the most drastic and vigorous pre-convention resolutions aimed at the Bryan-Tillman-Altgeld programme of repudiation. The resolution read:

While we favor the most liberal use of silver consistent with the enforcement of a gold standard, we are unalterably opposed to the free coinage of silver, deeming it a device for the abasement of our currency, and to the compulsory purchase of silver by the Government. Under existing circumstances to pay public debts in silver coin is repudiation; to pay private debts in the same coin is to rob the wage-earner, and to provide for the free coinage of silver means the destruction of legitimate business and great suffering among the labor classes.

On September 16 the Democracy of Connecticut—somewhat battered and mutilated, however—reassembled at New-Haven and executed an extraordinary change of front by passing unanimously this demagogic declaration:

Resolved, That we indorse the platform adopted at Chicago by the Democratic National Convention, and that we pledge our earnest and faithful support to W. J. Bryan and Arthur Sewall, the candidates nominated by the Democratic party.

Resolved, That the growing industrial disaster and distressing poverty and idleness have been the ever-increasing result of the demonetization of silver in 1873; we therefore invite the united support of the electors in the effort to restore the coinage system which existed during the years of our National prosperity, and which is the coinage system recognized in our National Constitution. We denounce the recent bond issue and the useless increase of the National debt in time of peace.

Resolved, That business depression and contracted production are the inevitable causes of loss and disaster to all wealth-producing industries, that there is, therefore, no sufficient inducement to capital to invest upon a constantly falling market and with money constantly increasing in its exchangeable value and purchasing power.

THE FARCE AT BUFFALO.

The Democratic organization in New-York, after two months of hesitation, has also reached the point of eating its own words and repudiating its past financial professions. The money plank adopted by the State Convention of June 24, which chose delegates to Chicago, though not so vehemently outspoken as that framed by the Connecticut Democracy, is sufficiently explicit and emphatic. It said, in part:

We are opposed to the free and unlimited coinage of silver in the absence of the co-operation of other great nations. We declare our belief that any attempt upon the part of the United States alone to enter upon the experiment of free-silver coinage would not only prove disastrous to our finances, but would retard, or entirely prevent, the establishment of international bimetallism. Until international co-operation for bimetallism can be secured—to which end all our efforts as a Government and as a people should be in good faith directed—we favor the rigid maintenance of the present gold standard as essential to the preservation of our National credit, the redemption of our public pledges, and the keeping inviolate of our country's honor. We insist that all our paper and silver currency shall be kept absolutely at a parity with gold.

The new State Convention, which met in Buffalo on September 16 and 17, had no appetite for an elaborate feast of "crow," and contented itself with a rather more bold and perfunctory indorsement of the Chicago ticket and platform. The resolution, which marked the formal abandonment of the party's settled convictions and its cowardly acceptance of the free-coinage heresy, read as follows:

The Democratic party of the State of New-York, in convention assembled, unreservedly indorses the platform adopted by the Democratic party at the National Convention, held in Chicago, July 7, 1896, cordially approves the nominations there made, pledges to William J. Bryan and Arthur Sewall its hearty and active support, and declares as its deliberate judgment that never in the history of the Democratic party has a platform been written which embodied more completely the interests of the whole people, as distinguished from those who seek legislation for private benefit, than that given to the country by the National Democratic Convention of 1896.

Masachusetts and Maryland have held no State conventions since the free-silver coinage platform was adopted at Chicago. It is evident, however, that the organized Democracy in each of these States is preparing to follow the demoralizing precedent set by the party in all the other former Sound Money Commonwealths.

THE BEST NATURAL APERIENT WATER

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Prevents Habitual constipation. Hemorrhoids, consequence of indiscretions of diet.
FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

DO NOT TAKE SUBSTITUTES.

None genuine without the signature of the firm
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THE QUESTION OF WHEAT.

AMERICAN FARMERS THE CREDITORS OF THE WORLD.

STUPENDOUS CHANGES THAT HAVE COME IN PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION—THEIR EFFECT ON PRICES.

Edward Atkinson in Harper's Weekly.

In the discussion of the silver question in Great Britain the position of wheat constantly recurs. The whole question is dealt with as if wheat and gold were interchangeable standards. This is mainly due to the British system of land tenure, and to the conditions of agriculture based thereon. It has been held for many generations that the possession of land, the direction of its cultivation, and the labor upon the soil must by a sort of necessary law be divided between three parties—first, the landlord, who supplies land and buildings, his share of the product being taken in the name of rent; second, the tenant farmer, who is expected to provide the working capital and the executive direction with the expectation of profits; third, the laborer, who performs the manual work for wages.

The ordinary conditions of farm leases customarily prescribe what is called a four-course system, in which wheat comes in rotation. On the other hand, wheaten bread is more absolutely the staff of life in Great Britain than in any other country.

It is due to these conditions that the British landlord and his representatives in Parliament, who constituted the majority of the recent Royal Commission on the Depression of Agriculture, have become almost incapable of thinking or speaking on the silver question, except in terms of wheat. There has been a tendency of late in this country, on the part of those who have only half mastered the facts, to support the free coinage of silver of full legal tender upon the ground that "the business of this country had been capitalized on wheat at $1.25 a bushel." It is therefore held that we must debase our standard of value to a 50-cent dollar of full legal tender in order to raise the price of wheat and of other farm products.

Some one may ask what that expression "capitalized on $1.25 wheat" really means. The writer must refer that question to the young man who used it. He may explain it if he really knows what it means himself. It serves me as a convenient text to show the loose, half-witted methods of dealing with this subject by uninformed or incompetent men. If this phrase means anything, it means that we must double the price of flour and bread without any regard to the wages of those who eat bread, lest the wheat farmers should not prosper. This delusion about wheat may have some influence among those who do not know the facts. . . . In dealing with this subject the exhaustive tables compiled by L. G. Powers, chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Minnesota, and soon to be published by the State, will be chiefly made use of from the advance sheets. They are fully sustained by the authorities of other States, as well as by the compilations of the Department of Agriculture. Figures of ten great States of the northern Mississippi Valley are given, omitting the two Dakotas, which have only assumed their present important position in the production of wheat in recent years. The States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri produced 70 per cent of the whole crops of Indian corn, oats and wheat of this country during the period under consideration. It is at this great centre of the world's supply of food that the comparison of prices should be made, if by any such comparison the appreciation or depreciation of gold is to be demonstrated. These ten States, with the two Dakotas now added, supply the excess of grain which is sold for export at the gold standard, the market price of the entire crops being established by the price which this excess will bring for export to foreign countries. . . .

The average gold value per ton of corn, wheat and oats throughout this period—from 1862 to 1891 inclusive—was $15.41; per bushel, 39.9 cents. The crop of 1881 was exceptional both in quantity and price, being met by very short crops in Europe. In that year, or one of the years of that period, the quantity of wheat exported from this country either as grain or in the form of flour would have sufficed to give every inhabitant of the British Islands more than one barrel of flour each for the year of that export. In other words, had the United Kingdom depended wholly upon the United States for her supply of wheat and bread, we should have supplied in that year the whole population of the British Islands and of this country also with that necessity of life.

In the interval between 1862 and 1895 60,000,000 acres of land previously unoccupied were put under the plough. What proportion of the acreage of 1862 was under mortgage there is no means of telling. Suffice it that nearly every acre since occupied has been improved and brought under cultivation with money borrowed and secured on mortgage. The average duration of these mortgages has been five years. At the end of this period, namely, in 1892, more than one-half, and, outside of the arid lands where speculative mortgage companies have misled owners into purchasing land unfit for cultivation except by irrigation, more than two-thirds of these improved and occupied farms were free of any mortgage whatever, and were well stocked.

In the census report on mortgages the full statement of the case is given in these words, covering the whole Nation: "In regard to the families occupying farms, the conclusion is that 34.08 per cent of the families hire and 65.92 per cent own the farms cultivated by them; that 28.22 per cent of the owning families own subject to incumbrance, and 71.78 per cent own free of incumbrance. Among 100 farm families, on the average, 34 hire their farms, 19 own with incumbrance, and 47 without incumbrance. On the owned farms there are liens amounting to $1,085,995,940, which is 25.55 per cent of the value of the incumbered farms, and this debt bears interest at the average rate of 7.07 per cent. Each owned and incumbered farm, on the average, is worth $3,444 and is subject to a debt of $1,224." . . . The American farmers have protected themselves in great measure against the dangers of resting upon a single crop. In the early part of this period—1862 to 1891—the all-wheat system of cultivation prevailed in many of the States, but in all these States varied agriculture has been adopted. Wheat has become, like the cotton of the South, the surplus or the money crop, requiring a few days' work in the spring or autumn in planting and a few days' work in the summer or autumn in harvesting. The farmers have become year by year self-sustaining on their products of meats, butter, cheese, eggs, flaxseed, fruits, and many other products, to the end that the wheat has become a surplus or profit crop. If the readers of this article in these States have any reason to question this statement, the writer earnestly solicits information thereon.

A glance can only be given to the stupendous changes which have occurred in the process of production and distribution.

The railway system has been consolidated, rendered effective and increased from about 30,000 miles in 1862 to 175,000 miles in 1892. The cost of moving a bushel of wheat from Chicago to New-York by lake and rail has been reduced from 26.6 cents in 1865 to 18c8, and from a higher rate in 1862, to 5.61 cents in 1892, and it is now even less.

Modern agricultural machinery has been almost brought into existence, while the price of each more and more effective plough, reaper and harvester has been reduced one-half or more since their adoption in their first forms. A complete revolution has occurred in milling grain, with great reduction in cost. The average man working on a grain farm now raises 50 per cent more grain with less personal effort than he was obliged to exert thirty years ago. He rides upon the plough instead of driving it, and he directs the harvesting machine instead of working it. Not only this, but by improvements in breeding and methods of feeding he raises 50 per cent more live stock, and turns out more than 50 per cent excess of dairy products than he could thirty or even twenty years since, with less manual labor. The average hog reached a marketable condition, in 1865-66, in twenty-two months—now in fourteen. The average steer, thirty years since, was six years old when slaughtered—now three years old or even less, of even weight. The average cow produces 50 per cent more milk than her predecessor of but a few years since, at a lessened cost of production.

On the other hand, the wagons, tools, furniture, groceries, clothing, and nearly all the necessaries and comforts of life for which the farmer exchanges his products were made and sold to him in 1862 at a profit sufficient to secure the most abundant supply at one-half or less than the prices that prevailed even as late as 1873, much less than one-half the prices of 1865. In all the arts of producing the necessaries of life which the farmers buy the wages of the workmen were as high at a gold standard as they had been in depreciated legal-tender notes when the purchasing power of those notes had been reduced 50 per cent, and also very much higher than they were in 1873.

It will be necessary as well as interesting for our British consumers to remark that the average return per acre in wheat from 1862 to 1894 inclusive varied but a fraction from $12.50, or, at two cents to a penny, £2 10s. When the writer first began to study this wheat question, in 1879, it became apparent to him that the only possibility of maintaining any rent whatever upon wheat land in Great Britain would rest upon the maintenance of a high cost of transportation from the Mississippi Valley. How rapidly that cost would be reduced he did not himself dare to predict. At that time, so far as he could get exact information, the rent and poor rates upon good land devoted to wheat in Great Britain were more than £2 per acre, in many instances £3. These facts were disclosed in an article in "The Fortnightly Review" for July, 1880.

At a return of $12.50 per acre, or substantially from a total return equivalent to rent and rates only in Great Britain as they were twenty years ago, our wheat crop has nearly trebled, while our grain crop has much more than trebled, and from these returns, covering the whole cost, the interest on mortgages, and all other charges, nearly two-thirds of the farmers in these ten States have become independent, owning their farms free from mortgage. They are, in fact, the great creditor class of this nation, while the mortgage on the remainder of the land that is improved is less than one-half of the aggregate value even of that part.

The stupendous folly of the silver miners and their retainers in expecting support in their attack upon the credit and integrity of the Nation in these ten States will become apparent in November.

This statement would not be complete without submitting the facts in regard to the grain crop of the Nation as well as that of the ten States, although in nearly all the other States the product of grain is relatively unimportant, with the exception of North Dakota and South Dakota. The Territory of Dakota was practically unoccupied in 1862 and 1865. It produced so little wheat until a very much later period that its crops were not listed separately until very recently. Since the cultivation of wheat began, in face of declining prices, the product of the wheat of these two States increased until it had reached 60,000,000 bushels in 1895, or nearly one-fifth of the whole product of that year.

The exact figures of the grain crop of the whole Nation are not quite complete in the advance sheets which have been placed at my disposal by Mr. Powers. The following table, however, will give in round figures facts which are subject to very slight variation when the work is completed:

Year.	Acreage.	Bushels.	Value per bush., gold.	Value of crop.
1862	31,200,000	921,000,000	44 cts.	*$416,000,000
1871	62,400,000	1,480,000,000	53 cts.	†871,000,000
1881	118,800,000	1,995,000,000	73 cts.	*1,410,000,000
1891	142,000,000	3,410,000,000	46 cts.	*1,582,000,000

*Gold. †Currency.

TIMELY TOPICS IN PULPITS.

SERMONS ON PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

MOST OF THEM DEAL WITH THE FINANCIAL ISSUE, BUT SOME TREAT OF THE SITUATION IN TURKEY, AND OTHER MATTERS.

Sermons on topics of the day were preached in an unusually large number of pulpits in this city yesterday. Nearly all dealt to a greater or less extent with the financial issue, but the situation in Turkey, the application of the principles of Washington's farewell address to present conditions, and other matters, received attention from several of the preachers. Among the clergymen whose sermons dealt with public questions were the Rev. Dr. Charles L. Thompson, of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church; the Rev. Dr. Madison C. Peters, of the Bloomingdale Reformed Church; the Rev. Alfred E. Myers, of the Marble Collegiate Church; the Rev. Dr. Robert S. MacArthur, of the Calvary Baptist Church, and the Rev. S. Parks Cadman, of the Metropolitan Methodist Church.

THE SPIRIT OF ANARCHY.

NO EXCUSE FOR ITS APPEARANCE IN THIS COUNTRY—A SERMON BY THE REV. MR. MYERS.

The Rev. Alfred E. Myers's sermon last night at the Marble Collegiate Church, Fifth-ave. and Twenty-ninth-st., was on "An Anarchist of the Olden Time." Mr. Myers said that the sermon was suggested by the discovery of the plot against the lives of European sovereigns, which was divulged after the arrest of P. J. Tynan in France. "The first Anarchist," he said, "was the first man-child born into the world. Cain began by envying Abel. Envy provoked anger. Anger was impatient and would not wait for any remedy. Impatient rage passed into a settled hate. Hatred took the law into its own hands, and brother slew brother. This act constituted Cain an Anarchist, for the word Anarchist means one who rejects all rule and authority.

"Anarchy is the repudiation of all authority, human and divine. This spirit broke out in the French Revolution of a century ago. This spirit desolated Paris under the Commune of 1871. This spirit slew Alexander II of Russia in 1881. Practically the same spirit, in an unusually wicked or wickedly insane man, slew our Garfield. The same spirit slew President Carnot, of France, and the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in Phoenix Park.

"Whatever may be said in extenuation of the irregular and sanguinary violence of those who are seeking to introduce freedom into despotic governments, the appearance of Anarchism in this Republic is absolutely indefensible. With our free press, free rostrum, free and secret ballot, free schools, free church, free thought and free people, a peaceful remedy is to be had for all wrongs and injustices. Have you a grievance which is remediable through the State? Then publish abroad your grievance. Write it, print it, speak it, preach it. Persuade your fellow-citizens to help you. Then through the ballot-box effect your end."

LESSONS FROM WASHINGTON.

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE FAREWELL ADDRESS ESPECIALLY APPLICABLE NOW, DR. THOMPSON SAYS.

In the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church last night the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Charles L. Thompson, took as the subject of his discourse "Washington's Farewell Address Adapted to the Present."

"Let us learn a little patriotism to-night," he said, "from the most important document ever issued by a statesman in the history of this country. In later years we have come to think more about its importance than people did when it was written. It should be studied by us all and taught in the schools. Washington's address was most carefully prepared. He was engaged upon it from May to September, and he consulted Jefferson and others regarding it. Every statement in the document grew out of Washington's own experience. Its value now is as great as then."

The Doctor then proceeded to tell of the chief principles enunciated in the message, namely, that this country should avoid foreign alliances and entanglements; that the National unity should at all hazards be preserved; that religion and morality are indispensable to the prosperity of the Nation; that this country should endeavor to maintain peaceful relations with other nations, and that the people should maintain obedience to the Constituted authorities and to the law.

All of these principles, the Doctor said, were applicable to the present time. Avoidance of foreign entanglements had become a settled policy. The various sections of the country were interdependent; their amicable relations must be preserved. The words of Washington had come to have a tremendous significance. Recriminations between the East and the West should be frowned upon. They were only inspired by self-seeking politicians. No section monopolized the honor and integrity of the country. The morality of the Nation could not be maintained without religion. The Nation must be true to the religious principles inherited from its founders. The Nation was beginning to live up to the principles of arbitration and peace inculcated by Washington.

In closing, Dr. Thompson said that Washington's farewell address came close to every patriotic instinct. This Nation should follow out his large views, and thus it would become a beacon light to the world, and greater than even he could have dreamed of.

MR. CADMAN ON THE ISSUES.

"The rising generation, young men who will cast their first, second or third ballot at the next election, should aim to establish a government in this country which will bring Heaven to earth," said the Rev. S. Parks Cadman, pastor of the Metropolitan Temple, Seventh-ave., near Fourteenth-st., in his morning sermon yesterday. "You should be guided by unselfishness in exercising the franchise. No good citizen should be always looking out for his own personal interests at the expense of the general weal. Unselfish politics is of slow growth. In speaking to me regarding his historical sermon, the results of which were cleaner politics, cleaner streets and an improved city altogether, the Rev. Dr. Parkhurst said: 'I was a very lonely man when I preached that sermon.' And he was very lonely. Even the clergy held back and waited to see what would come of his efforts before they assisted in his fight for better things.

"Public weal is better than party fealty. When a man tells me that he has never voted any but the Republican or the Democratic ticket, as the case may be, I am inclined to exclaim, 'How many scoundrels you must have voted for!'

"There are a number of men of Dr. Parkhurst's stamp in this city. One of them, Richard Watson Gilder, the Editor of 'The Century,' by his unselfish efforts made it possible for the authorities to order filthy and death-producing tenements to be pulled down, and landlords are obliged to furnish decent places of residence in return for the money they receive from the poor.

"What a satire upon the Church of God that we are obliged to go outside of it for this kind of Christian work! The Kingdom of God on earth includes the whole organism of human society. I shall never talk partisan politics for the mere sake of notoriety, but certainly the pulpit should touch upon the interests of every phase of life. The Church is secondary. The Kingdom of God on earth is paramount. A faith too feeble to successfully attack Tammany, saloonism, and bad politics generally is impotent, and the quicker men get back to the true faith of Christ the better. All political parties claim to have discovered the right thing. They cry, 'Eureka,' but 99 per cent of their platforms are conceived in selfishness and the lust of power and wealth.

"The proposal of a certain party to inflate the currency is preposterous. Loss and suffering would ensue, and the workingman would suffer most," said Mr. Cadman. He proceeded to deprecate animosity between capital and labor. In instances labor might have reason for animosity, but the assertion of many workingmen that they would not vote for McKinley because he was supported by capitalists was unwise. Because capitalists voted for a desirable result labor should not hold back if they believed the result desirable.

Mr. Cadman urged his hearers to hesitate and weigh matters well before they voted for Bryan.

"This country has never yet paid 53 cents on the dollar, and, please God, it never will!" he exclaimed.

THE CHURCH AND THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE.

At the Church of the Divine Paternity, Fifth-ave. and Forty-fifth-st., yesterday morning the Rev. Dr. Charles H. Eaton delivered a discourse on "The Church and the Spirit of the Age." The principles of true democracy were declared in Washington's farewell address, Dr. Eaton said. The true standard of values was the amount of real good that a thing would accomplish for the welfare of mankind. No political party or standard of patriotism should challenge the church, he said. A clergyman who was silent on the real issues of the day was not doing his duty. We must comprehend the universal Fatherhood of God. A true man is true to himself, to his fellows, to his country and to his God.

DR. MACARTHUR'S SERMON.

The Rev. Dr. Robert S. MacArthur preached last night in the Calvary Baptist Church, in West Fifty-seventh-st., on "The Stirring Events of the Past Week." He said that 100 years ago Saturday George Washington made an address to the people of the United States declining to become President for a third time. That address, Dr. MacArthur said, could be read with profit to-day and would prove a rebuke to the men who were trying to array the West against the East, and employes against employers. "George Washington," said Dr. MacArthur, "warned us against undue devotion to party. He put country first."

"We have seen," said the preacher, "a party swallow gold at Saratoga in June and swallow silver in September at Buffalo.