

HE HITS THEM HARD.

WHAT IF CHRIST CAME TO CONGRESS?

Howard Defends Himself Against the Attacks of the Plutocratic Press and Points Out the Source of Unjust and Corrupt Legislation.

When a man enters congress he must choose one of two things. If he wishes to be courted and feted by Washington society, if he desires the praise of the plutocratic press, if he is looking after fat places for his relations and friends, if his heart longs for the smiles of aristocracy and the fawning of sycopants, he has only to be the willing tool of plutocracy and all these things are within his grasp. If thus he chooses, his future pathway is strewn with flowers, and for him there is the purple and fine linen of Dives.

On the other hand, if he champions the cause of the people, and stands up for the nation's toilers and antagonizes Shylocks who are enslaving the honest yeomen of the country, he will be called a crank, an agitator and an anarchist.

He will be scorned by society, maligned, abused and ridiculed by the plutocratic press and treated discourteously and snubbed by those in power, and given to understand that he has no influence with the administration.

This condition confronts every man who is chosen to represent the people and he must become an ally of the aristocracy of wealth and desert the people or stand up for the rights of the people and be hated by the money power. Surrounded by lobbyists and corruptionists, with unlimited money to purchase votes, with avenue after avenue to luxury and ease continually open to the mental vision, surrounded by vice and profligacy, it is to be wondered at that so many of our public men fall victims to the temptation, and forget the poor toilers who labor in the mines and factories, the vineyards and the fields, and who are looking to their leaders with such intense, tearful suspense? Here lies the great danger. This is the very root of the evil, the source of all our ills.

So long as the trusts and monopolies hold such unlimited power, just so long will our legislation become more corrupt and vicious. The greedy, unscrupulous grasping, trusts have entered the halls of congress and they have polluted the men whom the people have trusted, and instead of a government by the people, it is a government by a money oligarchy. The capital city of our nation is reeking with rottenness; corruption and bribery stalk hand in hand with luxury and licentiousness. The man who sells his vote loses his honor and becomes the prey of vicious habits. Once started on the downward road there is no stopping and he becomes the easy tool of the money power. Thus it has come to pass that the congress of the United States is ever ready to foster the robber trusts while the people are starving. We talk of reform along certain lines, we hold monster meetings and petition congress for the passage of certain laws in the interest of the people, and we wait and fondly hope for good wholesome legislation when the very men who are to pass the laws have sold themselves to the money changers. We must break the hold which the money power has upon this nation ere we can hope for reform. We must scourge the Shylocks from the capital even as Christ scourged the money changers from the temple and we must turn out the unfaithful servants, and with them the corruptionists, the lobbyists, the rogues and prostitutes who make of the great capitol building at Washington a veritable den of thieves. If we would have the stream pure we must purify the head waters, so if we would have just laws, passed in the interest of the men and women who have produced the wealth of this nation, we must work a reformation among those who gave us the laws.

With an earnest desire to reveal to the American people this most shocking state of affairs and to show them the source of the great danger which menaces us, I wrote my book "If Christ Came to Congress." The pictures there drawn are no doubt vivid and startling, but this is because they are true—taken from real life. The plutocratic press all over the country is heaping abuse and vituperation on me for drawing aside the veil so that the voters of this country might look upon this shocking scene of corruption, shame and debauchery, and I have been threatened with ostracism by Washington society and expulsion from congress because of the revelations and exposures I have made, but in spite of all this I propose to wield my pen and raise my voice in behalf of the honest toilers who have elected me to congress, and to "cry aloud and spare not" until every man in the land shall be acquainted with the true situation and stirred to action.

Let me conclude with a picture of the closing scenes of the session of congress which expired March 4. It was the holy Sabbath day and the church bells were ringing merrily over the city. In the capitol champagne flowed like water. Committee rooms became temporary brothels. Women of ill-repute swarmed the corridors and sang songs in the public restaurants with inebriated congressmen. "I have seventy-five dozen glasses out," said Tom Murry, the disgusted caterer of the house restaurant. "That tells the story of the committee rooms better than any words I could utter."

In front of the main door is a perfect cloud of gentlemen interested in legislation. Some of the faces are familiar and have been seen here for the last

twenty years. Some are comparatively new. Thousands and hundreds of thousands of dollars are to be won or lost within the next few hours.

Around at the other door are more lobbyists and among them are some women. Backed up against the marble pillars everywhere are members button-holed and on the defensive. Some of these women are notorious. The very fact that they are brought to bear upon any item of legislation is enough to stamp it with condemnation.

There are poker games in the committee rooms, and the side-boards are stocked with the best liquid refreshment which could be bought with the contingent fund. There were the house and senate bars where every one from the most respected citizen to the lowest strumpet could obtain a drink.

An aged senator passed into a private room with a hilarious member of the demi-monde on each arm.

A congressman was carried away by friends fighting drunk. A woman, with her daintily booted foot elevated on a committee table, and a glass of champagne elevated in her hand, was singing a merry song, while a dozen members and their friends sat around smoking and enjoying the society of the real lady. But this is enough. I will cease. All of this beneath the jeweled dome, between the marble walls of the temple of liberty, amid the royal surroundings of art expressed in bronze and marble and the exquisite touch of the painter's brush.

God pity the people when such scenes as these are possible. "When the wicked rule, the people mourn."

Sons of sires who bled for liberty, beware, for even now, if you will only listen you may hear the clank of slavery's chains which are being forged for you and your posterity.

Toilers of America this is a goodly land, we are vastly superior in numbers to the hosts of Shylock, so let us go up and possess it.

Ere it is too late let us vote for freedom. M. W. HOWARD.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The old party papers are not saying much about many Populist victories in cities and townships at the late spring elections. The returns, however, are coming in by slow freight. Pueblo, Colo., city of 25,000 population, elected Populist mayor, while Leadville, with 11,000 population, elected a Populist city ticket. Moline, Ill., with a population of 12,000 elected a Populist mayor by 400 majority. In Illinois the Populists elected a large number of county supervisors throughout the state. Many small towns throughout the country were carried wholly or in part by the People's party. These are straws.

The late municipal and township elections throughout the country have demonstrated in many places a surprising strength to the cause of Populism—the People's party carrying many towns and cities, where the Populist vote was light before. This is most encouraging to the old parties.

The average earnings of labor in 1892 was \$250; in 1894, it dropped to \$195, and the prospects are that the average for 1895 will be still lower. On the other hand, millionaire incomes are increasing, and official salaries climbing. Are you going to be foolish enough to vote for a continuance of a system that makes such conditions possible?

It is said that nearly 17,000 children are unable to attend school in San Francisco. How can the so-called humanitarians of to-day, who shut their eyes to the environments of the poorer classes, expect to build a noble manhood and womanhood where the great majority of the children are denied proper education?

It is estimated by Superintendent Byrnes and Elbridge T. Gerry that there are 40,000 prostitutes in the city of New York. It is safe to say that a large per cent of these unfortunate are driven by poverty to a life of shame. What a fearful responsibility is resting upon those who are forcing present conditions upon this country. Poverty, such as is forced upon one-half the American people to-day, can have no other than a demoralizing effect, the worst features of which are to be realized.

At a late delegate convention held in Chicago of German labor organizations, seventy-five German labor unions formally adopted the People's party platform. That is wheeling into line by battalions, regiments, brigades and divisions.

The tariff question has gone glimmering—given way to the universal cry of "money!" "money!" "money!" The persistent demands of the People's party and continued agitation of the finance question finally forced it to the front, in spite of the sham fight between the two old parties on the tariff. Truth and justice will prevail if we are faithful to the cause of reform.

The effort to side-track the People's party on a single plank platform has been met with such a storm of opposition and condemnation all around the country as to paralyze the schemers, and has had the further effect of uniting the People's party forces more strongly than ever before.

Bad eggs were thrown at Carl Browne at Massillon, O., recently. Browne is Coxe's lieutenant, having charge of the headquarters for the distribution of the good roads literature and the organization of good roads leagues. When men resort to rotten eggs as an argument they prove conclusively that they are without any others.

VIEWS OF THE WEST.

MR. MORTON GETS A STARTLING REPORT.

Sentiment Appears to Be Strongly in Favor of White Metal—Congressman Hepburn Tells What He Learned While in Iowa.

Washington dispatch: The executive committee of the American Bimetallic league has obtained possession of two letters which they regard as extremely important and which will be printed with appropriate comments and sent broadcast throughout the country. The silver people are jubilant and believe they have discovered a straw indicating that the free coinage wind is rapidly increasing in velocity. From the correspondence in the hands of the committee it appears that Secretary of Agriculture Morton desired to ascertain the growth or decline of free silver sentiment in the west, and wrote a private letter to J. R. Buchanan, passenger agent at Omaha of the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley railroad, who travels over a large area of territory, to obtain an expression of his views. The committee states that this information was desired especially for the Reform Club or Sound Currency association of New York, of which ex-Congressman John DeWitt Warner is executive committee chairman, to the end that this club might take steps to counteract, if possible, the apparent uprising of the people in favor of silver. This association has been sending out many thousands of circulars, especially to editors of country papers in the west, offering to furnish and urging them to publish anti-silver literature, hoping thereby to offset the growth of silver sentiment. Mr. Buchanan's reply is considered important, as showing the immense augmentation in the silver sentiment of the people.

It is substantially as follows: I am able only to see and to an extent appreciate the very evil effect being exerted by the so-called free silver interests in this country, and I hardly think this is appreciated in great centers. The wave of this baneful idea has almost reached an epidemic condition, and unless fully answered in kind both great political parties will be obliged to either incorporate a substantial free silver plank in their platform or else a disgraceful straddle. "Coin's School of Finance" has reached an edition of over 100,000, and recently another book of the same kind has been issued. They pretend to quote eminent financiers of Chicago and elsewhere—as, for instance, Lyman J. Gage, Joseph Medill and others—as injecting objections embodying their most formidable arguments, and then proceed to answer them effectively. This book is sold ten to one of any other. It is an entertaining little volume. In my opinion it should be answered by someone who fully understands the subject. This book has been purchased in large numbers by silver people and distributed gratuitously. The banking interests should take steps to publish a reply in equally effective form and put it on the market at the lowest price.

To show the effect of this book, a rather intelligent country banker called on me recently and said to me if I could answer it, saying he was nearly convinced there was hope in the policy suggested, and this against his will; he said it was making votes more rapidly than anything he had ever known. I referred him to our bankers here. He said later he had talked with some, who had passed it over lightly, and did not reply.

My judgment from the present outlook is that eastern conservatives of both parties are likely to unite and possibly renominate Mr. Cleveland, who would carry the east and south no doubt—the east on his able, honest conservatism, and the south because they would never vote other than the democratic ticket, thus insuring a vote which would elect, and the west would undoubtedly support a populist or free silverite unless there is a great change. If this is not done I feel the election will be thrown into the house as the result of three tickets being in the field, in which case the balance of power would be with the free silver interest. I believe a vote to-day on the naked question of a 16 to 1 silver platform in Nebraska would give it a majority of 50,000 or near it.

In his letter to Mr. Warner Secretary Morton said:

My object in sending you this letter of Mr. Buchanan is to give you a thoroughgoing business man's views of the situation. The letter shows how fallacies flourish among the farmers of the west and south. The letter also points out the necessity of immediate coherent and organized action in behalf of sound money.

This correspondence was widely discussed to-day at the headquarters of the American Bimetallic league and the opinion was generally expressed that the friends of sound money in New York will probably arrange to begin the dissemination of literature to counteract that now being distributed by the active advocates of free silver.

Representative Hepburn of Iowa has returned from a trip to the west, where, during the past month, he has visited every county in his district. Mr. Hepburn will be recalled as one of the most conservative western republicans in the house interested in the financial question and his speeches upon that subject at the last session of congress attracted considerable attention. During his western trip Mr. Hepburn has paid particular attention to the feeling of the people upon the financial question.

"I thought I saw an increasing feeling in favor of the immediate, unlimited coinage of silver by the United

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States," said Mr. Hepburn to-day, "which was very surprising to me. This sentiment was especially noticeable among democrats. I spent a number of days in Chicago, and found the same conditions there. On the railway trains silver was a general topic of conversation. Free silver literature was in wide circulation everywhere. The educational process in behalf of free silver is having marked influence upon the people. I believe that this year in every democratic state convention held west of the Allegheny mountains a proposition in favor of the immediate, unlimited coinage of free silver will be taken, unless the international conference is called and people are induced to believe that there is reasonable prospect of an early international agreement as to ratio and coinage. The state democratic platform in Iowa heretofore has contained a plank advocating free coinage of silver, but last year this plank was omitted through the action of party managers. Something in the nature of a revolt was thereby occasioned among the democrats of the state, and that action has had the effect of increasing the desire of the people to take further interest in silver. The state republican platform has followed the national republican platform in regard to silver. The republicans of the west have always been in favor of the free unlimited coinage of silver as a result of international agreement. I thought I noticed a stronger feeling among them on my last trip in favor of such use of silver independently of such agreement, but if the invitation is made by Germany and accepted by the commercial nations of the world I have no doubt that republicans will be content to stand on the declarations of the platform and wait for such joint action. I believe, however, that should the republicans of the west become satisfied that there is to be no such conference and that gold monometallism is to be the policy of European nations and of our own men of wealth, they will prefer silver monometallism to gold. I found that the republicans who voted for an issuance of \$500,000,000 of bonds payable, principal and interest, in gold, the proceeds to be used for the retirement of the greenbacks and treasury notes of 1890 in order that a place might be made in our circulation for \$500,000,000 of national bank notes, have met with but little favor. I heard no expressions save those of earnest disapproval."

Single Issue Platforms.

We hear a great deal about the campaigns of Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln being fought and won on single issue platforms.

Mr. Jefferson stood on the first national platform ever written for a presidential canvass.

It contained eleven planks—including eleven distinct issues. On this long platform he overthrew federalism for a quarter of a century.

Jackson had no platform, but he got there just the same.

Mr. Lincoln's platform had seventeen planks, covering divers issues from state's rights to building the Pacific railroads. Lincoln was elected. The constitutional union party, with John Bell at its head, had a one-plank platform, and the party has never been heard from since.

The first democratic platform since the war to win (1884) contained over 3,000 words, and embodied at least twelve distinct issues.

So you see it is not the "one-galused" platform that wins.

Victory is won by hard fighting, close organization, good generalship and unity of action.

The sooner our leaders drop this one-plank discussion and buckle down to business the better for the party and the whole country.—Kentucky Populist.

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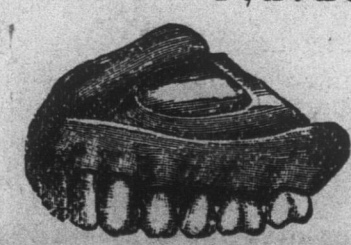
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