

"IT IS ERROR ALONE WHICH NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT; TRUTH CAN STAND BY ITSELF."
—THOMAS JEFFERSON.

THE BROAD AX

HEW TO THE LINE.

"THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE IN ALL THAT IS GOOD, AND THE LEADING SPIRIT IN EVERY MOVEMENT WHICH HAS FOR ITS OBJECT THE UPLIFTING OF THE HUMAN RACE."
—WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

VOL. II.

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No. 4.

OUR TICKET FOR 1896.

For President:
WILLIAM J. BRYAN,
OF NEBRASKA.
For Vice-President:
ARTHUR SEWALL,
OF MAINE.

PRESIDENT BRYAN'S LETTER

LAST week the next President of the United States gave his letter of acceptance to the public. Owing to the lateness in the week at which it was received here, and a rush of other business, the Broad Ax was unable to refer to this great state document at an earlier time. The letter of Mr. Bryan demands careful reading by every one interested in the important issues now hanging in the balance of public opinion. This gifted man in his opening paragraph shows that every inch of him is that of an unselfish, patriotic American. That he is the champion of that class of citizens who need the protection of the power of the law by reason of their unequal start in the race of life, is exhibited by these words of his letter.

"Our institutions rest upon the proposition that all men, being created equal, are entitled to equal consideration at the hands of the Government." The thought expressed in these lines is worthy of a Thomas Jefferson. They come from an honest heart, and mean that the wage-worker, the farmer, and the producer are entitled to as much consideration, and will receive as many favors as the bankers, the railroad kings, the factory owners, and the trusts.

The letter severely but justly condemns the issue of bonds to maintain the present gold standard, as being unwise and dangerous. He shows without doubt that this policy puts the Government into the hands of a wealthy syndicate that can speculate upon the United States Treasury at will. He bravely asserts that "this Government is dependent upon the good will of a constitutional majority of the people alone."

He favors the use of the United States note, or greenbacks, in lieu of National bank notes for our paper currency. These, made redeemable in coin, bear no interest, are safer and cheaper for the people, and would be one step in the direction of breaking up the monopoly which a few men possess to control the money of the country.

The trusts are handled in a way which plainly indicates that the power of the executive will never be used to create or promote their interests, but that on the other hand they will be discouraged and shorn of their power. It is safe to predict that if Mr. Bryan is elected he will see to it that the law against these aggregations of wealth will be strictly enforced. He shows his sympathy for the brave Cuban people who are struggling to obtain their independence like that we have enjoyed for one hundred and twenty years; and were he President the United States would acknowledge the Cubans as a belligerent power in twenty-four hours. A wise hint at improvement in the civil service law is given, which commends itself at a glance to the good sense of our law-makers. It is to make such changes in the law which will forbid the holding of an

official position for life, except where provided by the Constitution. The tenure of official station should be fixed at a term of years, and thereby enable a larger number of citizens to partake in the duties as well as the emoluments of office. This plan is strongly favored by Mr. Bryan, and we believe it is a splendid improvement on the present system.

Mr. Bryan very wisely puts the tariff in the background for the present. His views are already well known on this subject, and there was no reason to restate them in a year and at a time when the question itself would not be likely to come before the country during his term of office. The tariff issue is settled for the present, except as to the schedule on some particular article, and that cannot become a national question. Mr. Bryan so regarded it, and it was an act of prudence and decency not to agitate a threadbare subject, and arouse feelings of opposition. He believes the greatest of all questions is the money question, and on that issue he appeals to his fellow-citizens to stand together, that the free government given us by our forefathers "shall not perish from the earth."

The entire letter is plain and concise, bearing upon its face the stamp of statesmanship, which is refreshing to the people of this country. As a state paper, it is as far above the McKinley effort, as the snow-capped peaks of the Wasatch range are above the prairie dog mounds of Skull valley. It is manly, patriotic, and hopeful. Let every good man and woman do their duty, and the author of that letter will be our President.

SUPREME COURT CRITICISM

Our opponents, like a pettifogger in a police court, raise their hands in holy horror and roll their eyes in Pecksniffian astonishment, when they refer to that portion of the Chicago platform which dares to differ with the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States on the Income Tax Law. They assume a virtuous air, and then hurriedly whisper, "anarchy." This favorite phrase is on the lips of every speaker and in the columns of every newspaper that is supporting the English gold standard Republican party, from McKinley down to the little cross-roads paper printed at Provo, Utah.

A disagreement with an opinion of this high judicial body, is set down to be an act of treason, and a tendency to overturn the whole fabric of our government. All this sort of twaddle is unworthy the great men who indulge in it; it is the cheap and dishonest talk of the politician. The Supreme Court is but one of the branches of our government, and is no greater, or entitled to no more or less respect than the executive, or the legislature. It is composed of men, human beings, just like all courts of justice. The members are no more of Divine origin than the blind beggar who grinds his hand organ on the street for pennies. They are not infallible or the essence of perfection any more than the men who have occupied their seats in years gone by.

In the rendering of this far-reaching opinion, there was five in favor and four opposed. One of the judges changed his views within three weeks, thus making five

and a majority of the nine judges; he also strove to hide his name from his fellow-countrymen, as though he would escape the responsibility and the odium which he knew would follow.

Is it anarchy or treason to criticize a judicial edict rendered under such circumstances? The Chicago platform, and none of the Democratic speakers or papers have ever deprecated or dissented from the views of that opinion in more severe terms than the four brave judges who disagreed with the five. If they may be permitted to attack this judicial monstrosity with such strong language, why may not any other citizen likewise express his dissent without being charged with anarchy? Do not the old-time members of the Republican party remember how they used to rail and condemn the same court for the *Dred Scott* decision? The very founders of the Republican party used to enjoy the privilege they had of abusing Judge Lane for this wrong opinion. It became the foundation of poetry and fiction, and was instilled into youth for years, that it was not only inhuman, but that it was a moral crime. And yet these same hoary-headed hypocrites and their descendants now cry, "anarchy" when we condemn this same court for a greater wrong. And then the Supreme Court is entitled to no immunity from criticism in this case, for the reason that they themselves reversed the holding of the same court which had stood as the law of the land for more than one hundred years, and which had been presented and ruled upon by this judicial body in the *Hylton* case, and in the *Springer* case.

Thus, if it is anarchy to condemn this last opinion, then it was anarchy to have rendered it, as it was in effect a condemnation of the honored judges who had preceded them, and who had decided the income tax law valid and constitutional.

This party of greed and gold does not hesitate to resort to any unfair and desperate means to advance their cause; but this, like many others will do them more harm than good, when the people get an understanding of the matter.

THE RICH OPPOSED TO BRYAN.

"One reason for thinking that Mr. McKinley will win is that the rich all over the United States are against Mr. Bryan, and they have had months for making preparations to safe-guard themselves against danger."—*London Statist*.

Oh, certainly the English are against us, and they believe that money can rule the world forever. In this case the thought is the offspring of the wish. The rich are against Mr. Bryan are they? Well, if they are the only ones who are opposing him he would have a sure election, as matters have been so mismanaged in this country that a very small portion of the people are rich; but then they are very rich; but a rich man's vote only counts one, the same as his coachman's.

This reminds us of the two gentlemen who were running for Congress in Mississippi. One had been a major in the Confederate army, and insisted upon running on his military record, and in a public speech asked the ex-soldiers to vote for him because he had been a

"major." Replying to this the other candidate said: "My opponent asks your vote because he was a major. I am willing to meet him fairly on this ground. He was a major; I was a private. All I ask is, all who were officers vote for my opponent, and all who were private vote for me." It is needless to say the private was elected by a large majority.

So in this election, Mr. McKinley was a major, and we will let him have the vote of all the officers, from Generals Palmer and Buckner down to Captain Herr Most, and we will take the support of the high privates for Bryan.

It is hard for an Englishman or for a British-American to realize that the privates in this country amount to much. Their feeling is, "Let the people be damned." But when they hear the tramp of the cowboot brigade, and see the millions of corn-huskers from the western prairies, they will realize that an army of generals without privates is like a carriage without wheels, a gun without lock, stock or barrel, or a tree without roots.

The rich are against Mr. Bryan, but the poor are for him, and the "poor are always with us." It means that there will be such an uprising of the people that will give hope and life to the toiling millions, and will teach these Lon-

doners' and Eastern millionaires that justice and truth will still survive to the sons of men.

Mrs. JULIUS F. TAYLOR had the pleasure of a call on last Thursday from Mrs. S. G. Wilson, of 17 Euclid Avenue, and her sister, Mrs. A. J. Spears, of 970 west, Fourth South St. Both ladies are great lovers of art and complimented the paintings very highly.

An editor recently invented an infernal machine which he places in an envelope and sends to those who refuse their local paper, after taking it for five years and not paying for it. The machine explodes and kills the whole family, and the fragments that fall in the yard kills the dog. Glory certainly awaits that editor, and when he gets into the sanctum that awaits him above he will have an upholstered chair and be allowed to sit with his feet on the table.—*Ex.*

The Great Campaign has again risen from the ashes of its fires greater than ever. This year *The Great Campaign* is an appropriate cognomen; and it is right in the spirit of earnest work for the election of Bryan and the redemption of the land from the sordid hand of wealth. We welcome Brother Kenner and his bright, original journal into the field. There is room for all, and all can help win the greatest victory of the century.

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