

ZEKE BILKINS, M. A.



"Votin" The Great Issue Before the People--Goldbug Democrats and Republicans Like the Tone of Senator Mewborne's Letters--Tariff Not in It Any More.

B.--"Hello! Mr. Editor. R.--"Hello! Major. Any exciting news to-day?"

B.--"Well, nothin' ov much consequence. I hear a gude many dymocrats an' Republicans talkin' about Senator Mewborne's letter printed in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER last week."

R.--"What do they think of it?" B.--"Most awl ov 'em like the tone ov it. They say he iz rite. Awl ov us goldbugs think the votin' question iz the biggest ishue before the people ov this country now. Awl this clap trap about finances iz bunkum. Every sitizen over twenty one years ov age order wurk day an' nite in order ter preserve the rite ter vote."

R.--"Of course. But if there isn't something to vote for, if you don't accomplish anything, if you do not vote for better men and better principles, why vote at all?"

B.--"Oh! that iz awl bunkum. Didn't I tell you it iz The tariff ain't in it any more, either. The sanckesity ov the ballot overtops 'em awl. You Pops and Republicans made that the ishue in 1894 an' beat the stuffin out ov us by main strength an' awkwardness."

R.--"Correct. But we don't propose to bark at the hole in the ground years after the mole has been caught." That is like you Democrats making the tariff the leading issue after you 'reformed it' to your hearts' content when you had the President, Senate and Hous in 1893-94. Now you want 'another chance.' In 1894 we made the necessity of a new election law very prominent, and had good reasons for it. The reasons were that we wanted to get in a position to get the will of the people recorded. That has been accomplished. Now we would be a pretty crowd of jackasses to go back ar'd begin it all over again by voting goldbugs into office, even if we would be getting a few silver men in at the same time. This is no time for foolishness. Reform never goes backward. To day a large portion of the people of North Carolina want financial reform. They want it bad, they want it as quickly as possible. This year they will have a chance to vote for it, and, at the same time, to vote for men who will preserve the sanctity of the ballot, who will favor every means for holding honest elections. If they don't vote for them, then they must take the consequences. With a clear cut People's party ticket in the field this year, with good men on it, every citizen, be he farmer, business or professional man, white or black, who fails to vote that ticket will show that he does not want reform, and if that party fails to carry the State, it will be the fault of the voters themselves. They will be safe if they vote for what they want; if they do not vote for what they want, no amount of co-operation or anything else will save them, and their own blood will be upon their own heads."

B.--"I'm goin' ter vote the goldbug ticket in one or the other ov the old parties myself. Gude bye."

A SUGGESTION.

A great deal of valuable time and language can be saved if the old parties will abbreviate their platforms this year. We suggest:

REPUBLICAN. First Plank--More bond sales and bigger ones. Second Plank--We promise to obey the money power implicitly.

DEMOCRATIC. First Plank--Bigger bond sales and more of them. Second Plank--We promise to implicitly obey the money power.

"There can be no doubt as to the opinion of Major McKinley on the money question. He is committed in every form, every speech and otherwise to the Republican policy of maintaining the present gold coin of the United States as the standard of value."

- From John Sherman's Letter.

REPLY TO MR. SWINSON.

Senator Mewborne Grows Sarcastic and Talks Like Co operation Would Not Be a Greater Sacrifice of Principle Than Was Made In 1894--Pictures--Democratic--Populist Fusion

MY DEAR BRO. SWINSON:--I do not think that a man has necessarily lost principle because he is in favor of fusion, if so, then the Populists, not only in North Carolina, but in other States where we have a foothold, have thrown their principles away. I think of fusion, such as I know of, can be had with any party, whether goldbug or otherwise, and yet principles be preserved and shine like "the bright and morning star." Or else ours are gone, and also those of other States. If this is not so we certainly have been making bad precedents and doing a deal of evil that good might come. And I think good has come. I even rejoice and am exceedingly glad that through fusion we hold the balance of power in the United States Senate to day. Who of us are not proud of the resolutions, speeches and votes of our own Senator Butler? Likewise those of Kyle, Puffer and Allen, who, with Senator Jones, hold that balance of power that we so much covet. And yet all of these save the latter two were elected by fusion, and that fusion with the goldbugs, as many of us are pleas'd to call them. I think this is all right, but you don't, and according to your way of thinking Butler and the three others ought to quit holding that balance of power and making those splendid speeches and casting those righteous votes, resign, go home and get elected right, on "middle of the road" principles, which you say cannot be obtained in fusion. Now, my dear Ignatious, if we fusionists stole this big office-holder (a United States Senator) who, one time at least, himself, has held the balance of power, are guilty of a great crime, then you are just as guilty for retaining him, knowing him to have been stolen, for, in law and equity, the receiver is as bad as the thief, and I believe, nine out of ten times, worse, because it takes more sense to hide stolen goods than it does to commit the overt act, and, worse than all, when you and those like you are trying to do it in the name of "principle."

Now be consistent. He that saith to his brother, "Thou shalt not steal," dost thou steal? I certainly do believe that if there was no wrong done then (1894) there would be none done now if we acted along the same line. I say I am proud of our noble Senator. He knows where to use his balance of power, he uses it not only against gold bugs and for good government, but to help his home people as well.

You know that Capt. James B. Lloyd, as noble a young man as there is in the 2nd Congressional District, has been elected to a splendid position at a salary of \$1800. How did he get there? Why you know that but for this balance of power, or possibly big fusion, and that in some way with the gold bugs, our Populist Senators got Lloyd elected or otherwise he could not have been, for there were some eighty goldbugs against him. Now if fusion is all right in the Senate chamber in order to get one of our boys into office. Why should it be thought a thing unworthy in some of our other boys to "fuse" with some of our home goldbugs? Have they disgraced the office they now hold? Have they debauched principle in obtaining them? Dare you to show where a single one of them has got out of the middle of the road? If you do you will show yourself on the same plane.

I placed Bro. Butler's name in nomination for United States Senator in the last State Senate, and I was glad to do so. I seconded the nomination of Mr. Pritchard and I was glad to do that because he and his friends had made it possible for me help to elect Butler and I have never been ashamed of it, nor is Senator Butler for he still retains his seat in the Senate, gotten in the way you now despise.

Listen: "These Pops are getting too uppish. They not only hold the balance of power in Washington," preventing any further bad legislation [italics mine], "if they can't get any good legislation passed, but they have gone further: The other day Senator Butler, our 'Maryann' actually and audaciously presided over the Senate a whole day." [PROGRESSIVE FARMER, April 28 b.]

If fusion with the goldbugs then, was all right, in order that we might attain to this high eminence, then your cry of "middle of the road on principle" is the easy one of the chick who has his craw full of good things, whose like getting he would denounce in others. Free silver was just as much a "principle" in 1894 as now. And yet we put up A. C. Shuford against John S. Henderson, a silver Democrat, and beat him by the aid of the goldbug. And the Populists of the 8th District actually voted with the goldbugs for Linney against Bower, a free silverite. In the 4th District Chas. M. Cook every where proclaimed silver, and yet we

sided with the goldbugs and they helped us to elect Stroud. A. W. Graham was beaten by Settle in the 5th District, an outspoken goldbug, because we put up Dr. Merritt. In the 9th Pearson, one of our goldbugs, beat Crawford, an avowed silver Democrat, with Populist votes. In the 2nd and 3rd we had a straight fight on principle, and I believe "free silver" by all--Democrats, Republicans and Populists--every man for himself, and the "devil for the hindmost," and he got us Populists and Republicans. I guess we had too much principle then. It was all right as it was, for it was a good way after the count for us and the Republicans to show our "strength" in the two districts, and we showed it too after the Democrats got through with the ballot boxes. And in the 6th District Lockhart, silver Democrat beat Martin, who had fooled with the goldbugs, and according to you that was all right for Lockhart had our "principles" and Martin "fused" with the goldbugs and thereby got out of the "middle of the road" and therefore lost his "principles" and ought to have been beaten. [Martin has gained his seat since the above was written.--EDITOR.] And the last shall be the first.

Branch was an Alliance man and also a "free silver" man. Harry Skinner "fused" with the goldbugs and beat him. What a pity from your standpoint.

Well, Ignatious, you will have one assurance, that Branch or some silver Democrat will beat Harry this time and then you will get your "principles." All these things were done under the eyes and directions of the State Executive Committee, Senator Butler himself being at the head, who are now urging us to fuse only on "principle" What kind of a figure did "principle" cut then? Was it right then? If so, it would be now. Did we make a mistake then? If so, let us get out of the People's party and go into the new "Silver Party" whither we seem to be drifting and thereby hide our shame. I, for one, do not think we made a mistake, because fusion gave us Butler, Shuford, Stroud and Skinner, and but for Democratic fraud at the ballot box, Martin and Thompson, four certain, and by right six of the eleven representatives in Congress from this State, and in order to get these we helped to elect Pritchard, Pearson, and Linney, who are just as close to our principles as Jarvis, Crawford and Brown, their opponents. And even our Railroad Commissioner, Bro S. Ohio Wilson, was elected on principle by the help of these very same "most prominent" goldbugs over Thos. W. Mason, a capital good man, who, so far as silver goes, had our principles.

Fusion, my dear Ignatious, by the action of our State Executive Committee, is off with the Republicans, because they rejected certain resolutions in which was embodied only one of our principles--free silver--and one of their--protection--and in return offered us certain offices instead, which we rejected, because, in a word, we are not after offices, but after principles. If "principles" are the things we are after, then why, in the name of "principle" did they only embody a part of our "principles" and not all, and why "protection" a principle that never has been in our platform? By what authority did you so emaciate and mix our platform? It seems to me in your "straight" march to "Jerusalem, you arrived at Jerricho." I believe there will be a fusion in this State with the Democrats, notwithstanding your disclaimer. Why? Because the question is now being hotly agitated among them, and they seem to be ripe for it now since they were so badly beaten in the last election by our fusing with the Republicans, and if we offer them the same principles we did the Republicans, free silver, which is one of our principles and also one of theirs, which they claim they have worked for for years and years, and your State Executive Committee will be "flexible" enough to drop from "protection" another one of our principles "by adoption" and offer them "free trade" or tariff reform, or something that the head of their party would call "perfidy and dishonor"--and of course we would be as much in the line of our principles as we were when we offered the Republicans "protection" I am quite sure that the Democrats will accept with thanks. Let us see if it is not coming.

"We want to State now once for all, that the People's Party will not go into either of the old parties, and it will spurn any offer to co-operate with one" except [italics mine] "upon the basis of at least one fundamental principle of the People's party. The People's party has received no proposition from the Democratic party to co operate, and it certainly would not consider

Where are you, and what do you want? If you want to sell or buy a milk cow, come to Stall No. 5, City Market. He buys and sells the best. M. M. PERRY.

any proposition unless it was on a basis similar to the one made by our committee, and which the Republican committee declined." [Caucasian, April 30th]

"Wake! snakes; day is breakin," and the Democrats are just as sure to make this same "proposition" as Ed. Cambers Smith and R. B. Peebles live and you will accept them, and why not? Oh do "keep in the middle of the road" on "principle." "Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching--our Mary Ann and Bob Glenn at the head of the procession; S. Ohio Wilson and Secret Circular Simmons, Hal Ayer and Josephus Daniels, et cetera, et cetera, with Joe Caldwell by himself coming along with bowed head; then J. L. Ramsey and Col. Kingsbury, D. D. L. D., with his Sunday Messenger and his prayers.

Then! Oh, then! Mr. Chairman J. H. Pou, with the "History of the Last Legislature" in his hands from which he reads occasional passages about the new ballot law, county government, miscegenation, etc., and the procession following composed two and two respectively of the Democratic and Populist members of the Senate and House, all shouting Amen! Amen! so mere it be. And you, Ignatious, in the rear, with your pure white banner unfurled to the breeze, emblazoned thereon, "No Fear and Malice Actuated by Republican Clap Trap." Singing--

"Lift off your heads ye gates, And be thou lift up ye everlasting doors, And let the sons of righteousness come in."

But before this is done, let me entreat you, when you treat with the Democratic party, have one more "basis of co-operation" than you did with the Republicans, viz.: Human liberty in North Carolina, the inalienable right to vote and to have that vote righteously counted, and local self government for all, then you may inscribe on the other side of your pure white banner: Tilghmanism and a pitchfork for silver, but no Tilghmanism in North Carolina is to disfranchise any part of our people.

It is a Republican "catch trap," make the most of it. I, for one, will strike for the one, but with me tenacity will strike the other. I have done.

Yours truly and fraternally, JAMES M. MEWBORNE.

LETTER FROM CATAWBA COUNTY.

Mr J. H. Sherrill Has Kind Words for This Paper and Does Some Straight Talking, Politically.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. CATAWBA, N. C., May 7, 1896.

You will please find enclosed \$1 to renew my subscription to the most persistent and high toned advocate of the farmers' interest in North Carolina. I certainly appreciate the bold and dignified position you have taken in the political issues now confronting the people, and if all of our public journals were influenced by the honest desires of the greatest good to the greatest number, we would soon enjoy peace and tranquility, if not prosperity. If political advisors are a blessing we are certainly abundantly informed, for the great majority of office holders and office seekers are busily engaged in forcing their particular opinions upon the dear voters, and the dear voters entertain the opinion that many of them are not qualified for the duties they have assumed. It is certainly gratifying to the good people of North Carolina to see what rapid growth and development has been made in the average State man the past two or three years. At the present rate North Carolina alone can furnish a multitude the equal of Johnson, Clay and Lincoln by the close of the present century (in their own estimation). We are receiving circular letters from different able Statesmen advising the dear people in regard to their individual opinions in regard to fusion and the great evils that will result if their suggestions are not followed. And we find it an absolute impossibility to follow all. I am innocent enough to hope that none of them are personally interested. No indeed. Sending such valuable literature to the dear people for the dear people's good.

It is entirely commendable in our good and wise Statesmen, and the dear people hope they will be abundantly rewarded by a bird's eye view of the promised land of official blessings, but never be able to enter. We have all been handsomely fooled and doubtless many of us will be fooled again by the sick tongued demagogue; but there being an overproduction of demagogues, their occupation will soon cease to be profitable. Much of the information we are receiving is from a source that fails to command our attention, but from others whom we have respected and honored, arouses a feeling of surprise and astonishment. Keep it up, my dear boys, and you will soon disgust your honest followers. The people see that you are not influenced by any personal motive. Oh! no. Let us all get in the middle of the road and stay there, if we would all practice what we preach. Lay aside party

prejudice and personal ambition and unite on common ground for the good of all classes and conditions of our people. We would certainly make it interesting for the Wall street crowd. I am ready at any time to lay aside the People's party name and unite with the silver Democrats and silver Republicans under a new name, to give our common enemy the fight of their lives. As long as we remain divided we cannot hope to succeed, and it is only amusing to the goldites to see us acting with so little wisdom. United we succeed, divided we are defeated every time. JAMES H. SHERRILL.

IN THE HANDS OF A RECEIVER.

The New York Times was once a great paper, feared by its enemies and loved by its friends. But English and German boodle has ruined it. Rothschilds fastened his unholy hands on it and British brains edited it. Currency contraction, bond sales and Cleveland "is a great man" was its song. Now it is in the hands of a receiver. It had a capital of \$2,000,000 behind it, but big papers are expensive. It is now badly in debt and losing every day--the result of the financial policy it advocated. We are always sorry for people who are trying to do well and can't. The Times is trying to do wrong and can't succeed financially, so we say go down, for it deserves ruin.

UNIVERSITY CATALOGUE.

Eighty-three Professors and Instructors--534 Students. The University catalogue for 1896 shows marked growth in every department of the institution, 108 courses of study are offered in 14 departments. The law school has 58 students, the medical school 30, the summer school for teachers 140, the college 333, making a total of 534 students taught by 38 professors and instructors.

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Great Freshet in N. Y. State. When the papers reported "N. Y. Central and Hudson River" under water, miles of fences swept away, and two trusty men to look after the 170 miles of Piquette that line, Report was true, but the "Piquette" "sweep" and an order is just in for 30 miles more. See April Hustler. PAGE WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO., Adrian, Mich.

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