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THE COMMERCIAL

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BANNER DESCANTS

Manner of Ham's and Ned's Speeches and Their Deliverances.

An attempt to accurately measure and equate the values, positive and negative, in the Patterson-Carmack opening debate, or to estimate the resultant impressions in their effect upon the campaign, would be difficult and premature. While the issues drawn were well defined in the speeches made, the discussion has hardly advanced far enough to sift the matters in controversy to their closest analysis and to bring the contestants to the crucial test of their powers. The ardent supporters of the candidates on either side are already claiming an advantage for their favorite, but these conflicting claims would be made if one or the other of the disputants, in the estimation of unbiased hearers, had won a signal and crowning victory. Partisans will see and insist upon an advantage won by their candidate, unless his discomfiture is so pronounced and painful as to make it impossible of denials.

Last Saturday Gov. Patterson delivered his first speech in the campaign as a formal review and defense of his administration, the nature of which was commented upon in these columns. Mr. Carmack, although previously giving out a statement of his platform for publication, reserved his opening speech in the canvass for the occasion of the first joint discussion with the Governor. One of the features of this article is not to discuss the merits of the questions raised and criticisms made by Mr. Carmack, in the manner in which they were made by his opponent, but simply to outline briefly the characters and features of his address.

Mr. Carmack is a very able and an excellent speaker, with a peculiarly stable controversial style. He is ready and fluent, and is a master of sarcasm. His opening speech was thoroughly characteristic, and was to be expected, the chief feature of it is its punning and sarcastic quality. Indeed, the bold and rhetorical quality of his speech is so pronounced that it could be said that the predominant and pervasive quality of sarcasm becomes a defect which tends rather to weaken the force of the assault. Wit and sarcasm are very effective weapons, and Mr. Carmack is an adept in the use of them, but a too constant employment of these weapons on their edge. Nevertheless, Mr. Carmack sustains his reputation as a bold and aggressive speaker, and his speech is from beginning to end a direct and provocative appeal upon Gov. Patterson's administration. His speech is based upon the assumption that the Governor was thoroughly informed of the former canvass for the gubernatorial nomination as an able and champion of reform, and that he has proved recreant to the people of the State, in that, after declaring his purpose—in a relentless warfare to overthrow a party machine—to promote and compel a more party organization of and for the people, he has used his power and opportunity as Govern-

nor to establish a party machine of his own. This is the gravamen of the charge which Mr. Carmack undertakes to sustain, and it is on this line of attack that he brings his criticisms to bear upon the official acts of the Executive and the course of his administration.

Mr. Carmack begins his speech somewhat after the manner in which Mr. Patterson began his speech last Saturday night, with a justification of the propriety of his candidacy and with a severe arraignment of his critics and opponents for questioning his action and his motives, and, asseverating that he is willing to base the issue of the contest upon the record of Mr. Patterson and his administration, he makes as the main ground of his contention the charge that the Governor has deceived the party as an apostle of reform by taking advantage of his position to organize a machine as ruthless and as objectionable as the one he claims that he has overthrown. In pressing this indictment Mr. Carmack animadverts upon the primary plan adopted by the Democratic State Committee, for which he holds the Governor responsible, and discusses that plan at length as illustrative of Mr. Patterson's purpose to place himself in political power and control. With this pronounced attack upon the Governor's motives, Mr. Carmack devotes a good part of his speech to criticisms of the course of the Patterson administration and the official actions of the Executive, which make quite a list of arraignments, and include a number of the Governor's recommendations to the Legislature, charges of his use of official influence in favor of or against certain bills, his appointments to office, the administration of the penitentiary, the exercise of the pardoning power, etc. He questions the Governor's claim of service to the educational and financial interests of the State, in the matter of the reduction of railroad rates and in the increase of Confederate pensions. In fine, Mr. Carmack does not seem to give the Governor credit for any valuable service to the State.

One of the main issues made by Mr. Carmack is on the subject of prohibition. The ex-Senator declares himself in favor of State-wide prohibition. He laughs at Mr. Patterson as a temperance reformer and undertakes to show that the Governor in his relations to temperance legislation has been inconsistent with his professions, and that his policy has been in accord with the saloon interests. Evidently Mr. Carmack considered his present attitude on the temperance question one of his strongest points in his appeal for support.

In the closing part of his speech Mr. Carmack discusses the features of his platform of policies which he has previously given out for publication. The speech as a whole is a remarkable deliverance, worded with the Senator's accustomed command and force of language and constituting one of the most extensive and unqualified arraignments ever made against a political opponent in the State.

There will be ample time for cool and dispassionate comment upon the specific issues raised in the discussion by the two candidates, and the people will watch with growing interest the progress of the debate.—Nashville Banner.

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"OUR BOB" SPINS JOKES

A Quiet Hour With His Friends in Nashville—The Cardinal's Reception.

Senator Bob Taylor, looking the picture of health, and wearing his Senatorial toga as unassumingly as in the days he spent on the Tennessee hustings campaigning for it, and as jolly as ever, is in the city.

He arrived yesterday morning from Wartrace, where he delivered a lecture Saturday night, and is stopping at the Tulane Hotel.

Tonight, at the Ryman auditorium, he will deliver his lecture, "Castles in the Air," with a few new trimmings, which he has added since it was last heard. Over 4,000 tickets have already been sold for the engagement and as usual a crowded house will listen to Tennessee's idol, her "Apostle of Sunshine."

"Castles in the Air," like all the Senator's lectures, is a delightful concoction of wit, humor and poetic fancy, but if Senator Bob would agree to substitute for the lecture some of his experiences in Washington, as he related them to a room full of friends last night, he would make a bigger hit, if that is possible, than he has ever done with any lecture.

For two hours he entertained his listeners in his peculiar and delightful style. "I have been associating with the great men of earth," he said. "In fact, it has been getting so lately that nobody can see me unless they send up their card."

"Why, there are several of us in the Senate that are worth \$10,000,000," he continued. "Me and Gugenheim are worth \$60,000,000, and me and Elkins are worth \$20,000,000, and Aldrich and a few of the other boys are worth \$10,000,000, while the rest represent all the other millions."

"I have been banquetting too," he said, "and then he told of a banquet given in honor of Cardinal Gibbons the night, which he attended. My wife got an invitation to see a cardinal."

they told me to call him His Eminence, so I said, "Your Eminence."

"Yes, indeed, I have been associating with the big ones, and am having the time of my life," he continued. "I have met dukes and cardinals and ambassadors and cabinet officers and the President and generals and Senators and I'm really not associating with common folks at all."

And thus he talked and spun stories while his friends roared with laughter.

"Why, they had solid gold dishes on the table at that banquet given to me and the cardinal. They were as big as water buckets, gold spoons, gold knives and forks and everything was gold. There were so many curious things at my plate I didn't know what to do with them, but I sat close to the cardinal and as he picked up those at his plate and began using them I would do the same with mine."

Senator Taylor had a good word for all his colleagues. "They are treating me fine," he said. He was exceedingly complimentary in speaking of all he mentioned.

Senator Joe Bailey, of Texas, is the greatest man in the Senate, in his opinion easily. "I rank him along with Webster, Clay and Calhoun, Thurman, Blaine, Conkling and Ben Hill, and after hearing him make that great speech on the money question and three or four other great speeches, and watching him closely for four months, I believe he is intellectually the biggest man in the Senate," he said. "Culberson is a model Senator; brilliant, cautious and conservative, and none of them get away with him. Clark of Arkansas is one of the best lawyers in the Senate; Overton of North Carolina is a big man, one of the biggest there and a delightful man personally. Foster of Louisiana is as warm and congenial as the climate of his State, and the climate of his State is as warm as the climate of Louisiana."

Senator Taylor said "Our Bob" is a card."

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