

W. J. BRYAN'S SPEECH.

HE CLOSED THE DEBATE ON THE SILVER CLAUSE.

A Speech that Probably Influenced the Convention in Favor of His Nomination for the Presidency—A Very Enthusiastic Pronouncement.

Chicago, July 15.—The debate upon the money plank in the Democratic convention resulted in an able discussion of the silver question. Unusual attention was given to the speech by Hon. William J. Bryan of Nebraska, and since he was nominated for the presidency it has been eagerly read by members of all parties. Mr. Bryan said:

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the convention: I would be presumptuous indeed to present myself against the distinguished gentleman to whom you have listened if this were but a measuring of ability, but this is not a contest among persons. The humblest citizens in the land, when called to arms in a righteous cause, are stronger than all the hosts of error that they can bring. I come to speak to you in defense of the holy cause of liberty—the cause of humanity. [Great applause.] When this debate is concluded a motion will be made to lay upon the table the resolution offered in commendation of the administration and also the resolution in commendation of the administration. I shall object to bringing this question to a level of persons. The individual is but an atom; he is born, he acts, he dies, but principles are eternal, and this has been a contest of principle. Never before in the history of this country has been witnessed such a contest as that through which we have passed. Never before in the history of American politics has a great issue been fought out, as this issue has been, by the voters themselves.

On the 4th of March, 1895, a few Democrats, most of them members of congress, issued an address to the Democrats of the nation, asserting that the money question was the paramount issue of the hour; asserting also the right of allowing the Democratic party to control the position of the country on this issue, concluding with the request that all believers in free coinage of silver in the Democratic party should take charge of and control the policy of the Democratic party. Three months later, at Memphis, organization was perfected and Democrats went forth openly and boldly and courageously proclaiming their belief and declaring if successful they would crystallize in a platform the declaration which they had made, and then began the conflict with a zeal approaching the zeal which inspired the crusaders who followed Peter the Hermit. Our silver Democrats went forth from victory unto victory, until they are assembled now, not to discuss, not to debate, but to enter upon the judgment rendered by the people of this country. [Applause.] In this contest brother has been arrayed against brother and father against son. The warmest ties of love and acquaintance have been disregarded. New leaders have sprung up to give direction to this cause of truth. [Cheers.] Thus has the contest been waged, and we have assembled here under as binding and solemn instructions as ever were fastened upon representatives of the people. We do not come as individuals. Way, as individuals we might have been glad to compliment the gentleman from New York (Hill), but we know the people for whom we speak would never be willing to put him in a position where he could thwart the will of the Democratic party. [Cheers.] I say it was not a question of persons, it was a question of principles, and it is not with gladness, my friends, that we find ourselves brought into conflict with those now arrayed on the other side. The gentleman who has just preceded me (Gov. Russell) spoke of the old state of Massachusetts. Let me assure you that no one person in all this convention entertains the least hostility to the state of Massachusetts (applause), but we stand here representing people who are equals before the law to the largest citizens in the state of Massachusetts. [Applause.] When you come before us and tell us that we shall disturb our business interests we reply that you have disturbed our business interests by your course. [Great applause and cheering.] We say to you that you have made too limited in its application the definition of business men. The man employed for wages is as much a business man as the employer. [Continued cheers.] The attorney in country town is as much a business man as the lawyer in the great metropolis. The merchant at the crossroads is as much a business man as the merchant in New York. The farmer who goes forth in the morning and toils all day, begins in spring and toils all summer and by application of brain and muscle adds to the natural resources of this country and creates wealth is as much a business man as the man who grows up on the board of trade and bets on the price of grain.

The sentiments of the speaker were cheered again and again. The galleries seemed to be a mass of white handkerchiefs waving. The cheers were renewed again and again, and it was some minutes before Bryan could be heard.

He proceeded as follows:

The miners who go a thousand feet into the earth, or climb two thousand feet upon the cliffs and bring forth from their hiding places their precious metals to be poured into the channels of trade, are as much business men as a few financial magnates who in a back room corner the money of the world.

The free silver delegates at this point broke forth in tremendous cheers, standing on chairs and waving their hats and banners frantically. Cheers were loudly restored, and Mr. Bryan continued:

—We come to speak for this broader class of men. At my friends we say not one word against those who live upon the Atlantic coast, but those hardy pioneers who braved all the dangers of the wilderness, who made the desert blossom as a rose, those pioneers away out there rearing their children near nature's heart, where they can mingle their voices with the voices of the birds, out there where the brave have erected school houses for the education of their young, and churches in which they praise their creator, and communities where sleep the ashes of their dead, are as deserving of the consideration of this party as any of the people of this country. [Great applause.] We have petitioned and our petitions have been received. We have organized and our organizations have been disbanded, and they have mocked and our calamity came.

—We beg no longer, we require no more, we petition no more. We defy them. [Great applause and confusion in silver delegations.] The gentleman from Wisconsin said he feared Ebsenpfer. My friends, in this land of the free, we need fear no tyrant who will spring up from among the people. What we need is an Andrew Jackson, to stand as Jackson stood against the encroachments and aggrandizing of wealth. [Great applause.] They tell us this platform may catch the vote. We reply to them that it contains principles upon which rest the Democracy as everlasting as the hills, and they must be applied to new conditions as they arise. Conditions have arisen and we are attempting to meet those conditions.

—They tell us that the income tax ought not to be brought in here; that it's a new idea. They criticize us for our criticism of the supreme court of the United States. My friends, we have not criticized. We have simply called attention to what you know. If you want criticism, read the dissenting opinion of the court. That will give you criticism. [Applause.]

—They say we passed unconstitutional laws. I deny it. The income tax was not unconstitutional when it was passed. It was not unconstitutional when it went before the supreme court the first time. It did not become unconstitutional until one judge changed his mind, and we cannot be expected to know when a judge will change his mind. [Applause and a voice, "Hit 'em again."] The income tax is a just law. It simply intends to put the burden of government justly upon the backs of the people. I am in favor of the income tax. [Applause.] When I find a man not willing to pay his share of the burden of the government which protects him, I find a man who is unworthy to enjoy the blessings of a government like ours. [Applause.]

He says we are opposing national bankruptcy. It is true. If you will read what Thomas Benton said you will find that he said that in searching history, he could find but one parallel to Andrew Jackson. That was Cleo, who destroyed the conspiracy of Cataline and saved Rome. He did for Rome what Jackson did, destroyed the bank conspiracy and saved America. [Applause.] We say in our platform that we believe the right to coin money and issue money is a function of the government. We believe it. We believe it is a part of sovereignty and can no more with safety be delegated to private individuals than we could afford to delegate to private individuals the power to make penal statutes or levy taxation. [Applause.] Mr. Jefferson, who was once regarded as good Democratic authority seems to have a different opinion from the gentlemen who have addressed us on the part of the minority. Those who are opposed to the proposition tell us the issue of paper money is a function of the bank and government ought to go out of the banking business. I stand with Jefferson rather than with them and tell them as he did, that the issue of money is a function of government, and the banks ought to go out of the government business.

They complain about the plank which declares against a life tenure in office. They have tried to strain it to mean that which it does not mean. What we oppose in that plank is life tenure that is being built up at Washington, which excludes from participation in the benefits the humbler members of our society. I can not dwell longer in my limited time. [Cries of "go on, go on."] Let me call attention to two or three great things. The gentleman from New York says he will oppose an amendment providing that the change in our laws shall not affect contracts already made. Let me remind him that there is no intention of affecting these contracts, which according to the present laws, are made payable in gold. But if he means to say that we cannot change our money system without protecting those who have loaned money before the change was made, I want to ask him where in law or in morals, he can find authority for not protecting debtors when the act of 1873 passed, but now insist that we must protect creditors.

He says he also wants to amend this law and provide that if we fail to maintain the parity within a year that we will then suspend the coinage of silver. We reply that when we advocate a thing which we believe will be successful, we are not compelled to raise a doubt as to our own sincerity by trying to show what we will do if we can. I ask him if he will apply this logic to us, why he does not apply it to himself? He says that he wants this country to try to secure an international agreement. Why doesn't he tell us what he is going to do if they fail to secure international agreement. There is more reason for him to do that than for us to fail to maintain the parity. They have tried for thirty years to se-

—We are waiting for it most impatiently, and don't want it at all. [Cheers and laughter long continued.]

Now, my friends, let me come to the great paramount issue. If they ask us here why we say more on the money question than we say on the tariff question I reply if protection has slain its thousands the gold standard has slain its tens of thousands. If they ask us why we did not embody all these things in our platform which we believe we reply that when we have restored the money of the constitution all other necessary reforms will be possible, and that until that is done, there is no reform that can be accomplished. [Cheers.] Why is it that within three months such a change has come over the sentiments of this country?

Three months ago when it was confidently asserted that those who believed the gold standard would frame our platform and nominate our candidates even the advocates of the gold standard did not think that we could elect a president, but they had good reason for suspicion, because there is scarcely a state here to-day asking for the gold standard that's not within the absolute control of the Republican party (loud cheering), but note the change. Mr. McKinley was nominated upon a platform that declared for the maintenance of the gold standard until it should be changed into bimetallicism by international agreement. Mr. McKinley was the most popular man among the Republican party, and everybody three months ago in the Republican party prophesied his election. How it is to-day? Why, that man who used to be looked like Napoleon [laughter and cheers], that man who used to be thought of as the man who would lead us to the triumph of the battle of Waterloo, the coincidence of McKinley's nomination recalls the fate of Napoleon at Waterloo.

The silver men showed their appreciation of the point by yelling, and the roar for twenty or thirty seconds prevented the speaker from proceeding. At length, when things calmed down a trifle, he resumed as follows:

—Not only that, but as he listens he can hear with ever-increasing distinctness the sound of the waves as they beat upon the lonely shores. [Cheers.] Why this change? Ah, my friends, it is evident to everyone who will look at the matter, it is no private character, however pure, personal popularity, however great, that can protect from the avenging wrath of an indignant people the man who will neither declare that he is in favor of foisting the gold standard upon this people, or who is willing to surrender the right of self-government and place legislative control in the hands of foreign potentates and powers. [Cheers.]

—We go forth confident that we shall win. Why? Because upon the paramount issue in this campaign there is not a spot of ground upon which the enemy will dare challenge battle. Why, if they tell us the gold standard is a good thing, we point to their platform and tell them that their platform pledges the party to get rid of the gold standard and bimetallicism. [Applause.] If the gold standard is a good thing why try to get rid of it? [Laughter and continued applause.] I might call your attention to the fact that some of the very people who are in this convention to-day, and who declare that we ought to declare in favor of international bimetallicism, and thereby declare the gold standard wrong and the principle of bimetallicism better, these very people four months ago were open and avowed advocates of the gold standard, and telling us that we could not legislate the two metals together, even with all the world. [Renewed applause and cheers.]

I want to suggest this truth, if the gold standard is a good thing we ought to declare in favor of its retention, not in favor of abandoning it, and if the gold standard is a bad thing, why should we wait until some other nation are willing to help us let go? [Applause.] Here is the line of battle. We care not upon which issue they force the fight. We are prepared to meet them on either issue, one or both. If they tell us the gold standard is the standard of civilization, we reply that this, the most enlightened of all the nations of the earth, has never declared for the gold standard, and both parties this year are declaring against it. [Applause.] If the gold standard is the standard of civilization, why, my friends, should we not have it? So, if they come to meet us on that we can present the history of our nation. More than that, we can tell them this, that they will search the pages of history in vain to find a single instance in which the common people of any land ever declared themselves in favor of the gold standard. [Applause.] They can find where the holders of fixed investments have been. Mr. Carlisle said in 1878 this was a struggle between the idle holders of idle capital and the struggling masses who produce the wealth and pay the taxes of the country, and, my friends, it is a simple question that we shall decide. Upon which side shall the Democratic party fight? Upon the side of the idle holders of idle capital, or upon the side of the struggling masses? That is the question the party must answer first, and then it must be answered by each individual hereafter. The sympathizers of the Democratic party, as described by the platform, are on the side of the struggling masses, who have ever been the foundation of the Democratic party. [Applause.]

There are two ideas of government. There are those who believe that if you just legislate to make the well-to-do prosperous, their prosperity will leak through on those below. The Democratic idea has been that if you legislate to make the masses prosperous their prosperity will find its way up and through every class and rest upon it (applause). You come to us and tell us that we are not to be

in the gold standard. I tell you the great cities rest upon those broad and fertile prairies. Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic. But destroy our farms and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in this country. [Loud applause.]

My friends, we shall declare the nation able to legislate for its own people on every question without waiting for the aid or consent of any nation on earth (applause), and upon that issue we expect to carry every single state in the union. [Applause.] I shall not slender the fair state of Massachusetts nor state of New York by saying that when its citizens are confronted with the proposition, is this nation able to attend to its own business. I will not slander either by saying the people of these states will declare our helpless impotency as a nation to attend to our own business. It gives the issue of 1776 over again. Our ancestors, when aggregating only 3,500,000, had courage to declare their political independence of every other nation on earth. Shall we, their descendants, when we have grown to 70,000,000, declare we are less independent than our forefathers? No, my friends, it will never be the judgment of the people. Therefore we care not on what lines the battle is fought, if they say bimetallicism is good but we cannot have it until some nation helps us, we reply instead of having the gold standard because England has, we shall restore bimetallicism and then let them have bimetallicism because the United States has it. [Applause.] If they dare to come out and openly defend the gold standard as a good thing we shall fight them to the uttermost. You shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold. [Great applause.]

The conclusion of Mr. Bryan's speech was marked by the most enthusiastic demonstration of the convention up to that time. The whole convention sprang to its feet and 20,000 throats roared, while 20,000 arms waved frantically. Handkerchiefs and flags flew wildly, hats were hurled aloft, umbrellas were waved. Men shouted like maniacs. From every quarter of the hall came the hoarse roar. Suddenly a member of the Texas delegation uprooted the banner of the Lone Star and carried it to where stood the standard of Nebraska. Above these roars arose piercing shrieks which sounded like a volley of siege guns above the continuous rattle of 10,000 small arms. Other delegates grasped the staffs of their delegations and pushed their way to the Nebraska delegation. Soon the staffs of two-thirds of the states were grouped about the purple standard of Bryan's state.

Meantime the awful uproar from the galleries continued. The band played, but the music could not be heard above the Niagara tumult of sound. Like an angel, ocean it swept on, breaking at last, receding, falling back, only to rise again. Delegates fairly jumped for joy. Some of them took possession of the aisles and marched.

Suddenly the state standards clustered at Nebraska were borne away in single file through the aisle of the pit. After fifteen minutes of this turbulence the delegates and crowds sank back exhausted. When all were seated Delegate Scutshury of Delaware climbed back on his chair. He had his three silver colleagues in that state gave three cheers for Bryan, which was answered with a shout from the gallery of "What's the matter with Bryan for president?"

The recipient of all this honor made his way with difficulty from the stage. For ten minutes his friends had fairly smothered him with congratulations.

—I verge, who is sometimes called the father of modern illustration, has made twenty-five drawings to accompany the opening installment of A. F. Jacca's amusing narrative, "On the Trail of Don Quixote," which is begun in the fiction number of Scribner's.

Who reads Philip James Bailey's poem, "Festus," nowadays? Nobody, probably. Yet there must be thousands of the older generation who will remember when they were enthusiastic over it, and who will be interested in knowing that the author is now in his eighty-first year.

For those who knew that Mr. Barrie's town of Thrums is the Scottish village of Kilmculm there will be much interest in a guidebook of that place entitled "Through Thrums," in which W. B. Mills says: "In a little school which was wont to exist not many yards from the Auld Licht Kirk Mr. Barrie received the rudiments of his education. In his charming picture of the Hankey school in 'Sentimental Tommy,' now appearing in Scribner's, Mr. Barrie has drawn considerably from his memories of this little seat of learning of a fast receding past."

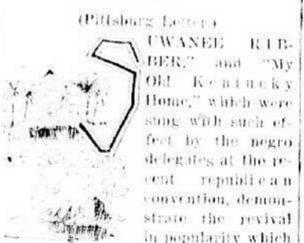
CHIPS.

A man's conduct is an unspoken sermon. The smaller the soul the bigger a dollar looks. Some very good sawlogs have big knots on them. An enemy is a person who applauds you when you fail. If you will not hear reason, she will surely rap your knuckles. It isn't what a man owes, but what he pays that keeps him poor. Like a great man, thieves, "Time steals on," and cannot be arrested. When the office man it is seldom his fault if he is not promoted. The man who has a little religion will have any. Nothing pleases a man who has been asked to be a wife.

SONGS THAT WE LOVE.

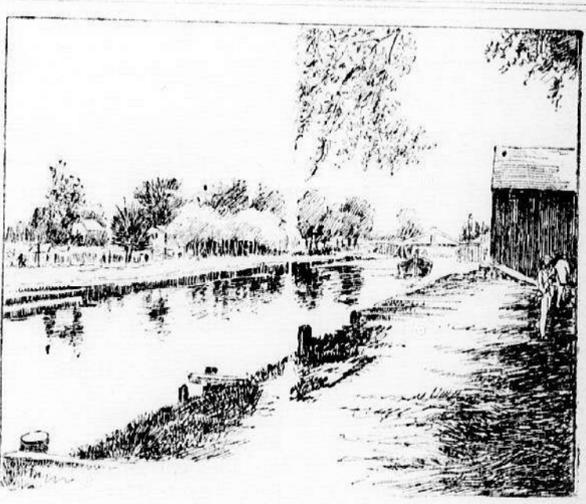
REVIVED POPULARITY OF STEPHEN FOSTER'S MELODIES.

Admirers Propose to Honor His Grave Which is in a Neglected Part of a Pittsburg Cemetery by Erecting a Monument to His Genius.



(Pittsburg Letter.)—STEPHEN COLLINS FOSTER, "My Old Kentucky Home," which were sung with such effect by the negro delegates at the recent republican convention, demonstrate the revived popularity which these songs are coming into. Hard in hand with this announcement comes that of an effort being made in this city, the home of their composer, to erect a national fund for the creation of a monument to this genius. Forty years ago the name of Stephen Collins Foster was familiar to all. As the composer of many popular songs, songs that have since become famous, he was as well known, and perhaps better, than many people of that day whose names have since passed into history. What man or woman or child today but what can "carry the tune" of "Old Folks at Home," perhaps better recognized as "Way Down Upon the Suwanee Ribber," or has heard the plaintive notes of "Old Black Joe," or was thrilled with the tenderness and pathos of "My Old Kentucky Home," or laughter at the humor in "O, Susanna, Don't You Cry for Me"? And yet today, all that remains of the man who gave to the world these songs lies in a neglected grave in a little corner of the Allegheny Cemetery, Pittsburg, Pa.—a grave so neglected and forgotten that the sexton had great difficulty in locating it.

Foster, in his line, was as great a genius as Beethoven, Mozart, or any of the well-known composers. He was as truly musical, although his talent was directed into a different channel, and, like some great musicians, he will some day be appreciated, after fifty years



SCENE AT LAWRENCEVILLE.

or so of slumber under the sod. Patti, Nilson, and other great singers of the day have achieved signal triumph in their rendition of Foster's compositions. "Suwanee Ribber" has been translated into twelve different languages, and it plaintive tune is known nearly all over Europe. It was recently played at Johannesburg, South Africa, at a concert given there. This shows the popularity of some of his songs.

Foster was a Pittsburger, born and bred, having first seen the light of day on July 4, 1826, in the old Foster mansion at Lawrenceville, now a suburb of Pittsburg, once owned by his illustrious grandfather, William Barclay Foster. The latter was one of the founders of Pittsburg, the son of a soldier in the revolution, an officer in the Mexican war, and prominent in the defense of New Orleans under Gen. Andrew Jackson. He gave his estates for the defense of the Crescent City and the Northwest against the British, and was never fully repaid the debt by the United States.

Foster was sent to school at Towanda, Pa., at the age of thirteen, and soon afterward to Athens, Ohio. At both places he gained the reputation of being one of the quietest and most modest boys in the school. His friends in Pittsburg today remember him "as gentle as a woman." He finished his education at Jefferson College, Cannonsburg, Pa., which college James G. Blaine attended. Young Foster displayed an aptitude for mercantile life, and went to Cincinnati, where he secured a position as a clerk. This bent was short lived, however, for after the success of his first song, he returned to Pittsburg, and lived there until 1869, devoting the principal portion of his time to the composition of songs. In 1860 he went to New York, and there resided until his death, January 13, 1864.

Foster displayed his musical talent early in life. When scarcely able to walk he evinced a fondness for all kinds of music, and as he grew older was quick at catching airs. His first musical composition was written while at Towanda, and was entitled "Tioga Waltz." It was published before the youthful composer had reached his fourteenth birthday, and as compensation he received the magnificent present of twenty-five copies of the piece for circulation among his friends. His first song, "My Old Kentucky Home," was published in 1846. It was entitled

"Open Thy Lattice, Love," and was published in Baltimore. A few months afterward "Old Folks at Home," his greatest success, made its appearance. It was not much of a success at first, until one Thomas McNally, foreseeing its popularity, paid Foster \$500 to first produce it on the industrial stage. It then spread like wildfire through the south, and was soon on the lips of every slave, to whom it especially appealed.

A complete record of Foster's songs has never been kept, but it is estimated that 150 of his writings became popular. The majority of these were campaign songs, written at the outbreak of the war. The more familiar compositions included "Old Dog Tray," "Old Kentucky Home," "O, Lenuel," "Open Thy Lattice, Love," "Way Down South," "Way Down Upon the Suwanee Ribber," "O, Susanna, Don't You Cry for Me," "Hard Times Come Again No More," "Massa's in the Cold, Cold Ground," etc. With the exception of perhaps ten over the above list, the remainder have sunk into oblivion, like their author.

Writing songs was to Foster as easy as swinging the ax to the back woodsman. Given a Biny theme, he would produce a composition in an incredibly short time. His songs possessed decided originality and much musical merit. They were written in most cases at random, and just as the mood came upon him. He would dash off an air, then wedge in the words to fit, often spending more time in finding a single needed word, than on the entire piece.

Morrison Foster, a brother of the composer, now a Pittsburg business man, tells of a day when his brother entered his office.

"He came to me one day in perplexity. Said he 'I want the name of a river in the United States containing two syllables.' I suggested Peedree, Yazoo, and several other outlandish names, but none of them would do. Finally, I got down an old map of the United States, and as my fingers wandered over the state of Florida, they stopped on the line which marks the course of the Suwanee. 'That will do,' said Stephen, as he left my office. I thought nothing more of the matter until several weeks later, when I discovered that my brother had written a song about the name and given it to the world, 'Old Folks at Home.'"

In the summer of 1859, Foster went to Bearstown, Ky., in search of rest and retirement, and there remained several months as the guest of Judge John Rowan. He was so pleased with this place, which he termed "his retreat," that he wrote a song about the homestead, and named it "My Old Kentucky Home." The Fosters were originally southern people, and this may have had something to do with the composer's love for southern topics and subjects.

Foster died in New York, comparatively wealthy. Like nearly every member of his family, his death occurred away from home. His remains were brought to Pittsburg at his own request, and buried in the family lot, which was located in the then fashionable portion of Allegheny cemetery.

Although his grave today is obscure and sadly neglected, the Grand Army veterans at least keep his memory green. His songs beguiled many a weary hour on the march and in camp, and in grateful remembrance, his grave is visited on each Memorial day, and a



STEPHEN COLLINS FOSTER. G. A. R. flag placed reverently beneath the headstone, together with a huge bunch of roses and forget-me-nots. The move to start a national fund for the erection of a monument over his grave was started in Pittsburg, and is extending through Pennsylvania. The intention is to have the fund completed and the monument placed in one of the public parks. It will be unveiled on July 4, 1897, which will be doubly celebrated as Foster's birthday and the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.