

## THE PEACE ARMY.

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his pay in money of that color and kind for his service during that other frightful war. If democracy and republicanism wish to perpetuate themselves, they would do well to press congress to the point of passage of the Coxe bills, for then men would not struggle to build up a new party after they had learned that they might promote the general welfare and secure justice through the "direct legislation" method.

Populists will withhold their sanction of Mr. Coxe's march to Washington because they deem it hopeless to attempt to influence congress, for the further and graver reason that they fear that unscrupulous capitalism will create a pretext to assault the Coxe troops, and they know that the condition of the millions of unemployed is such that but a spark is needed to kindle a great fire. It was for this latter reason that I strove to dissuade Mr. Coxe. I dread with all the physical cowardice of a woman, who is *na moral coward*, but who hates a gun; I dread to have this war which is now waging against the natural enemies, resolve into a war with guns and awful weapons of slaughter. Oh, why will not you great strong men, wielders of that mighty weapon, the ballot, why will you not save us from that? *Why have you not protected us by establishing such conditions as encourage industry and virtue, and noble manhood? At least be just enough, in view of the failure you have made, to unite our hands; give us the ballot and let us have a chance "to protect home industries."*

What in the world happened to Brother Kies, of the Commoner! He so discreet, so cautious, and so strong, to so far forget himself as to utter a threat of "Winchesters?" I could hardly believe my senses when I saw the rash utterance credited to him. Why, why, Brother Kies, child alive, don't you know you ought not to whisper such a threat as that, even at midnight, alone in a dark cellar, let alone speaking it out in broad daylight in hard type? Do get a little womanly caution about you, or I may think that men are too hasty and injudicious to be entrusted with the ballot. The Washington Post had an editorial about you, Brother Kies, calling you all sorts of a dangerous crank. If I had never seen your classic countenance I would have thought you a second edition of Herr Most. But don't say so any more, please, because *we must keep the peace; we must let the other fellows do the ugly talk; we must bide our time, use the ballot, and send the right kind of men to congress; then we can hope to get some good-roads bills and other necessities. Of course, if enough people would speak out within the next month, the needy and perishing ones might be rescued now, but the if is in the way.*

Besides, Brother Kies, don't you know that when it comes to a talk about guns, the folks down here own the whole outfit? They shot off one over at Indian Head the other day that could mow down a thousand of you hayseeds at one sweep, and we have a whole navy yard full of great big man-killers, and we have a "district guard" that have been practicing the "riot drill" for ever so long. Oh, hush, don't talk about fighting; you people are out of it. Why just listen to what Major Moore, chief of the district police, said the other day to a Post reporter. Speaking of Coxe's peace army, which will come unarmed and marching under a banner bearing the motto, "Peace on earth, good will to men," he said: "Coxe can't make any oration, nor bring any procession, nor display any banner on the capitol grounds.

When Citizen Coxe, mounted on his white palfrey and bearing the olive branch of peace in his hand, rides into Washington on May 1 at the head of the army of the commonweal, provided, of course, that all this will happen, he will discover some peculiar things about the District of Columbia. Citizen Coxe is reputed to be a wealthy man, but he will find that his wealth will be no excuse when charged with vagrancy under the district laws. Until quite recently a vagrant in this city was considered to be a pauper who would not work, and if that law had not been construed broadly, Citizen Coxe would be in danger of being obliged to sell some of his blooded horses and distribute the proceeds among his followers. If the army numbers as many persons as Citizen Coxe claims it will, he would be compelled to distribute many thousand dollars among its members to prevent them from being arrested as vagrants."

## DEFINITION OF VAGRANCY.

The possession of \$1 by a supposed pauper was formerly considered in this district to be sufficient evidence that he was not a person without visible means of support. That is changed now under the construction of the vagrancy law by Judge Kimball, one of the police judges of the district, and a vagrant is "an idle and disorderly person; a person of evil life and fame; without visible means of support; likely to become chargeable to the District of Columbia as a pauper; found drunk and begging in and about the streets; found loitering in and about tipping houses; a suspicious person, having no fixed place of residence, and unable to give a good account of himself; guilty of open profanity and grossly indecent language and behavior publicly in the streets."

Mr. James L. Pugh, jr., the special assistant attorney for the District of Columbia, who prosecutes vagrancy cases in the police court, said yesterday that if Coxe and his army came the police would undoubtedly make a general raid on the commonweal forces. "They could be arrested under the vagrancy laws," said Mr. Pugh, "and certainly convicted under them."

But you couldn't arrest Coxe as a vagrant," was suggested. "He's a rich man."

"Yes, we could and would arrest Coxe, too," said Mr. Pugh. "Under the broad construction of the vagrancy law by Judge Kimball, Coxe would be 'an idle and disorderly person, and a suspicious person unable to give a good account of himself.' No such gathering as Coxe proposes will be permitted here, for the police will not allow crowds of suspicious characters to loiter on the streets."

## THE MILITIA'S DRILLING.

Last night the militia of the district had an emergency drill, the second this week, and the report is that they are preparing for Coxe. M. J. Moore, the chief of police, is a prominent officer of the district militia.

There is scant sympathy with the disturbers in the national capital; there is an exceedingly well-equipped district militia; there are strong forces of regular United States troops, artillery, cavalry, and marines within telephone call; the laws of the district, as above shown, are very stringent upon vagrants; the police justices are men of proved courage and integrity, who hold their offices by appointment of the president. "Citizen" Coxe's warriors, if they ever arrive within the District of Columbia, will be welcomed with "hospitable hands" to unremunerated employment on the district workhouse farm.

There, now, brother Kies, don't you

see where you would land if you were to come to the capital of your country and make your little speech about "Winchesters?" The "hospitable hands" of Gen. Ordway and of Chief of Police Moore would conduct you to a dungeon cell, you would not even be permitted to stand beside brother Coxe in the workhouse chain gang.

Keep your temper everybody and vote right.

ANNIE L. DIGGS.

P. S.—Some responses which I have received to my appeal for the reading of "The New Redemption," show a misconception of my statement concerning its authorship. It was not written by Edward Bellamy, but by George D. Herron. Its special mission is to arouse Christians to a sense of danger, and to point the way to save the nation through a practical application of Christ's teachings. I consider it the most valuable book for this special work which has ever been written. I hail it with devout thankfulness. I should despair of the salvation of our republic did I not believe that the churches will awaken and come to the rescue. Put "The New Redemption" in the hands of every minister in Kansas.

A. L. D.

## PERHAPS SO.

As Grover Suggests a Way May Present Itself.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—"To the house of representatives: I return without my approval house bill No. 4,596, entitled an act directing the coinage of the silver bullion held in the treasury, and for other purposes."

That was the beginning of the president's message on March 30 vetoing the Bland bill. He continues it at great length to give his reasons for the non-approval, chief of which was that it would "weaken faith and confidence in our sound financial tendencies." The message is not of the usual political buncombe, but it is regarded as a weak and sickly defense of a position the writer is under contract to maintain. He says:

"The financial disturbance which swept over the country during the last year was unparalleled in its severity and disastrous consequences. There seems to be almost an entire displacement of faith in our financial ability and a loss of confidence in our fiscal policy. Among those who attempted to assign causes for our distress it was very generally conceded that the operation of a provision of law then in force which required the government to purchase monthly a large amount of silver bullion and issue its notes in payment therefor was either entirely, or to a large extent, responsible for our condition. This led to the repeal on November 1, 1893, of this statutory provision.

"We had, however, fallen so low in the depths of depression, and timidity and apprehension had so completely gained control in financial circles, that our rapid recuperation could not be reasonably expected. Our recovery has, nevertheless, steadily progressed, and, though less than five months have elapsed since the repeal of the mischievous silver-purchase requirement, a wholesale improvement is unmistakably apparent. Confidence in our absolute solvency is to such an extent reinstated, and faith in our disposition to adhere to sound financial methods is so far restored as to produce the most encouraging results both at home and abroad.

"The wheels of domestic industry have been slowly set in motion and the tide of foreign investment has again started in our direction. Our recovery being so well under way, nothing should be done to check our convalescence, nor should we forget that a relapse at this

time would almost surely reduce us to a lower stage of financial distress than that from which we are just emerging."

Reiterating the rot usually employed by the champion of the gold standard, the president calls attention to the defective phraseology of the bill, which he fears will invite controversy as to its meaning and intent, and concludes with a plea for the further issue of bonds, thus:

"This leads me to earnestly present the desirability of granting to the secretary of the treasury a better power than now exists to issue bonds to protect our gold reserve when for any reason it should be necessary. Our currency is in such a confused condition, and our financial affairs are apt to assume at any time so critical a position, that it seems to me such a course is dictated by ordinary prudence.

"I am not insensible to the arguments in favor of coining the bullion seigniorage now in the treasury, and I believe it could be done safely and with advantage if the secretary of the treasury had the power to issue bonds at a low rate of interest under authority in substitution of that now existing and better suited to the protection of the treasury.

"I hope a way will present itself in the near future for the adjustment of our monetary affairs in such a comprehensive and conservative manner as will afford to silver its proper place in our currency, but in the meantime I am extremely solicitous that whatever action we take on this subject may be such as to prevent loss and discouragement to our people at home, and the destruction of confidence in our financial management abroad."

## UNHAPPY DEMOCRATS.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—President Cleveland's veto of the Bland bill has resulted in a proposition for a national convention of the West and South, to form a new political party based on the demand for the free coinage of silver. The proposition comes from certain radical democratic congressmen who believe the time has arrived when the party's salvation in the West and South demands it should repudiate, once and forever, eastern domination on financial policies. Western and southern democrats, who are at the head of this movement, declare the veto of the Bland bill shows that the administration has set its face toward the single gold standard.

Representative McLaurin, (dem. S. C.) has taken the bold initiative in this step. He has prepared the proposition and it will be followed, he says, by a call signed by democratic silver congressmen.

Mr. McLaurin says he has talked with many of the southern and western members of congress and he has yet to find a single democrat who has not agreed with him that the time has come when eastern financial ideas must be repudiated. First, he says, it was thought this movement would take the form of a convention of the governors of the states interested, but they were so widely separated, geographically, it was feared united action could not be obtained. It was, therefore, decided to call a national convention. He said in the fight that he believed was to follow, the dividing line would be the Allegheny mountains and the Potomac river—the South and West against the East.

Of course many leading democrats are bitterly opposed to the movement, while others are doubtful as to the effect of it. Mr. Bland was inclined to regard it as chimerical but said the democrats of the West and South would never again be fooled as they had been.