

# Okolona Messenger.

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OUR AIM: To Tell the Truth, Obey the Law, and Make Money. OUR MOTTO: Talk for Home, Work for Home, and Fight for Home.

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## THE POWER OF THE BALLOT.

Written for THE MESSENGER by Col. J. S. Felzer, Springfield, Ill.



WE do not take possession of our ideas, but are possessed by them. They master us and force us into the arena, where, like gladiators, we must fight for them."

Truth is the most radical thing in the world when possessed by men of honor. Cowardice is the abject slave of a vacillating weak brain. During the sweep of centuries past the world has suffered for the want of an open arena where truth might have an open combat with falsehood. The warfare has always been between right and wrong, and truth has found a cross at the hands of the brutal and ignorant. Truth is the arc light of civilization, while a lie is the child of fear; truth stands erect, a lie crawls and whines. After all there can be no progress born of a lie. I have often thought about the noble and grand, heroic men and women who have stood like giant oaks towering above their surroundings, along the ages past. I have thought of them standing like giant peaks that fathom the heaven's starry depths waiting the wreck of worlds. Standing on faith, looking forward in hope for the truth on ages beaming, and I have said had it not been for the truth in the hearts of a few honest men and women we would all be barbarians now. What the world has always needed and still needs is a bold presentation of the truth, for truth is the only commonwealth in which all men have equal rights and are free. An honest man is obedient to the demands of truth, for truth means "Purity from falsehood—honor and virtue." Spasmodic virtue is where the truth hits a cheap market with a cheap auctioneer, too cheap to last long; it is like a hot poker thrust into a sick tub, makes a noise, but soon cooled off. If we all could appreciate the fact that most all our troubles grow out of our efforts to govern each other and to regulate and prescribe rules of conduct, we might understand that all governments at best are defective because they run counter to the natural order of things, and that our civilization is one which attempts to leave man free as possible consistent with the public good, but in no case can law eradicate from the human mind that thing called selfishness; but law simply attempts to restrain its encroachment on the rights of another. After all law is but "a rule of action." In our republic to get a rule of action, (law), we must first vote, to elect a legislature; second, the legislature makes the law. It should be evident to every one that if we want a law friendly to our interest we must vote for a legislatureman who is in favor of the law, otherwise the law will be in favor of the other fellow and we are left; and in this connection let me just say, as long as the laboring men vote to make a law for the other fellow, the injunction will be followed by the militia. For the sake of illustration let me recite the fact that if you as a candidate for the legislature, oppose the liquor trade, will the liquor man vote for you? No. If you oppose the banking law would the banker vote for you? No. If you fight the railroad, would the managers vote for you? No. If you oppose the laboring man's interest will he vote for you? Yes, they do it. Now it strikes me not until the laboring man shows as much political sense as the brewer, banker and railroad kings, can they hope for relief.

The laborer must make every candidate vote for pledge to support their measures. In case they refuse, do as the brewer and banker: vote no.

The laboring element have it in their own hands to make the law, and if they won't do it then the fault is their own and the selfishness of the money aristocrats will dominate to enslave.

Eighty per cent. of the population of the nation must live by labor, either by hand or brain, and if eighty per cent. propose to lay down and let the other twenty per cent. rule them "by law," they have no kick coming.

Yes, it is very radical when it assumes the shape of law in a few hands who use it to enrich themselves. Radical did we say? Let the "injunction" fortified by bayonets stand up and answer the charge. If the laborer wishes to buy the necessities of life in a monopolized market and sell his labor in a competitive market he has no kick coming, especially when he votes to continue the law rather than vote to change it.

The truth shall make you free, and the truth is, that if the laboring class ever score a victory it will be at the ballot box.

When the wealth producers shall learn that their

duty and power is at the ballot box, then, and not till then, will the truth with its staying faith come to bless; then, and not till then will the smoke from chimneys tall swing corners with the moonbeams and laugh with the sunrise; then, and not till then will the shouts of emancipated childhood mingle with pleasure at high noon, and peace and plenty crown and scepter the home of the sons of toil.

## OUR OWN EXPERIENCE IN SOUTH AMERICA.



THE United States is in position to know and appreciate the irresponsible things called governments in South America, says the Kansas City Journal. Beginning with the date when they accomplished separation from Spain, our country has had trouble with one after another of them. From the inauguration of John Quincy Adams down to the present day there has scarcely been a presidential message which did not set forth injuries which had been inflicted upon American citizens by some of the South American countries. Brazil, Chile, Venezuela and Peru at different times have seized American ships and imprisoned American citizens without just cause or provocation, and it was only by the threat of doing just what Germany and England are now doing that we were able to gain a settlement from the countries so offending. As far back as 1852 we find President Millard Fillmore announcing to congress that while Venezuela has acknowledged some claims which had been urged by Americans for many years, the Venezuelan congress obstinately refuses to make appropriations for their payment. In 1872 President Grant brought pressure to bear in order to make the Venezuelan government pay damages for the seizure of four vessels belonging to the Venezuelan Steamship company, of New York, and for the imprisonment of the crews of these vessels. Venezuela finally acknowledged the justice of these claims, but so late as the administration of Grover Cleveland our state department was still hunting for means of collection.

The South American countries are all of one scribe in evading the responsibilities which attach to the administration of a just and upright government. From a Spanish ancestry they inherit the feudalistic spirit which makes a homogeneous government almost an impossibility, and to this they add the fatal gift of procrastination. It is always "tomorrow" with the Latin American, and tomorrow it remains through such an endless sequence of days that it would exhaust the patience of angels.

Of the manner in which the South American countries treat those with whom they have diplomatic relations, the United States had a taste in its troubles with Chile in 1892. It will be remembered that Minister Egan gave refuge in the American consulate, as he had a right to do, to certain adherents of the overthrown Balmaceda government, who sought him for protection. Immediately the consulate at Valparaiso was surrounded by policemen and soldiers, who pounded on the windows and hurled insults at the consul and those to whom he had given asylum. For some days, until the arrival of an American warship, Mr. Egan was virtually a prisoner. Afterwards a number of sailors from the U. S. S. Baltimore were set upon by the police, one being killed and others severely wounded. When called upon for reparation and apology, the Chilean government insulted and defied the government at Washington. And the upshot was that President Harrison delivered a special message to congress, setting forth the insulting messages received from Chile by our state department and stating that he had notified the Chilean president that unless these messages were at once withdrawn, apology made, and reparation provided for, diplomatic relations would be suspended.

This was almost equal to a declaration of war. It frightened the Chileans so thoroughly that for once in their lives they became diplomatically respectable. The insulting messages were withdrawn, apology was duly made, Minister Egan was told that he needn't depart as had been demanded, and the Chilean government promptly voted a proper sum in the settlement of all demands.

The special message sent to congress by President Harrison was a document of unusual ability. Never before or since has the attitude of the United States with regard to South America been more clearly stated, and we quote the following paragraph as completely covering our policy:

"I am of the opinion that the demands made of Chile by this government should be adhered to and enforced. If the dignity as well as the prestige and influence of the United States are not to be wholly sacrificed, we must protect those who in foreign ports display the flag or wear the colors of the government against insult, brutality, and death inflicted in resentment of the acts of their government and not for any fault of their own. It has been my desire in every way to cultivate friendly and intimate relations with all the governments of this hemisphere. We desire their peace and prosperity. We look for no advantage in our relations with them except the increased exchange of commerce upon a basis of mutual benefit. We regret every civil contest that disturbs their peace and paralyzes their development, and we are always ready to give our good offices for the restoration of peace. It must,

however, be understood that this government, while exercising the utmost forbearance toward weaker powers, will extend its strong and adequate protection to its citizens, to its officers, and to its humblest sailor when made the victims of wantonness in cruelty in resentment not of their personal conduct, but of the official acts of their government."

And, looking back over the miserable conduct of Chile which called out these strong words, and realizing that Germany and England have been mistreated in much the same way by Venezuela, it is hard to find much sympathy for the latter country in the troubles brought on by her own weakness or folly. And yet the salvation of Venezuela rests now, as it ever has, in the hands of the United States, and she will be saved from her enemies in due and proper time.

## THE NEGRO PROBLEM.



URING recent years negroes have settled in large numbers in many Northeastern states, says the Kansas City Journal. The black population of Philadelphia is increasing at the rate of 10,000 a year. So the race question now has been brought home to the part of the country which has always been most denunciatory of the way the South has treated the colored man. A chance is given the exponents of brotherly love and social equality to put their doctrines into practice—but instead of doing so, they are acting like regular Southerners. In that city separate schools have been erected for the negro, and everything is being done necessary to remove the danger of social contact and to make his isolation complete.

It is the old story told with a new setting. Mutual association between the whites and blacks in America is impossible. The one won't permit it and the other doesn't—or at least, shouldn't—want it. No intelligent person of either race favors social equality and its inevitable result, amalgamation.

Burdard Kipling, commenting on the United States, once said that the future American will be a rather handsome fellow of dark complexion, irregular features and with curly hair. Every white American who considers it at all, views this disagreeable innuendo of the novelist with a feeling of irritation and resentment, and none the less because he realizes that there was slight basis for the suggestion. We cannot blind our eyes to the large number of mulattoes in our population. The black element of our country now stands at the relative ratio of one to ten, but the negro race has been steadily decreasing in proportion to the total population since 1790, when it was 19.3 per cent. Year by year the decrease has been noticeable and is attributable either to white foreign immigration, the greater mortality among the blacks, or to the assimilation of the inferior by the superior race. Mr. Kipling selects the latter as the cause, and arrives at this opinion, not so much, perhaps, by deductions from the history of the United States, as from that of the world at large.

Civilization in the first ages of its development was once endangered by the threatened supremacy of the black races. Many battles were fought and long years of struggle were necessary before the advance of the tribes of Africa was checked at the Red sea, and in spite of all, they impressed many of their characteristics on the opposing white race. Each of the seven ancient monarchies which rose, reigned and fell in the valleys of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, was composed of a hardier, stronger and more virtuous breed of citizens at the beginning of its existence than at its end; and there was a gradual and continuous decadence and moral decline that ran down through these seven nations until it sank the last of them, the Babylonians, into a depth of degradation that remains unparalleled in the annals of man. Rawlin, who wrote their history ascribes this enervation and racial collapse to the intermixture of negro blood, and to prove his contention cites the fact that stately and engravings on tombs and monuments left by the Babylonians represent men with marked African features. But it is not necessary to repair to history to show that mixture and intermarriage of distinct races produce low and degenerate offspring. South America is a living evidence of that fact. No race prejudice exists there. Miscegenation has been tolerated since the days of Columbus, and the nations of that continent are now composed of people whose capacity for future development and progress is doubtful.

The negro question, as Grover Cleveland well says, is one of the most difficult social problems in this country. Education, though it may be tried, should not be reckoned as a sure, positive and only means for its solution. The South contemplates with considerable satisfaction the influx of negroes in large numbers to Philadelphia and other big cities of the Northeastern states. When the negro becomes dispersed throughout the land he will cease to be a sectional issue, and it will then be possible to discuss and formulate plans to better his condition in a calm and statesmanlike way.

What appears to be needed is an international bankruptcy court to pass upon cases like those of Venezuela and Turkey.

The giddy and reckless German Kaiser has led his old uncle into a bad mess down in Venezuela.

## A PLAN TO UNITE REFORMERS.

To the True Reformers of the Country:



BY true reformers I mean those who desire to see such legislation as may be found necessary to right the wrongs of which the laboring classes of our country of right complain. Since the recent election every true reformer has been trying to think out the way to political salvation. We find the great Populist movement scattered to the four winds; we find lesser factions of the reform army; we find spasmodic and ineffectual efforts of organized labor in different localities, and can plainly see that for want of harmony of effort the great reform movement is expending its strength against itself.

That fusion is dead is open no longer to argument; that the Democratic party is lost to the progressive element is also beyond contradiction. That the honest element of the Democracy must soon find a new home or stultify their past pretensions is clear to any.

The question therefore arises, What shall we do? The fusionists and Democrats will not agree to fall in line with the mid-roads under our leadership, for, while secretly admitting the correctness of our position from the first, they feel too much pride to surrender; of course mid-roads would not surrender to those whose leadership was so fatal in the past. The Socialists would not consider compromising with what they term a capitalistic party. So chaos seems to reign in our own ranks.

I feel that there is but one way to overcome this doubt and uncertainty—this fatal division of strength—and that is as simple and fair as it is possible to conceive.

In short, my proposition to unite all who are really in earnest in the reform work is this:

Let the fusion committee, mid-road and representatives from any other element which desires to affiliate, meet and jointly issue a call for a national nominating convention in 1904 to embrace all elements which are opposed to the old parties and are favorable to a new movement. Let this be the only test. Let this convention make a new platform, if need be, adopt a new name if necessary, keeping in view its one great end—to unite the people against plutocracy.

It would be necessary for this joint meeting to arrange for State conventions in every State and Territory on the same basis, but aside from that neither committee would have any other power. The national convention thus called would effect a new party organization without regard to past differences. In this way we could bury all past animosities and start in new. If this convention should be controlled by the Socialists, then it would make the great American Socialist party; if by the Populists it would be a practical reincarnation of the populist party; if by a new element, it would make new lines of battle. But whatever the result, if the convention succeeded in unifying all those who are done with the old parties, it would be the grandest political movement of the new century.

As I see it, this is the only way to unite all reform elements—and unite they must. We are wasting golden years in a fruitless struggle in little, discordant factions. Let this cease; let's unite—if not on just such terms as we prefer, then let's adopt the course and policy which the majority may mark out.

It was to accomplish this result that the Allied party was formed at Kansas City and Louisville; but, owing to personal jealousies and a general misunderstanding of the movement, and perhaps more than anything else, to a lingering hope that fusion might still live or that the Democratic party might yet be saved from the plutocracy, the allied party did not unite the factions it was designed to unite. So I say, let us try it again. Leadership, honors, emoluments, are nothing to us. What we want is to unite those who are opposed to industrial slavery in a mighty, effective movement, and to do it all patriotic persons must be willing to meet on that broad ground where others' rights and views are to be given fair consideration.

JO A. PARKER,  
Nat. Chm. Allied People's Party.

Congress has before it a proposition to vote \$500,000 to the attorney general to be used in prosecuting the trusts. Being among those who believe there are no trusts, of course, Senator Hanna will oppose it.

One of the bad features about a war between the United States and the European allies at this time is the possibility that they might capture General Miles before he could get home.

While Dewey plays in the big waters with his ships, with his back turned on Venezuela, he keeps looking behind to see how the thing appears, and his mind isn't much on the play.

It is said that Senator Clark's new grandson isn't to get the million dollar check after all. Then what is he on earth for?

The Washington Post advocates the admission of New Mexico in order to get Jerry Simpson back into the union.

It looks as though any attempt to violate the Monroe doctrine might be met by a united America.