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MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1908.

JUDGE PARKER AND THE PLATFORM.

That Judge Alton B. Parker is to write the platform of the National Democratic Convention is a rumor of the most welcome import.

The utterances of Judge Parker exhibit a grasp of public questions, an insight of their proper treatment, and a sanity of outlook which are refreshing amid the capricious demands and empiric suggestions that now distract our thoughts and clog our activities.

To discard all such heresy and perversion is a necessary omission from the national Democratic platform of 1908. To denounce the failure of the Republican party to give the needed relief from unjust taxation; to declare that the Federal government should be confined within the limits prescribed by the Constitution; that its administration should be according to law, and not the personal will and usurpations of one man, are necessary contents of the national Democratic platform of 1908; and to set them forth with emphasis and clarity, no one is more admirably equipped than Alton B. Parker.

His character and known beliefs give assurance that the platform, if written by him, will be the soundest of Democratic doctrine applied to the settlement of present issues.

CONSULTING THE ORACLES.

From hundreds of commercial watch towers heralds of coming prosperity are searching the horizon for that "cloud about the size of a man's hand" betokening the passing of the business drought. Crop statistics, the iron market, idle employes, bank deposits, every oracle is consulted in turn, and, though the responses in the main are Delphic, the seekers of encouragement continue their search.

Perhaps no one factor is more closely recorded than the freight cars out of employment. Last October there was a shortage of 86,811. Now, seven months after, as of May 13th, there is a surplus of 404,375 idle cars standing on silent sidetracks. Melancholy as this statement is, there is at least the comfort of knowing that since April 29th, the surplus has been reduced 9,000, for on that date there were 413,338 idle cars. Even this little recession does not show that the tide has distinctly turned, for from the beginning of February to the middle of March there was a falling off in idle cars from 342,000 to 296,000, only to see the number rise again to 413,000.

There is this encouragement, however, that the New York Central and Hudson River Railway has ordered 2,000 extra cars on the theory that the railroad with the equipment will get the grain business when the crops are harvested, and there is the further satisfaction that in 1893 it was seven years before the full employment of cars was regained, while now in an equal number of months long-headed business men are preparing for a shortage in transportation facilities which they believe to be inevitable.

THE CHANCE OF TIGHT MONEY.

Those who demanded currency legislation at any price in order to avoid the "inevitable money stringency this fall" have achieved their heart's desire. Unfortunately it remains to be seen whether the iron will not enter into their souls.

The Chamber of Commerce of New York, whose members are certainly in touch with finances, passed an overwhelming resolution last month asking that no action be taken on currency bills this year. Business organizations throughout the country have done the same thing, and, says the New York Evening Post, "the reason for their confidence in so voting was their knowledge that no such season of financial and industrial liquidation as we have just passed through has ever been followed by tight money in the autumn. These business men know that no such liquidation as we have just lived through has ever been followed by tight money in the autumn. Money is being loaned to-day on Wall Street, for a period of six months, at the rate of 3 1-2 per cent.—which shows pretty fairly just how much fear the banks have of a money stringency in September, October or November. They are aware that the surplus bank reserve has risen this month to heights never but once surpassed in the country's history, and that a later deficit is wholly impossible. In the one year which reported a higher surplus—1894—thirty-day loans on Wall Street, during the second half of the year, never rose above 2 per cent., and 1 1-2 was the ruling rate. Only three other years have witnessed a surplus reserve anywhere nearly approaching that of the present month. Of these, 1898, in spite of the great financial and commercial activity, lived through the autumn season with no higher a thirty-day rate than 2 1-2 per cent. In another of them, 1904, the very active autumn speculation for the rise in stocks had so little effect on money rates that short-time loans did not get above 3 per cent. until December, and then remained at 3 1-2. In the third, 1885, a year of trade revival and of a very wild boom in stocks, 3 to 4 per cent. was the high range. Further particulars are scarcely necessary."

DO FALSE ASSESSMENTS PAY?

A certain man came to Mecklenburg county from the Northwest. He bought 1,000 acres of land at $20 an acre, paid $5,000 in cash, and later on paid $5,000 more. At the end of two years it occurred to him that, as he had very much improved the property, and owed less than one-half its cost, he could borrow the money from a large insurance company that he knew in the Northwest more cheaply than in Mecklenburg. He thereupon wrote to the insurance company, which said it would be glad to make the loan, and sent an official to examine the title and go through other formalities.

The first thing that the official found was that the land, which had been sold for $20 an acre and could not be bought for $25, was assessed at $3. As the rules of the insurance company prevented it from lending more than 50 per cent. of the assessed value of any farm land, the prospective borrower lost his opportunity, and the insurance company lost a very satisfactory loan.

This is another and forcible example of the hardship of unjust valuations by tax assessors. So far as the owner of the land itself was concerned, it made no difference to him whether he paid $1.55 on a $3,000 assessment or .2325 on a $20,000 assessment. In either event the State got the same amount of money, and the owner paid the same amount of taxes. But there was this advantage in the fair assessment, that the lands of Virginia were not depreciated below their real market value; that a fair basis for determining taxation was arrived at, and that the burden of taxation fell equally on all citizens.

Those who are interested in equitable taxation will remember that the Senate defeated a bill looking towards this end which passed the House. The bill provided for the appointment of a committee of eight members, three of whom should be appointed by the Speaker of the House, three by the President of the Senate, the two presiding officers themselves being ex-officio members. This committee was to have no power except to study the taxation and report at the next session. Modest as this request was, it was defeated, and Virginia will have to struggle along for two years more unless the judges of the courts insist upon more equitable assessments.

In the meantime purchasers from elsewhere see our lands assessed at contemptibly low figures and our rate of taxation at proportionally high ones, with the result that the purchaser is forced to the conclusion that our lands are of little value and our taxes are very high. So again we ask, Do false assessments pay?

THE END-SEAT HOG.

Nothing more surely marks the arrival of the warm weather season than the annual editorial limbering-up upon the end-seat hog. Once again, in the cycling months, the time is at hand when the fusillade has begun and the thunderings of many newspapers in many States are directed against this peculiar animal. Here in Richmond, the porcine object of all these anathemas is in little evidence, because the cars which give him his opportunity, the strictly "open" cars with the transverse seats, are in little evidence. But even here, he is no rare bird.

The end-seat hog derives his name from the fact that he takes possession of the end-seat, nearest the step, and thereafter "hogs" it. Whoever wishes to get into that seat must clamber over him to accomplish it. Whoever wishes to get out of that seat must do likewise. The "hog" sits tight, a human obstacle to progress, a nuisance to his fellow-travelers and a thing of reproach to himself. Locked in his breast somewhere there must be a still small voice which bids him slide over, but he will not listen to it.

The end-seat, of course, is not merely a seat. It is also a place of egress and ingress, a gateway to an aisle. This is what the Albany Journal appears to forget when, in replying to certain remarks of the Washington Post, it says:

> Will the Post kindly tell to what purpose it thinks the end seats in open cars should be devoted? We have always believed that they were intended to be used as seats, and that consequently it was not an offense, either against law or ethics, to sit in them.

Common sense is the one touchstone in matters of this sort. End seats were not "intended to be used as seats" when the use of them causes annoyance to others. The matter is thus simple enough. The exact place which a man occupies on a long, hard bench is a matter of little moment, and those who hitherto have been in the habit of clamping on to the seat next the outer rail are urged henceforward to be considerate and "slide over."

The once amazing Richmond ball team may yet reach a point where it will have to decide between systematic tailending and slaughtering a few well-chosen umpires.

The Georgia campaign ends on Thursday, whereupon the overexcited inhabitants can resume their wonted tasks in connection with daynursing the peach crop.

Senator La Follette's eighteen-hour speech can scarcely fail to make him an object of bitter jealousy to John Wesley Gaines.

Still it is barely possible that the gubernatorial issue between Smith and Brown in Georgia may be settled by the vote of the Jones family.

For all we know the answer to the New York World's question, "What is a Democrat?" may be Luke E. Wright.

Borrowed Jingles

THE PIECE THAT ROBERT SPOKE.

Once there was a little boy, whose name
was Robert Reece;
And every Friday afternoon he had to
speak a piece.
So many poems thus he learned that soon
he had a store
Of recitations in his head, and still kept
learning more.

And now this is what happened: He was
called upon one week,
And totally forgot the piece he was about
to speak!
His brain he cudgeled. Not a word remained
within his head!
And so he spoke at random, and this is
what he said:

"My Beautiful, my Beautiful, who standest
proudly by,
It was the schooner 'Hesperus'—the breaking
waves dashed high!
Why is this Forum crowded? What means
this stir in Rome?
Under a spreading chestnut tree there is no
place like home!

"When Freedom from her mountain height
cried, Twinkle little star,
Shoot if you must this old gray head, King
Henry of Navarre!
Roll on, thou deep and dark blue castled
crag of Drachenfels,
My name is Norval, on the Grampian Hills,
ring out, wild bells!

"If you're waking, call me early, to be or
not to be,
The curfew must not ring to-night! O,
woodman, spare that tree!
Charge, Chester, charge! On, Stanley, on!
And let who will be clever!
The boy stood on the burning deck, but I
go on forever!"

—Carolyn Wells, in St. Nicholas.

MERELY JOKING.

He Sold the MS.

"I observe," said the editor of the magazine, looking over the manuscript that had been submitted to him by the aspiring author thereof, "that you have used the phrase, 'lean hours.' How can there be such a thing as a 'lean' hour?"

"Why not?" demanded the other. "There is such a thing as a spare moment, isn't there?"—Chicago Tribune.

Too Late, Now.

"So you no longe ruse buttermilk?"

"What's the use?" returned Mr. Fairbanks; "if I drank a gallon of the stuff a day the papers wouldn't notice it."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Two of a Kind.

"That man's so mean he would fight with himself."

"But it takes two to make a quarrel."

"Oh, but he leads one of those double lives."—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Usual Way.

"How did you get so many signatures to that petition?"

"Well, a great many of the signers really approved of it and the others were kind of flattered to be asked for their autographs."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Quite a Difference.

"Of course," the British tourist was saying, "I understand that the winning party at your elections is the one that gets out the most votes."

"Not at all," replied the native; "it's the party that puts in the most votes."—Catholic Standard and Times.

Out of It.

"Don't you think I can make money out of that mine?"

"Yes; that's just where you can make money—out of it."—Cleveland Leader.

REMARKS BY THE PARAGRAPHERS.

Those Pennsylvania farmers who "attend church by telephone" are able to participate in every part of the service except the collection.—Pittsburg Gazette.

* * *

Some people will be inclined to wonder why that Pittsburg bank looter didn't take the doormat and the gas fixtures.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

* * *

The New Jersey physician who traveled 1,500 miles to recover his dog has persistence enough to try to get a stolen umbrella back.—Buffalo Express.

* * *

That Wall Street land quoted at $30,000,000 an acre is not especially good for tillage, but it's a great place for separating the farmer from his money.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

* * *

However, it must be understood that if a ship of any other navy were to treat the Florida that way the Florida would shoot back.—Philadelphia Ledger.

* * *

Colonel Stewart's temper scarcely can be expected to improve under the treatment he is getting.—Chicago News.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

An ancient font, removed years ago from St. James Parish Church, Louth, Ireland, has been discovered in use as a flower pot and replaced in the church.

There was a record "show day" of fish for Good Friday at Hull, England. Trawlers landed between 10,000 and 15,000 kits of fish, representing 700 to 900 tons.

Costing $5,000,000, the new Thames tunnel for horse-drawn traffic and pedestrians between Stepney and Rotherhithe will in all probability be ready for use shortly.

After five years' work, Australia's great transcontinental rabbit-proof fence has been completed. Its length is 2,038 miles, and the cost of its erection has been nearly £250,000. It is furnished at intervals of five or six miles with systems of traps, in which hundreds of rabbits are captured and destroyed daily. Inside the barrier there appears as yet no trace of their presence.—London Globe.

On the Danish Island of Sjalland there is an electric lighting system which is driven by a windmill. The wheel is 46 feet in diameter, and is supported by a tower 43 feet high. The area of the blades exposed to the wind is 340 square feet, and with a wind blowing at the rate of 23 feet a second the mill will give 8.6 horsepower. The speed is then 24 revolutions a minute. Current is supplied to 378 incandescent and six arc lamps, besides several small motors.

Rev. Walter Walsh, of Scotland, who has arrived in Boston to begin a lecturing tour for the American Peace Society, is a giant in stature, reports as to his height varying. One says that on the Saxonia, on which he crossed, he was a head taller than the next biggest man on board. Another statement is that he is six feet six inches, showing that he would measure up to the largest of New York's famous Broadway squad.

Maude Adams's fondness for children has made one little girl very happy. Augusta Schindle, an unusually bright youngster, who is "going on eleven," and who was one of the wolves in "Peter Pan," is Miss Adams's inseparable companion. Where Miss Adams goes she goes, and where Miss Adams lives she lives. The actress "found" Augusta in Buffalo a year or so ago, and she has kept the child with her ever since.

THE AMERICAN HUSBAND.

English Clergyman's Impression Since Living Here.

All American husbands will agree that the Rev. Dr. Aked, formerly of England, now of New York, paid them a very high compliment in his last Sunday's sermon. Some of these husbands may even go so far as to reluctantly admit that the clergyman is right in his pleasant eulogy; others will discreetly smile and say nothing. Dr. Aked, if he is quoted correctly, called the American husband the ideal husband of the world, extolling his merits in a detailed and always highly complimentary manner. While, as he explains, the American husband lavishes upon his wife the best love that man can bestow, he never regards her as a slave to his caprices, as the Old World husband too frequently regards his wife. The American husband is not the lord and master of his household. It is a position for which he has no liking. He honors and looks up to his wife, and regards her as a companion and frequently as a counselor. And for the most part the American wife is worthy of this love and honor and respect. Yet occasionally, as the pastor explains, we find a wife who is worse than the vampire wife of fable—but happily she is a rare exception.

There have been foreign writers who have asserted that the American husband and father is reprehensibly lax in his duties as head of the household. In his easy, indifferent fashion he lets the affairs of home run their own course and merely stands in the light of a purveyor of cash. He indulges his wife and spoils his children—and wins respect from neither. That's a common Old World view of the American husband. Let us be glad that Dr. Aked, who has come to know us pretty well, holds a much more pleasant opinion of our merits.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

STATE PRESS

Richmond and Poe.

The sin of ingratitude seems to be still remembered against Edgar Allan Poe by the citizens of Richmond. Ingratitude is, in our opinion, something which cannot be excused, and if ever a man showed ungratefulness Poe showed it to the Allan family, an old and honored one, who adopted him and showered upon him every kindness. The people of Richmond are not to be censured for their feelings toward this depraved genius, for those feelings are not caused by the lack of appreciative ability of genius, but ingratitude so plainly manifested by Poe.—Chase City Progress.

Clothed With Modesty.

The Virginian appears this week in an improved dress, and for a general compendium of news and typographical neatness, no paper in Southwest Virginia equals it. If you are not a subscriber and want a paper that excels any other in the county in printing important Washington county and Abingdon and general news, don't delay in sending in your subscription that you may not lose a number.—Abingdon Virginian.

Well Said.

Did you ever stop to reflect that it was one thing to talk about people and another thing to have people talk about you? If those of us who use our tongues a little freely about our neighbors would stop and reflect about this matter and know the great evil that comes from too much gossip and tattling, we are sure we would call a halt and gossip no more forever.—Madison News.

A Johnson Blast.

It now seems probable that Governor Johnson, of Minnesota, will receive the Democratic nomination for President, for though about half of the States have yet to hold their conventions, it is assured that Mr. Bryan cannot secure the necessary two-thirds, while nearly every doubtful State is lined up for Johnson.—Montgomery Messenger.

Grim Object Lesson.

That Pennsylvania sheriff ran a great risk when he invited 500 foreigners to witness the hanging of one of their comrades from the Old World. What if they had made a football rush for him! But they didn't, and that sheriff taught more to foreigners in a few minutes than a hundred sociologists could teach in ten years.—Roanoke World.

Another Think.

We did not think that any Southern man, though he was a Republican, would stand with those who would make such an attack upon the welfare of his own country. Is it possible that the Ninth District of Virginia has sent a man to Congress who believes that the South ought to be shorn of a portion of its Federal representative strength?—Suffolk Herald.

PASSING OF PLATT.

Sees Too Late Gulf Between Statesman and Politician.

United States Senator Tom Platt knows his mistake now. Some time ago, in a newspaper interview, while musing over the past, he told a reporter that if he had his life to live over again he would do differently.

The "easy boss," who once dictated the politics of his party, and whose word was final, who elevated men to nomination for high positions, and "broke" them if they rebelled against him, is a physical, and, to a large degree, a mental wreck.

He is held up to the ridicule of the public. His own party tolerates him half in pity, half for his past power. He is a laughingstock, and held in scorn.

Both his personal and his political history explain, perhaps, why Platt was never anything but a politician. He had the opportunity and at least the average ability to become a statesman. He was supported by a powerful machine, he had hosts of friends in other States. Had he devoted his talents to statecraft instead of the narrowest kind of politics, he might have left something in the shape of policies or legislation to be remembered by. He chose politics, and he receives the reward of a discredited politician—contempt that merges into forgetfulness.

It is not a pleasant spectacle, this man who realizes now that political power and influence turn to ashes when their possessor is of no further use.—Huntington Advertiser.

PAPER FROM SUGAR CANE.

Not for Love Letters Only, But for Every Use.

The efficiency of a people is in a large sense measured by their degree of skill in using waste products. It is claimed that much of the amazing prosperity of the Standard Oil Company was due to its genius in not letting anything go to the dump heap. A curious and important contribution to this theory, that preventable waste is inexcusable loss, comes from an anonymous inventor in the island of Trinidad, who is reported in a recent bulletin from Consul-General Guenther at Frankfort to have perfected a process of making paper pulp of the stalks of sugar cane from which all the available sugar has already been obtained.

The commercial importance of this discovery, if authenticated, can scarcely be overstated. The inventor says that hereafter cane will be grown for the paper to be obtained and that the sugar to be got from the same stalks will be clear profit. The scarcity of spruce trees, from which most of the news paper is now obtained in this country and Canada, has been often discussed, and there has been much concern felt for the future of the industry. If the Trinidad man has discovered what he claims to have perfected his gift to the world should bring him fame and fortune. At any rate he himself has confidence enough in his discovery to spend $85,000 in equipping a mill in connection with his sugar plant, to use the waste product of the latter.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

STORY OF OUR NAVY.

Times-Dispatch Doing a Service to the South in Publishing It.

The exploits of the Confederate Navy have never yet been given their just recognition in history. The South furnished some of the most brilliant naval commanders of any age, but the historians have mainly interested themselves in battles on land. North Carolina furnished some of the bravest of all the brave spirits of the sea, among them Maffitt, Waddell and Manning. We are glad to see that a successful effort is to be made to cover this neglected part of the South's history. The Richmond Times-Dispatch announces the forthcoming publication in its columns of a brief, yet complete, history of the Confederate Navy.

In this The Times-Dispatch is doing the South a good service. We hope that after the story is run through its columns, it will be printed in book form for a more extended circulation and as a library convenience.—Charlotte Chronicle.

Excuses for Plundering.

When the spellbinders take the stump this fall they will not attempt to explain the extravagance of their Congress, which appropriated more than $1,000,000,000 during the session. On the other hand they will wave their arms theatrically, point with pride to the horizon, and exclaim: "This is a billion-dollar country!" Their hearers will applaud the sentiment to the echo, and go away and dutifully vote the ticket, the while grumbling because their taxes and other burdens are heavy.

On the same theory Dunham, McNichol & Co., the Philadelphia grafters, and the Harrisburg-State House thieves may excuse their depredations. "This is a billion-dollar country!" Let every man get all he can.—Rochester Herald.

Wasting Scanty Breath.

Senator Platt, of New York, has not an infinite amount of breath left to him and he draws wastefully on his limited balance in announcing that he will not be a candidate for a renomination. New York has done incredible things political, but we cannot imagine a legislator of that State having the gall to vote for the old man, if he should declare himself to be in the running. He is impossible.—Hartford Courant.

Voice of the People

The Blackstone Courier Replies.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I have sent the following letter to Hon. Carter Glass, Washington, D. C.:

"I have yours of the 19th instant, in which you reply to what you profess was contained in an editorial comment of mine that appeared in the Blackstone Courier of May 1st. Did I think for a moment this claim upon your part was warranted by the editorial in question or sincerely made, I should hasten to make apology, first to myself, secondly to you and lastly to the people of the State.

"Your whole letter is based upon the statement from you that I have threatened to assail your character as a private citizen; to quote your exact words, 'in view of the threat to assail my character as a private citizen in the event that I shall, as an aspirant for Governor, discuss the public record of any other candidate.' Now, I most emphatically deny that there is anything in the spirit or the language of my editorial which would excuse, much less warrant, such an assertion from you. Nor do I propose to be pilloried as a charecter assassin before the people of Virginia by any choleric and sulphurous politician for the time-serving purpose of exploiting his egotism or giving vent to his vituperation.

"I note well what you say, that in criticisms one must tell either the truth or a falsehood. If the former all right, if the latter the consequences must be accepted. My code of ethics has taught me that he who wilfully misleads, or subverts the truth for a purpose, is equally reprehensible as he who deliberately utters a falsehood. By the adroit use of five words where I used four, and two of these in the singular where my language was in the plural (attaching thereto such language as best adapts itself to your designs), the entire meaning as well as the words of my article is grossly subverted. I might, with propriety, dismiss this subject without further comment, attaching to this the editorial in question, and feel assured that every unbiased mind, which can understand plain language, will agree that your interpretation thereof is unwarranted and your acrimony indefensible and inexcusable.

"In view, however, that some few might be misled, and with the further purpose of dissipating such erroneous impressions as may have been made upon the public by your article, I will go more into detail.

"It will be borne in mind that my editorial is predicated upon the correctness of the Washington special in reflecting your purposes. It will also be noted that I distinctly stated that I hoped it did not. Now, what does this Washington special say as regards proposed attacks? It is as follows:

"'The campaign will be a bitter one. Records will be searched with a thoroughness not known in recent interparty contests in Virginia. If any prospective candidate is conscious of ANY (the capitals are mine) 'act of his which will not bear the close scrutiny of his political opponents, he would better get out, or get up some water-proof explanations, or get a gun.'

"Now what could this mean if it did not refer to private characters? Who could think of getting a gun for a discussion of a man's public record? Now, what was my comment upon this? It was as follows:

"'We suspect criticisms in this case would extend to records as private citizens as well as records and non-records of public acts.'

"Now note the difference between my words and those you profess to quote from me. I say, 'records as private citizens,' while you quote me as saying your 'record as a private citizen.' Mine refers to the methods of the proposed campaign. Yours is a charge that I threatened to assail your character as a private citizen. There is not a threat conveyed in any portion of my article. There is a suggestion. This is that 'if' (it will be noted that I have given you the credit of the doubt all the way in the article) 'the sentiments of Mr. Glass are properly reflected in the above quoted special, we dare say he will be accommodated.' The only intimation is that if you start a campaign of this nature, then, perhaps, or 'we dare say' you will be accommodated. There is no intimation that I or any other special person would do this. And I repeat here just what I said in the original article, that if you, or any one else for that matter, begin a campaign of that sort, no doubt you or they will be accommodated. Such campaigns have been conducted, in fact, one such is now being conducted in the Eighth District.

"As for my position in such matters, I have never approved campaigns of personal abuse or personal attacks; therefore, I could not instigate one. In fact, I do not approve going upon the hustings in interparty contests. Those who are readers of my paper know this of me. They know this has ever been my position, it mattered not whether the candidate I was supporting favored it or not. As for the joint debate feature, this is especially repulsive to me. I do not object to the criticism of public records. In fact, my article, from which you misquoted, distinctly says:

"'We see no objection to any proper criticism of the political record or absence of record of any candidate, since public men who offer for public office should, in large measure, be judged by what they have done or what they have failed to do in public life, but public abuse is objectionable, and we believe nauseating to the more respectable element of voters.'

"Does this threaten you in the event you should attack the public record of my candidate or any other candidate? On the contrary, it is an invitation for you to do so. As for the attacks upon Judge Mann, everything has been said of him it appears possible to say, and he has withstood it all, growing stronger and stronger with each and every attack. In all this he has shown the Christian gentleman that he is. When one cheek is struck he turns the other, a passiveness objected to by many of his warmest friends.

"In the matter of discussions I quote you as follows:

"'If ever there was a time in Virginia when men and issues needed to be discussed, it is at hand. . . . Why anybody should object to such a discussion before the people, excite bitterness or degenerate into personal abuse, is something I cannot exactly comprehend. Nothing of the sort has ever occurred in any campaign in which I have been a participant.'

"I do not for a moment think you will get a unanimous agreement to the above statement when the campaign between you and the late Hon. Graham Claytor is remembered. If 'bitterness and personal abuse' and 'mud-slinging' were not engaged in at that time, I do not know what constitutes such things. However, I admit that the question of what constitutes such things, and what does not, and what disgusts and what does not, is largely a matter of opinion—I might say inherent taste.

"It may be that the style of campaign you suggest, and for which it appears you have received some editorial sanction, is needed in Virginia, but I cannot as yet bring myself to the point of believing it. When the time arrives that in order to win the highest honor in the gift of the people, resort must be had to the passions of men, when criminations and recriminations, abuse and vilification, derision and vituperation, calumny and defamation, acrimony and vindictiveness, besmirching or billingsgate, must be the weapons used, all that remains to be said is that 'God save the Commonwealth.'"

"Very respectfully,
"W. A. LAND,"

Blackstone, Va., May 30, 1908.

In view of the fact that The Times-Dispatch did not print the complete letter of Mr. Glass, we have not felt it incumbent upon us to print Mr. Land's letter in full. What we have printed, however, sets forth very fully Mr. Land's position.—Editor of The Times-Dispatch.

Mr. Forward's Position.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—On May 14th I addressed the following letter, which is self-explanatory, to the editor of the Clifton Forge Va., Review. No notice was taken of it. On May 11th I again wrote, enclosing 10 cents in stamps, and asking for two copies of the paper containing my communication. Again no reply, and my small remittance has apparently bee absorbed. But I am apparently been absorbed. But I am not surprised.

"Editor Clifton Forge Review:

"Sir,—I note in the last issue of your paper an editorial referring to an article which I contributed to the recent Danville local option campaign, in which I simply gave a list of the storerooms in Bristol which are vacant as a result of prohibition here, and a list of those whose rental values have been reduced from the same cause.

"You take occasion to state gratuitously that you have no confidence in a real estate agent who would give his town a black eye. In other words, you would not tell the truth about your town to help save another town from making a grave mistake. Arguing from your own standpoint, you cannot expect any one to believe what you say about rental values having been increased in Clifton Forge, though it would not be surprising if in your village there had been no substantial reduction in values.

"If you had any desire toward fair play, you would investigate my statements instead of in an underhand manner throwing doubt upon them. With the usual intolerance of the ardent prohibitionist you question the motives and the truthfulness of any one who happens to hold a contrary opinion. I invite any man with a fair mind, but not you, to investigate the correctness of every single statement made in my communication published in the Danville papers.

"I trust you will give this letter the same prominence given your editorial.

(Signed)
"ALEXANDER FORWARD.
"Bristol, Va., May 4, 1908."

ALEXANDER FORWARD

Praises North Carolina.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I hope that you rejoice with the temperance people of Virginia that our noble sister State has voted out the pernicious saloon with all its attendant evils. I am ashamed of the grand old State of Virginia that she should be a trailer along behind our alert and progressive neighbor (as ex-Governor Aycock said some days ago).

Had, we had such a Senate as we had House members last winter, we could have made Virginia a dry State, I believe. Oh, for men of strength, of character and of high and lofty thoughts and aims in our public affairs, and when they are called upon to pass such laws as will raise our people to higher and nobler living, they would do so promptly.

If we only had a Governor who would come out like other Southern Governors and throw his whole life and influence for this great cause of temperance, what a power for good it would be!

I sincerely hope to see the great paper you edit come out boldly and fearlessly championing the prohibition cause, and when that time comes with you or any of our other great dailies, the good people of Virginia will rise up and "call you blessed." I can't see how any paper can withhold its influence from this great cause, when it is surely for the betterment of mankind in every way. Can't you come out and help us? Virginia is slow, but sure, and we will all see her in line, I am sure, in a short time.

I believe the day is not far off when we will look back and ask ourselves how was it possible for a Christian people to license the sale of liquor, and thereby debase, debauch and bring our people to shame and misery.

May God hasten the day for our homes to be brightened and made happy by the eternal banishment of the liquor traffic. R. S. BARBOUR.

South Boston, Va., May 29, 1908.

Memorial Day.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—The Confederate memorial exercises in Warrenton yesterday afternoon were beautiful and worthy of note, when both the old veterans and Daughters of the Confederacy turned out in full force, and the beauty and chivalry of old Fauquier were there.

Miss Mary Amelia Smith, the head of the Confederate Daughters, was most active in her efforts, which were crowned with success. She is the honored daughter of Governor William Smith, Virginia's war Governor. Col. Thomas Smith read a beautiful poem.

The gem of the exercises was the masterly and eloquent oration of the Hon. Alden Bell, representative in the Virginia Legislature from Culpeper county. Mr. Bell is an orator by nature, having a clear, strong, musical voice. He wonderfully pleased the people by his splendid eloquence, for during one mortal half-hour of his close trope and metaphor and figure fell from his lips in ceaseless succession. His beautiful allusions both to our great idol, General Robert E. Lee, and to private soldiers, awakened great applause. It was the most eloquent oration to which our people have listened. CONFEDERATE.

The Plains, Va., May 31, 1908.

The Japanese Point of View

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Los Angeles.

Wherever Japanese subjects live under the American flag, from Honolulu eastward to Denver, from Puget Sound southward to Los Angeles, there is conflict between Occidental and Oriental civilizations. The Japanese point of view in looking upon this contest is entirely different from that of the white man. The white man is faithful to believe that his form of civilization is superior in every way to that of the Orient, and he brooks no interference with the working out of his creed. The Japanese, as representing the Orient, believes as firmly in the moral superiority of his form of civilization, but he recognizes greater opportunity to make money under the Occidental forms of life. So he is willing to assume the outward forms of Western civilization for purposes of revenue only. To his critics and detractors he replies in a fashion which suggests a curious mixture of the East and West.

He defends his right to come to the United States and to live here by appealing to the doctrine of personal liberty and equal rights, which was born among Anglo-Saxon peoples in England and which had its fruition in America. It is a doctrine which is utterly repugnant to the institutions of Japan and at war with every tenet of the faiths of Asia. He goes further and justifies his remaining here by an argument to prove his proposition that he is a wealth-creator whose energies benefit the United States more than they do Japan. Then his mind turns from the West to the East, and he declares that he ought to be permitted to remain here because of the fact that he is still a loyal Japanese, and that Japan and America are friends. Ignoring the fact that the San Francisco school issue was raised by Japan, the Japanese resident in America is sure to assume the inscrutable face of the Oriental, and swear that Japan loves America, has always done so and always will do so, no matter how harsh the misguided Americans may be in their unjust criticism. Then invariably the speech is concluded by a touching reference to Commodore Perry.

The commodore was a fighting man, and he sailed the seas in ships as good as any navy had in those days. He went to Japan on a mission of peace, which received slightly more attention than it otherwise would have received on account of the guns which backed it up. He opened Japan to communication with the other nations of the world, the Japanese named their great harbor Mississippi Bay in honor of his flag-ship, and modern Japan dates its history from Perry's coming. Undoubtedly the Japanese of to-day have an honest sentimental affection for the name of Perry, but they have used it so much in palavering Americans that it has become almost tiresome.

In Hawaii the Japanese were greatly incensed at first on account of the restriction of immigration, but the general policy of conciliation they have adopted has buried that feeling out of sight. The Japanese leaders there now declare that the restriction is proving to be a good thing for the Japanese in Hawaii, because of the fact that it has stopped the flitting to the mainland and has made the population more stable and reliable. They point out the fact that Hawaiian Japanese no longer buy much merchandise from Japan, but are manufacturing the things formerly imported. Establishments for the manufacture of soy, the Japanese sauce, which is universally used, and for making Japanese vermicelli, are among the promising industries of Honolulu. The raw materials used, wheat and beans, come from the mainland of the United States. This is the creation of an industry which swells American trade, and which would not have been in existence were it not for the great Japanese population of Hawaii. The opening of the Honolulu vermicelli factory was celebrated by a banquet attended by 300 business men, of all races and creeds. The products of these Japanese factories using American materials under the American flag are to be sold not only in Hawaii, but all over the Western States where there is a Japanese population to demand them. The advantage in freight and tariff rates will permit the Honolulu Japanese to outstrip their compatriots of Osaka and Kobe.

Japanese business men in Honolulu deny that their wholesale merchants are cutting into the trade of American firms. There are about a dozen large wholesale concerns in Honolulu conducted by Japanese, but it is declared in their behalf that they handle only Japanese wares and appeal only to their own people for business. At the same time, it is argued that the Japanese in the islands use more American goods than Japanese wares, fully 75 per cent. of their expenditures going for American cotton goods, flour, hats, shoes and household furniture.

On the Pacific Coast this percentage is still higher, according to the Japanese leaders. This contention is borne out by the statistics in California, and is apparently true in other States. The Japanese men always abandon their native costume when they get east of Hawaii, and the younger ones affect the most expensive clothing they can afford, always leaning to the "college" variety of extreme style. Of course the Japanese in America receives much higher wages than in Japan, and one of the first things his opulence leads him to do is to form the habit of eating bread. These arguments that the Japanese in America are consumers of American products are always advanced by the Japanese. It reveals the curious reasoning of the Oriental mind. It is taken as a matter of course that the European immigrant to the United States consumes American wares; but the Japanese holds it as an extraordinary work of virtue that he does not follow the plan, obvious to him, of buying all his wares in his home land.

To the objection that the Japanese artisans and mechanics have driven out the white men, the Japanese business men reply that it would not have been so had not the employing white man desired to take advantage of the Japanese willingness to work for lower wages. This is well-nigh unanswerable. It is certainly true that the Pacific Coast cities which so harshly criticize the Japanese continue to give him a job. But in the rural districts, especially in California, this is rapidly changing. Many fruit-growers this year are using white labor at a greater cost in order to keep the Japanese out of the community. The railroads, however, stick to the proposition that the Japanese labor is the best they can get, and nearly all of the section hands west of the Missouri river are Japanese.

The ability of the Japanese to accept defeat and make the most of a situation was illustrated in an incident which occurred in Honolulu. A Japanese importer was caught by the collector of customs in the act of working out a systematic undervaluation of merchandise coming in from Japan. Japanese officials, steamship officers and others were his accomplices. When he was accused by the collector he promptly admitted his guilt, produced the true invoice for comparison with the false, and went his way. In a few days a committee of Japanese business men came into the collector's office to announce that they had formed an association to assist the collector in the work of stamping out smuggling and other frauds on the customs, especially among the Japanese. The chairman of the committee was the man who had been caught in the fraud only a few days before! He could see nothing inconsistent in his attitude. The Japanese in America, who was insisting upon his rights with a loud voice a few months ago is now talking about Commodore Perry and traditional affection. He knows how to accept defeat.

In Hawaii, and even in California, there is much talk of the possible political influence of the Japanese in the future, as the sons of Japanese immigrants born on American soil are citizens and will be voters. The Japanese say that fear of political influence is foolish, even in Hawaii, because of the fact that the Japanese almost invariably returns to his native land after a few years, taking his family with him.

The intense patriotism of the Japanese is such that he will not even pretend to any notion of changing his allegiance. On this account there has been much objection urged against him on the ground that, in time of war, he would rise against the United States. The great Japanese population in Hawaii, composed largely of veteran soldiers, might be exceedingly dangerous in case of war. The tracks and bridges of all the continental railroad lines in America would be at the mercy of the Japanese section hands in event of war.

The high-class Japanese business man becomes impatient when these fears are mentioned to him. In Hawaii, it is pointed out, the Legislature compelled all persons to register firearms, it being the belief that the Japanese were thoroughly armed. The result showed that fewer Japanese possessed firearms than any other race of people. One Japanese of high standing said: "As for spies—well, that is merely a case of some ignorant Japanese taking photographs for pleasure's sake. He doesn't know it is against the rules of nations to take pictures of fortifications, and when he is arrested he doesn't know enough English to make himself understood or to understand his captors. As for the railroad laborers, they could not hope to destroy railroad property even in time of war without facing certain capture and death. It is entirely absurd to accuse these ignorant coolies of such high designs upon the peace of the country which has given them a chance to make a good living."

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