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DEMOCRACY IN DISCREDIT.

The American people will never trust the democratic party under the present leadership. This is the overshadowing fact in contemporary politics. It renders all of Mr. Bryan's contortions and all of Chairman Mack's boasts vain. It may be said that the 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 democratic voters are part of the American people, but it is entirely safe to predict that if, under its present auspices the democratic party ever gets formidable enough to have a chance to carry the presidency enough sane intelligent, conservative democrats will come over to the republicans to avert the calamity of a democratic victory. We have seen in the past four years democrats in congress often drift to the republican side when important measures seemed to be in danger from indifference or from hostility. It would be the same, save if the national democracy should at any time develop enough republican supremacy in the presidency and in congress. Inertia, apathy or the claims of regularity keep men in the democratic party who have no confidence in the present democratic leaders, and who are opposed to the democratic policy, but if a crisis come, when victory would seem to be within reach of those leaders, and then there would be such a swing of patriotic democrats to the democratic side as would prevent the disaster of democratic supremacy.

A third of a century ago and later on the situation was different. Millions of intelligent, level headed, patriotic men voted for Tilden and for Cleveland. In each of his three can-

vases a considerable proportion of the business interests of the country were on Cleveland's side. In those days the majority of the solid, substantial, well-balanced and public-spirited citizens voted the republican ticket. But Cleveland obtained enough of that element to give him the victory in two canvasses, by the aid of the solid south. Even Cleveland, however, was to a large degree the creature of a series of accidents. The Blaine-Arthur-Conkling feud gave him a chance to carry the state of New York for governor in 1883 by a larger majority than had ever been rolled up for that office in any state along to that time. That made him the logical candidate for president in 1884, and the continuance of the feud, with the intervention of several other adverse factors gave him the election. If Edmunds, Sherman or any one of half a dozen other prominent republicans who could be named had been selected for the candidacy in 1884 instead of Blaine the republicans would probably have carried the country and the democratic interregnum of 1885-89 and of 1893-97 would never have taken place.

The people have no confidence either in the ability or the sincerity of the present democratic party. The men who are at the head of that party in these days are as hostile to all the things for which Cleveland stood as they are to the republican policy. If Cleveland were alive today, and was urging the election of Taft as he would be if he were here, Bryan would assail him more fiercely than he assails the president or the presidential candidate. In life Cleveland was denounced by Bryan as a bungo steere. Bryan has no more love for Clevelandism, or Tildenism, or Jeffersonism now than he had when he was denouncing Cleveland on the stump in 1896, or than he had when he was attacking Jeffersonian doctrines in that canvass and in 1900. Even many of the democrats who like Bryan, and who favor his policies, would have no confidence in Bryan's sincerity in pushing them if he should be elected. Bryan's personal popularity seems to be as great as it was in 1896 and 1900. His meetings now, as in those campaigns, attract large numbers of persons. But it is evident that they go to hear him out of curiosity. Most of his auditors, it is safe to say, will vote against him as they did in his previous campaigns. As a presidential possibility Bryan is out of the reckoning. The country will never intrust power into the hands of any such visionary and impracticable. Not one of his destructive policies in 1908—his banking blind pool, his patent device for trust regulation, his scheme to revise the tariff by annihilating it, and his other absurd propositions—have been thought out carefully by him. He seized them because he imagined they would have a superficial attraction for thoughtless or dishonest persons, just as he proposed in 1896 and 1900 to cut the wages and the debts of the people in two. Hundreds of thousands of the persons who vote for him on November 3 would vote against him if they thought he had the faintest chance of victory. The democrats have as much interest as the republicans in having their country prosperous at home and respected abroad, but under the regime of the Bryanites reactionaries and destructionists it could neither be prosperous nor respected.

COLLEGE UNDESIRABLES.

The New York Evening Post has taken occasion to make the inauguration of President Garfield, of Williams College, the outbreak against what it is pleased to call "the elegant young gentlemen without intellectual ambition or moral purpose."

"For two decades at least," it says, "the Philistines have been invading our eastern colleges. The general increase in wealth and spread of luxurious habits, during that time have been a species of hangers-on—they cannot properly be called members—of our educational institutions, who are a disgrace to themselves and the colleges that harbor them. We do not mean the openly vicious. With them it is usually easy to deal sternly."

Much of what the Post has said is true and perhaps even the indictment against the college that the requirements are not high enough. The charges against the "idle rich" are as pertinent in college as out—for the college fails if it be not a miniature world in itself.

And yet there is another side to that shield. One would suppose from the indictment that the colleges were full of that sort of thing—a thing which a public which looks cynically on the output of the college is only too willing to believe. It is not true that the requirements for admission to colleges are growing easier—nor is it true that the standard of scholarship is being lower. As a matter of fact they have been raised and tightened in the last twenty years to a great degree.

If the evil were, indeed, a new one, it would indeed be serious. But the

evil has ever existed and was particularly marked in English universities. Even granted the fact that these young men do adopt that attitude toward institutions of learning which "fixes the gentleman's mark at C" what harm does it do?

The reply is that these fellows demoralize the college, that they instill a spirit of discontent, low ideals, and laziness.

Is this true?

In the college community as a matter of fact, like attracts like, and these fellows only demoralize themselves. They have nothing to do with the seekers after learning as any one can learn by staying in a college community for twenty-four hours. Those who prize knowledge more look down on them.

Those who are of the same type with less money may be jealous of them. But as a matter of fact the more money which a man has has nothing to do with the way that man's estimate is taken in that college. If there be a real democracy it is the college.

Since these "loafers" corrupt none but themselves and are already corrupted to start with, is it not better to try to make these fellows see that there is something besides money and a "good time" in the world? Is that not the mission of the college?

The Evening Post does not make allowance for the fact that the son of a rich man is just as apt to be stupid as the next one. The ratio of stupidity in all walks of life is a rather invariable quantity. Why should the stupid rich man be railed at, any more than the stupid poor man?

The chances are that unless the income is derived from good investments made by papa, that cannot be altered—that the son will lose it any way.

If the Post is making a crusade against stupidity, very well. If it is making it against low scholarship, very well. The mark that a man receives in college is not a true index to his character. Not all the scholarship men win the prizes outside of college by three-quarters of a jiffy.

Raise the standards of the colleges if it is necessary to make them effective, but at the same time it is well to remember that college is not the "end of all desire." There is a hereafter in the outside world which reckons with incompetents, rich or poor.

The job which the Post has taken might be safely entrusted to that hereafter.

APPRECIATE EDUCATION.

Three-fifths of the Indiana students have earned or are earning the money which supports them at school. This statement is a beacon light of hope to the young man who wants a good college education, and whose parents cannot pay his way. Merit counts above money. It won't take long for a boy with the brains and heart—for it requires heart—to find out that the real men who make the university atmosphere recognize and live that phrase.

The "half-a-chance" man is the one who should note the fact that many of the students at the State University are paying for their own bread and butter day by day. It takes willingness to stoke a furnace, sweep out buildings, carry newspapers, milk cows, play hostler, live simply, cheaply, and without false ostentation—or, to make it still plainer, "sew on your own buttons." If a man has the hand and the soul he can do it. If his eyes can look on things that he cannot have and the sorrel taste does not come into his mouth, he will make good at the job of "making his own way through school."

Money nor family gives a man the right to hold his shoulders erect. It is the blood from a pure, brave, big heart, driving life and love and gentleness into a clean brain. A boy who sets his face toward a college sheepskin, which he must earn with his own money, must keep but one thing in mind, and it will steer him past the blue devils. His work today, the lawn he mowed, the horse he curried, the furnace he stoked, the newspaper he carried, are the means to the end. The "end" is a college education, and an education, judged from its personal side alone, stripped of all its power to earn money in after years, bare of its commercial attributes, is a "happy death."

Two middle-aged men, both successful, were smoking their pipes recently. They had worked their way through school, one as a night watchman in a downtown building, and the other as a janitor in the "stiff" room of the medical college in connection with the university which they attended. "Not overacceptable jobs, either one," you would say. No, they were not. But both "fellows" made good in school, and made better in their later days.

"Was it worth that long, hard job of pickling stiffs," asked Tom of Joe, "to get your education?" Worth it? replied the other. "You bet it was. And if I hadn't made an extra dollar from my education, it still would be something that money can't buy. It's a fact, Tom, that simply to be able to sit down and read a good book and understand it—why, it's worth all of that."

Nowhere with more quiet or more freedom does a man retire than into his own soul.—Marcus Aurelius.

Teacher—So you can't do a simple sum in arithmetic? Now let me explain to you. Suppose eight of you together forty-eight apples, thirty-two peaches and sixteen melons. What would each one of you get?

"Cholera morbus," replied Johnny.—Pathfinder.

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pickling job." And they smoked their pipes and agreed some more.

THE RURAL POPULATION.

A short time ago the state of Iowa was much concerned when it found through the medium of its bureau of statistics that although the material wealth of the state had increased in the country districts, that the population was decreasing at a rapid rate. Those who took stock in the "race suicide" theory commenced writing monographs on the subject until the state authorities began to look into the situation.

It was found that unlike the states of New England, where there are many hundreds of abandoned farms, that the fault lay in prosperity. The owners of smaller farms had left the state to seek for new homesteads and larger farms because they had been bought out by owners of larger farms who were on that account more prosperous. By investing the proceeds from the sale of these farms in the newly opened lands of the farther west and removing to the newer regions, the state of Iowa had been noticeably depopulated.

Addison Harris in a speech of some time ago before the Commercial club, pointed out that in Wayne county the rural population was no larger than it was fifty years or so ago.

This is a condition not only prevailing but advancing all over the country except, perhaps, in the south in the cotton regions, where field labor is much used. In a great degree this has been brought about by the manufacture and invention of more efficient agricultural implements.

The days when thirty men or more were needed at a "threshing" have gone, and now very few are employed on account of the perfection of threshing machinery.

However there is one section of the country in which this condition does not hold good. That is in Maryland and Delaware.

Farming such as has been conducted up to this time almost exclusively in the United States is on the extensive plan. The intensive or "truck garden" methods which have been in force in the old countries are just beginning to be used now in the low coastal plain of the Atlantic coast.

There is a problem which will have to be answered, can machinery and implements be invented which will take the place of the man in intensive farming. It will not be long until the manufacturers will wake up to the solution of this problem. For it is certain that ultimately at the rate of growth of population intensive farming will be on the increase in this country. Will men have to be employed to make this machinery for intensive farming, or will man still have to be the machine? That will determine whether the country population will grow or decrease.

THE STRIKE AND THE CZAR.

The Balkan situation is as yet far from being settled. The headlines proclaiming trouble in the Balkans has been so frequent that crisis 40,819 has failed to create the stir which an imminent war does as a rule.

The war pounced down with such suddenness that no chance was given to the quiet citizen to know exactly what it is about. It is not often that organized labor creates a war and still less frequent that a strike makes a czar—but in the Balkans, all things are possible.

There is running across Europe from Paris to the near east (which is the scene of such romances as Anthony Hope and George Barr McCutchen are pleased to write) a railroad known as the Oriental railway. This piece of track runs east and west through the once Turkish provinces. The railway is undoubtedly Turkish property, in as much as it is operated under a concession granted by the sultan which does not expire until 1958. The company which holds the concession is under Austrian protection and to further complicate matters is largely financed by German capital.

Like all railroads, this one is in particular, had a strike. During the strike the operatives were replaced by Bulgarian soldiers. At the conclusion of the strike the Bulgarians refused to adopt the old name.

Thereupon the Turkish diplomatic corps got to work and stated that inasmuch as it had come to their knowledge that no orders had been issued to the Bulgarians to retire, "As this step constitutes an infringement of the proprietary rights of the imperial government with regard to the railroad rights—rights guaranteed by the Berlin treaty."

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