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ANENT MR. WATSON.

In his comparatively brief public career Congressman Watson of this district has acquired a few personal enemies within the party lines. Had he not done this he would have performed a miracle. As always happens in such cases the few enemies make more noise than all the friends, and the outside world, not knowing the true situation, is liable to be deceived thereby.

These enemies break out periodically with impassioned manifestos, apparently issued from different sections of the district, but all bearing the same ear marks and all breathing the same spirit. Yesterday one of these appeared in the Indianapolis News, purporting to come from Shelbyville. It had scare headlines such as "Supremacy threatened," "Opposition developing to renomination of Watson," etc.

After virtually admitting that the article was inspired by a personal grievance, "turning down of friends" as he calls it in stereotyped phrase, the writer turns or returns to Mr. Watson's record on the Porto Rican matter and attempts thereby to make political capital against him. Among other things in this line he says:

In the very face of the convention that met at Richmond in 1900, Mr. Watson changed his vote on the Porto Rican tariff question, after assuring his constituents by letter that he was opposed to the bill and would vote against it, and making the same announcement in a newspaper interview. There was only one newspaper in the entire district that went to Mr. Watson's rescue, namely, the Shelby Republican, of this city, and all it asked was that time be allowed to hear Mr. Watson before he was condemned. At Richmond there was a strong movement on foot to have the convention adjourn until early in the fall, in order to bring out other candidates, but Mr. Watson's friends argued that such a move was unwarranted, because factional fights would be aroused that would forever cause trouble in the district. The night before the convention a love-feast was held in the opera house. Almost every candidate for a state office was present, and each was called on for a speech. It was an opportune time, and the meeting was really "Jimmie" Watson's meeting, but such was the feeling against him that he did not attend. Few of his friends even knew of his whereabouts, for he quickly disappeared after reaching Richmond that evening from Rushville. Mr. Watson understood that if he attended the meeting he would be asked to explain his vote on the tariff question, and not being ready to speak he kept away.

Mr. Watson's course on that Porto Rican question has been so often and so thoroughly gone over that it would seem unnecessary to say anything more. But "lest we forget" it may be well to recall a few facts. The position he took at the first flush of the Porto Rican tariff question was also taken by President McKinley and probably nine-tenths of the Republican party. That President McKinley's views were changed on the subject very soon after his first expression is well known. No reasonable person would now question his honesty before or after the change.

Whether Mr. Watson's views were changed as suddenly as the President's were is a question of no importance. His change of position in deference to the views of the President and leaders of the party in Congress simply proved him to be a loyal Republican and a man of broad common sense who, with comparatively brief public experience, was unwilling to press his own private opinion so important a matter against the judgment of the President and Republican statesmen of many years' experience in public affairs.

It is true that the masses of the party were not as promptly convinced of the propriety of the Porto Rican policy finally adopted by the administration and Congress as were the leaders in Washington. But it is just as true that the rank and file of the party are now practically unanimous in the view that the policy was right, and it is also just as true that the Republicans of the sixth district are practically unanimous in approving Congressman Watson's course in the Porto Rican matter.

The statement made by the Shel-

byville writer that only one paper in the district "went to Mr. Watson's rescue" is not true. THE PALLADIUM, though not convinced at that time that the Porto Rican policy adopted by the administration was the wisest, heartily endorsed Mr. Watson's course for the very reason above stated. And it fairly represented the Republican sentiment of this county and district. The talk about there having been a "strong movement" in this city to have the congressional convention postponed on account of Mr. Watson's action in the Porto Rican matter is twaddle. The fact that Mr. Watson was not at the Republican love feast the night before the convention was not his own fault, but that of a few advisers who, as they well knew afterward, were mistaken in their judgment. The Republicans in that love feast would have given Mr. Watson the warmest and most enthusiastic reception of his life, and they were greatly disappointed in not having the opportunity.

Mr. Watson did make one mistake during that Porto Rican evolution. He yielded to the pardonable temptation to gratify the vanity of a constituent (who was wiser in his own conceit than the President and the greatest statesmen of the party) by replying to his letters confidentially and under an impulse too sudden to be judicial. However, Mr. Watson can stand the publication of his letters if the recipient can. He will receive more benefit from the lesson in human nature he has learned than harm from the publication of this private correspondence.

Some people may think high taxes do not appreciably affect the person owning little or no real or personal property. This is a mistake. Taxes hit everybody. Even the tax dodger does not escape. Landlords and merchants increase rents and prices to cover increased taxes. That increase must in part, at least, be paid by the renter and consumer. It is even more to the interest of the small tax-payer than to the capitalist to keep taxes down. For the heavy tax-payer has a means of protecting himself to a certain extent, and, at all events, can stand the burden if he must. The small tax-payer has no recourse whatever. He is caught going and coming, and the amount of tax however small is burdensome to him. Hence the public official who is always ready to increase taxes by public improvements, and who thinks he is sustained in such action by the small tax-payers, counts without his host.

AMUSEMENTS.

"WAY DOWN EAST."



"MARTHA," THE GOSSIP.

The Rev. F. G. Richardson, rector of St. James church of Milwaukee, is very enthusiastic over "Way Down East." He writes:

"I want to say unreservedly, that from such a play as 'Way Down East' anyone will profit more than a dozen sermons. I have nothing but admiration for the play, and absolutely no criticism. There is nothing about it that is objectionable, and there is nothing in the piece that will not make for good. The most dramatic situation in the play is the disclosure of the past of the girl. I do not see how anyone could sit through that with dry eyes. I sat there till rilled, my eyes filled with tears. That work was superb. I wish that this style of play could maintain always. I wish that it could crowd out the society dramas. A society play will almost always give a false idea of life, and erroneous ideas of values. But a play like 'Way Down East' and its class will uplift the multitude."

FOXY GRANDPA.

The above musical extravaganza has had a peculiar history. The sketches in the New York Herald attracted the attention of Joseph Hart

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and Carrie DeMar who talked the idea over with Melville Baker with the result that the latter figured out a scenario and Hart took it to several managers, who sat down upon it. Wm. A. Brady finally examined it, and seeing success in it, put it in rehearsal at the same time remarking that as a musical comedy by putting the best of everything in it in the shape of costumes, music, girls, specialties and original business it would have to go—and it did go. It is one of the greatest successes of the season. It was in rehearsal before a route had been booked. It was given first at Asbury Park, then taken to Atlantic City for two weeks which ended three weeks ago, so that we get it as we did "Her Lord and Master," hot off the bat. It has done a wonderful business ever since, and will test the capacity of the house here.

ELDON'S COMEDIANS.

This standard repertoire company will be at the Phillips next week with the exception of Thursday night, when they will be moved to the Gennett to make room for the "Knickerbockers" who go into the house for the one night. The Eldons have always done well here.

THE KNICKERBOCKERS.

The Knickerbockers to be at the Phillips next Thursday evening is a burlesque. In the vaudeville portion of the entertainment are Dailey & Vokes, sketch artists, the Cummings Trio, in "Wanted, a strong man," Frey and Fields, "a tramp's reception," Nettie Fields, buck and wing dancer, and Hilton Bros., jugglers.

THE PENNY CLUB.

The proceeds of the opera Powhatan under the auspices of the Penny Club go to one of the most deserving charities in this city. The club has done an immense amount of good in this city, and has done it in so quiet a way that few but those directly interested know at all its magnitude. They have been in existence for 11 years. At that time they have asked little from the public outside of their own membership and their own immediate friendships, and yet in that time they have helped to clothe and keep in school 1,000 needy children. This has been their object; but outside of that they have bought coal, paid rent and supplied clothing and food to many needy people. Last year they furnished 150 suits of underclothing to needy people, which is just one item. Their Christmas dinner to poor children, all being welcome, is an annual event in the lives of the poor of this city. On this account the opera tickets ought to go with a rush. At the same time the show is going to be worth much more than it costs. It is given by the best talent we have in Richmond, drilled by a fine drill master, and is at the Gennett, with all accessories of orchestra and costumes.

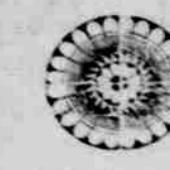
"When We Were Twenty-One" is to be here soon and ought to do business. It has been a favorite in many towns that resemble Richmond in their show likings.

The Girl with the Auburn Hair who was such an attraction at Chicago last season is at the Masonic temple there and as great an attraction as before. She now carries two cars of scenery and a complete church organ for her act. Melville & Stetson and George Evans are there too, this week.

No one here seems to know anything about it, but their press agent still insists that Innes' band is coming here this winter, in their own special train. They start out immediately after their Buffalo engagement. The train will consist of sleepers, parlor and observation car, and dining car.

Are You a Mason, which was so popular at Indianapolis about two weeks ago, is to be at the Gennett inside the coming two weeks. The Indianapolis papers of that time said lots of good things about it. Anything that goes at Indianapolis usually goes here, so their chance for a share of the Richmond business is good.

Some society here ought to be able to make money out of Clara Morris' lecture. Why don't some of them write Mr. Broadhurst for terms. His address is 1441 Broadway, N.Y. The



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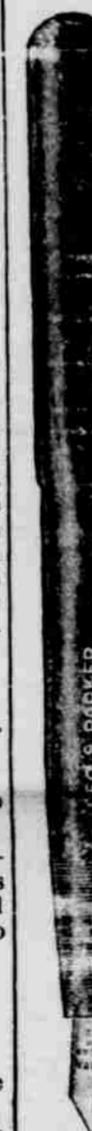
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