

THE PEOPLE'S CAUSE.

Forestspringfarm, Libertyville, Ill.,
Aug. 12, 1896.

To the National Bimetallist:

I have opposed free coinage of silver until I was almost forced to investigate the question six months ago. Then I was on the fence until the bankers began to "draw in their funds" and the Henry Clews and the Slaughter circulars came out. Now I am writing and talking to free my country from the consequences of the gold wrong of '73 and the danger threatened it by the money power. These self-constituted paternalists have tricked and hoodwinked this ingenious people and filled their coffers off their hard earnings so long that they really seem to consider us their peons, their serfs, their slaves. That this United States is their's and that we, the tillers of the soil, the miners and the mechanics, are now allowed to work here for a poorer and poorer living and that the rest of the earth belongs to them to luxuriate and feast and drink and revel in. I did not think their greed and presumption would lead them this far. I have known how matters were drifting but did not think their greed and presumption would lead them this far. Will I sit here at my ease while my people are being plundered and pillaged and sold out to England by a lot of greedy, selfish, cruel, narrow-minded money sharks and Tories? On, no! I can tell Henry Clews and the likes of him and Chauncey Depew and the likes of him—all the money-bags and their consciousness hired men, that they have gone too far. There is patriotism left in this country. They have aroused thousands and tens of thousands of intelligent men of independent fortune, men of the West and South and East who will not let England by the aid of her American allies bring this ingenious sovereign people to the condition of her starving, famishing millions. The fight is on and we are in it to the finish, whatever that finish may be. I can see and hear and feel that tall Virginian delivering the Declaration of Independence. I have letters from men of the West and East who think as I think and feel as I feel. The great financiers of London and Wall Street have been forging chains for this people for these many years, but they shall not put them on. If Boss Hanna's committee on finance were worth five thousand times five hundred millions they should not put them on. We will drive them from his temple of liberty first. Money is a mighty power, but it has reached its mightiest mightiness. What! this people to be ruled by an oligarchy of gold? Oh, no! This blessed land of Washington, Franklin and Henry and Paine and Washington and Paul Jones and Lincoln shall be ruled by tens of millions of patriots. They propose to elect by their ballots incorruptible servants to the presidency, and to the house of representatives and to the senate who will undo the unconstitutional trickery of '73 and make just laws for the whole people. They will first give us the money of the constitution, the money that whipped England, the money that helped the nation and the people to prosper. What will you do, Mr. Henry Clews? I would sit at the scanty board of the yeoman who is clearing away the forest or breaking the prairie sod, or the mechanic who is pounding at the forge while the sweat drips from his honorable brow to provide a home for his wife and children and feel honored, while I would look upon you and your gold and its power with disdain and contempt since you sent out that inhuman, unchristian circular. Was it the likes of you who gave us our independence from England, over the enemy of my country, or who whipped her in 1812? No, but it was your crowd and the six or seven in Congress with Sherman at their head who gave us single gold standard, which has enabled her to whip us terribly for twenty-three years and to very nearly ruin this nation and people and now when they desire to undo your mischief you would say, "too late, your chains are forged, if you squirm or try to hold up your heads and do not bow submit we will starve and ruin you and the nation itself by the power of the wealth which we have wrong from you by means of the law of '73." You have nearly ruined the best part that was ever set up, set up by the wisest and best body of men that has assembled on this earth to form a civil government. You have plundered it and would now bankrupt and starve its workman. You shall be stopped in your mad career for gold and power.

ATMOSPHERIC ELECTRICITY.

The Experiment Suggested by Franklin and Performed by D'Alibard.

To Benjamin Franklin belongs the merit of having perceived that a direct experiment was needed to prove what so far was only a guess. In an article entitled "Opinions and Conjectures Concerning the Properties and Effects of the Electrical Matter Arising From Experiments and Observations Made at Philadelphia, 1749," the following passage occurs: "To determine the question whether the clouds that contain lightning are electrified or not, I would propose an experiment to be tried, where it can be done conveniently. On the top of some high tower or steeple place a kind of sentry box, big enough to contain a man and an electrical stand. From the middle of the stand let an iron rod rise and pass, bending out of the door, and then upright 20 feet or 30 feet, pointed very sharp at the end. If the electrical stand be kept clean and dry, a man standing on it when such clouds are passing low might be electrified and afford sparks, the rod drawing fire to him from a cloud. "If any danger to the man should be apprehended, though I think there would be none, let him stand on the floor of his box, and now and then bring near to the rod the loop of a wire that has one end fastened to the leads, he holding it by a wax handle, so the sparks, if the rod be electrified, will strike from the rod to the wire and not affect him." The experiment suggested by Franklin was successfully performed in Maryland, France, by D'Alibard, on May 10, 1753; in London by Canton, in Spital Square, on July 20, 1752, and by Wilson in Chelmsford Essex, on Aug. 12 of the same year. Franklin himself described having used a kite in Philadelphia in a letter dated Oct. 19, without giving the date of his observations. But this must be supplied in some passage which I have not been able to find, for Rosenberg ("Geschichte der Physik," volume 2, page 216) mentioned that it was done in June.

Franklin's disbelief in the dangerous character of the experiment must have received a severe shock when he heard of the death of G. W. Richmond, who, in the year 1753, was killed by an electric discharge drawn from the clouds by means of a kite.—Nature.

Lord Ellenborough's Wig.

Lady Ellenborough, a renowned beauty, on one occasion accompanied the judge on circuit, on the distinct understanding that she should not incur the carriage with handboxes—his abhorrence. During the first day's journey Lord Ellenborough, stretching his legs, chanced to strike his foot against something under the seat. It was a handbox. Down went the window and out it flew. The coachman, thinking the box had fallen out, at once pulled up, but his master furiously roared out the order to "drive on." On reaching the next assize town, Lord Ellenborough proceeded to equip himself for the bench. "Now," said he, "where is my wig?" "My lord," replied the attendant, "it was thrown out of the carriage window." Temple Bar.

by your circular you must go to "Yurup."

I know your crowd. I have studied your thoughts and assumptions and ambitions by personal contact. If it has come to this, that you are to rule this country by greedy, relentless avarice or we are to have a shakeup and commence again, I am for the shakeup. I am only telling what would be done were you to attempt to carry out your threat—you and your crowd. But you will not do it. You are the biggest cowards on earth. You may talk easily of the finances of this country which means how you can make most and raise a lot of money, millions to corrupt and buy up your fellow citizens, but I and others will tell the people to take your illegotten "funds" and vote you down and loan your gold and take in Daddy Dollars and gold dollars as interest and serve the purposes for which you were created—you and your crowd—which is not to rule this country. I was not intending now to write you a letter, Mr. Editor, for publication, but I have been prompted to try this much by the following circumstances. Two days ago a lawyer friend in Chicago who, like myself, has become a Bimetallist recently, sent me some of your papers, in one of which was Henry Clews' circular.

I am a farmer and want some new milch cows. Yesterday I went to a dealer who said he had none to suit me, but that most any of the farmers would sell me their best cows. I asked him how that was, since we have so much feed which we can sell for hardly anything. He replied that the farmers are very poor and will sell anything to get a little money. This morning my next neighbor came to me and said he wanted me to talk to him about this money question. He is a hard working, intelligent man—a republican—owns his farm and lives as closely as any man should. He said he had looked over his assets and finds he has not so much as he had five years ago, and was beginning to think something must be wrong. He said all the farmers were thinking the same way. Many of them have told me the same thing. Then I thought how for many years the tillers of the soil and other workers have toiled and lived on less and less and have been getting poorer and poorer. No wonder they are getting suspicious of their gold standard hired newspapers and want information. Then I saw in the papers that the great Hanna had in Union League Club, New York, organized that famous \$500,000,000 finance committee.

These farmers say this is a good country and as a whole must make money. Where does it all go. We who own our farms and live close are getting poorer all the time. The gold standard men are organizing clubs (pretty little bits of men most of them) to educate the people. I get their weeklies. I can say to you, Mr. Editor, that if education goes on, and there is time enough, McKinley will not carry a congressional district, much less a State, and there are people in Chicago who know I have been something of a politician. They better look out for Lake county. Several of the most prominent republicans are pronounced for Bryan and I know others are leaning that way. I think I can truthfully say that I know this people from the Atlantic to the Pacific as well as any living man and will, in closing, advise Henry Clews and his crowd to go a little slower.—C. C. COPELAND in National Bimetallist.

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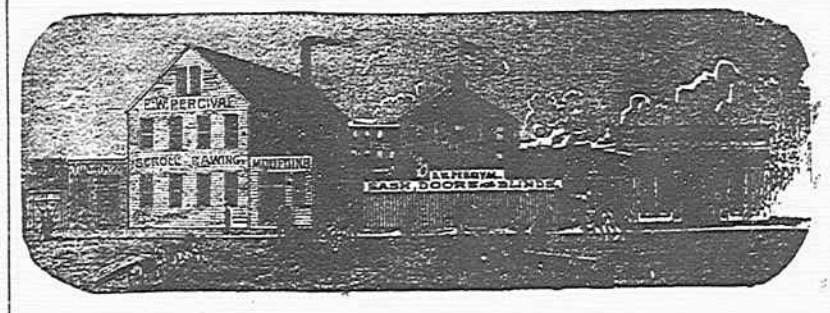
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