

**AN EXPLANATION THAT DOES NOT EXPLAIN.**

Something More Concerning the "Economist" Supplement.

In our criticism of Dr. Macune's attempted explanation of the *Economist* circular two weeks ago some important points were omitted. He stated in the supreme council at Memphis as an excuse for the publication and circulation of the supplement that as publisher of the official organ of the Alliance he deemed it his duty to publish official documents, whether he approved their contents or not. We discussed the proposition as to what constitutes an official document in our former article, and showed that such a document could not be issued upon the authority of one man. But for the sake of the argument we will suppose, for the time being, that the Tillman address to the democracy of the south was an official document. It had been published in pamphlet form and mailed to many southern people before it was published as an *Economist* supplement. In publishing it as a supplement the following paragraphs were omitted:

Now, having as Alliance men announced a code of principles directly in opposition and hostile to the leading principles of the republican party, fidelity and consistency to our cause require of each of us such action in the approaching presidential election as will best promote the principles of our professed doctrines.

Can we hope for the success of our noble fraternity by contributing by our vote to the triumph of the republican party, a party responsible for the wrongs and oppressions now so heavily afflicting us, a party that boldly announces its purpose to continue its course of unjust legislation, extravagance, burdensome taxation, and to deprive us of the free exercise of the ballot? No, no, must be the common answer of every true and conscientious member of the order.

It is true that the associate editor of the *Economist* made a statement that she struck out these paragraphs, but Dr. Macune justified the act and assumed the responsibility of it.

Now the question arises, if that was an official document which the official organ was under obligation to publish whether the editors of the *Economist* approved its contents or not, as Dr. Macune stated, what right had they to mutilate it by striking out these paragraphs?

Further than this; when they were asked why these paragraphs were omitted, the answer was, because they did not approve of the sentiment they expressed. This was in direct conflict with the previous statement that it was their duty to publish official documents whether they approved the contents or not; and, further, the statement that these paragraphs were stricken out because they did not approve the sentiment of them was equivalent to saying that they did approve of the remainder of the address. This is undoubtedly the fact. They undoubtedly did approve of both the sentiment and the purpose of the address, which was stated in Mr. Tillman's letter to be:

To do effective work among voters whose feelings and teachings have been democratic from childhood up, but also to accomplish good results in the near future, as you fully know that hundreds change their

minds immediately before and upon the day of election.

The fact is, the more Dr. Macune tries to explain, the deeper he gets in the toils. We called attention to the fact that these supplements were only circulated in the south. If the motive of the publication was as Dr. Macune stated, to let the people know what Tillman was doing, and if it was a fact that most of the edition of the *Economist* was mailed before he received the address, and that he stopped the mailing in order to get the supplement into those that remained, why did he not send it to the balance of his subscribers the following week, November 12?

The fact has become apparent to all thinking members of the order, that an official organ, which is supposed to speak with the authority of the order, and which may prove treacherous to its trust at a critical moment, is a dangerous instrument which should no longer be continued; and the new executive board will render the order a most important service by dispensing with it altogether. The entire reform press of the country will give free space to all official matter, and no necessity therefore exists for an organ. The *Economist* has proven itself a traitor to our movement, and is not, therefore, entitled to support.

**IS IT IGNORANCE OR "JUSSEDNESS?"**

We clip the following paragraph from the president's last annual message. It is so absolutely absurd as to lead the intelligent reader to doubt the honesty of the writer:

It is true that the market price of cotton and wheat have been low. It is one of the unfavorable incidents of agriculture that the farmers cannot produce upon orders. He must sow and reap in ignorance of the aggregate production of the year, and is peculiarly subject to the depreciation which follows overproduction. But while the facts I have stated are true as to the crops I have mentioned, the general average of prices have been such as to give to agriculture a fair participation in the general prosperity.

Where is that "general prosperity" of which the president speaks? Has any one seen any of the indications of it? Do they exist in the low prices of agricultural products of which he speaks, or are they to be found in the labor strikes all over the country?

Consider for a moment what must be the mental consideration of a man who, in the face of existing facts, will state the cause of the low prices of agricultural products to be overproduction. There is to begin with a smaller per capita production this year than there was twenty years ago when the export price of wheat was \$1.47 per bushel and corn 70 cents, and yet, in the face of a largely increased export demand, the price of wheat to-day averages about 71 cents and corn about 47 cents. At the same time there are millions of people who are famishing for the want of food which they are unable to buy. Whether it be through stupidity or dishonesty that a president of the United States is led to make such a statement as that above quoted, it is full time for him to retire to private life, where he will have opportunity, if he has the disposition, to study the economic conditions of his country.

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**EVICTED IRISH TENANTS NOT SO BADLY OFF AFTER ALL.**

This was the opinion of two Englishmen who were recently visiting New York. In an article in the holiday number of the *Arena* by William P. McLoughlin, entitled "Evictions in New York's Tenement Houses," many distressing scenes of destitution are described. Among them is one where eighty evicted families lived for a week on the sidewalks. It was during this time that two English travelers who had witnessed this exhibition of New York's civilization were in conversation at the Brevoort House when one of them remarked:

"Well! Ireland is not so badly off under its English landlords after all. There an evicted tenant has a fund on which to draw, contributed by Americans. Here the evicted one has—the work house."

The *Advocate* has many times called attention to the fact that the American people are accustomed to look for poverty and destitution through a long-range telescope; thereby entirely overlooking these conditions at home. Millions of dollars are contributed for the relief of the destitute in other lands, while, upon our own shores, and right in the very midst of the long-range philanthropists, are as distressing conditions of human misery and want as are to be found in any part of the world; and these remain undiscovered and unknown except to the few. Republican editors and politicians in their glowing descriptions of American prosperity even deny that such conditions exist here. Would it not be well to dispense with the telescope for a short time and take a few observations with the naked eye at close range? Such observations might lead to the discovery of some of the causes of the great unrest among the American people that underlies the recent political upheaval. In looking for an issue which will give the republican party an excuse for continuing to exist, suppose the sages of that party should turn their attention to this subject.

**THEY WANT THE EARTH.**

The *New York Times* of Sunday, November 29, has a dispatch from Exmore, Va., concerning Mr. Cleveland's re-treat, from which we clip the following:

The Broadwater club, which owns Hog Island, and which has taken steps to change the name to Broadwater Island, represents still another development of the latest tendency of millionaires and associations of rich men. Having, to a large extent, conquered the continent, they are now turning their attention to the islands. The first island in this country to become a large social factor was Carroll's Island, in the Chesapeake bay, where the duck shooting is famed in two hemispheres and where admittance to the club that owns it is beyond the price of fine jewels, the last share of stock, with a membership, having sold for something like \$18,000.

Within the past two years the rich men of the country seem to have been busy acquiring islands, and at the present rate of purchase there won't be a desirable island left by the end of another twelvemonth. The Vanderbilts and Carnegies and some other rich men have bought the habitable islands off the coast of Georgia. The best islands off the coast of North and South Carolina are occupied by clubs, and now the Virginia islands are getting into the hands of the

men who can afford such luxuries. South of Cape Henry are the ducking shores which President Harrison visited last year as the guest of the Ragged Island club, and north of Cape Charles is the Broadwater club, whose president, Mr. Joseph L. Farrell, is now entertaining Mr. Cleveland and his companions, Mr. L. Clark Davis and Mr. Charles B. Jefferson.

We would suggest the impropriety of the change of name above indicated. The present name is very appropriate. It correctly indicates the character of the animals that are seeking to monopolize the earth.

**A FALSEHOOD.**

Certain so-called reform papers have been fighting the *Economist* for over two years, simply because it furnished reform literature at cost, and by so doing prevented them from speculating upon the membership. "If this be treason, make the most of it."—*National Economist*.

No "so-called reform paper" has fought the *Economist* for any such reason as that assigned. In fact, there has been no fight upon the *Economist* at all for any such length of time, as above stated. On the contrary, the reform press all over the country has sustained it and encouraged its circulation both by favorable mention and by taking subscribers for it. This has been done notwithstanding the fact that the *Economist* refused to make the customary reduction on clubbing rates.

The criticisms of the *Economist* by the "so-called reform papers" have been on account of the treachery of its editor to the principles which he hypocritically pretended to support. He has been a reformer for revenue from first to last. We have been satisfied of this ever since the meeting at Ocala, and have accumulated some evidence upon the subject which will be read now with more appreciation than it would some time ago. Dr. Macune's hypocritical self-righteousness will not save him now from the just condemnation of an outraged public. Some rich developments may be looked for in the course of time.

**Plan of Study for Subordinate Alliances.**

**JANUARY.**

- First week—First chapter on "The Money Question."
- Second week—First chapter on "The Sub-Treasury Plan."
- Third week—First chapter on "The Seven Financial Conspiracies."
- Fourth week—Open meeting for discussion.

**FEBRUARY.**

- First week—First chapter "Bondholders and Breadwinners."
- Second week—Second chapter on "The Money Question."
- Third week—Second chapter on the "Sub-Treasury Plan."
- Fourth week—Open meeting for discussion.

The object of this plan adopted at the State Alliance and formulated by the state executive committee is to have all our members studying the same thing at the same time, that Kansas Alliance men may lead all other states in the knowledge of our work.

All the officers of subordinate and county Alliances are to be elected at the annual meeting next January. Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly. W. S. HANNA, President.

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