

THE DEMOCRAT

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

VOL. I.

LEXINGTON, VA., MONDAY, MAY 4, 1908.

No. 3.

Bryan For Our Next President

(Communicated)

As a zealous friend of my classmates, I make this appeal. As a friend of my State and native country, I make this appeal. As a Democrat, I beg of you, not to allow some sordid motive to swerve you from choosing the man who has but one purpose in serving his country.

Why is it that William J. Bryan, who has been twice defeated in our national campaigns, is today the most conspicuous figure in American politics?

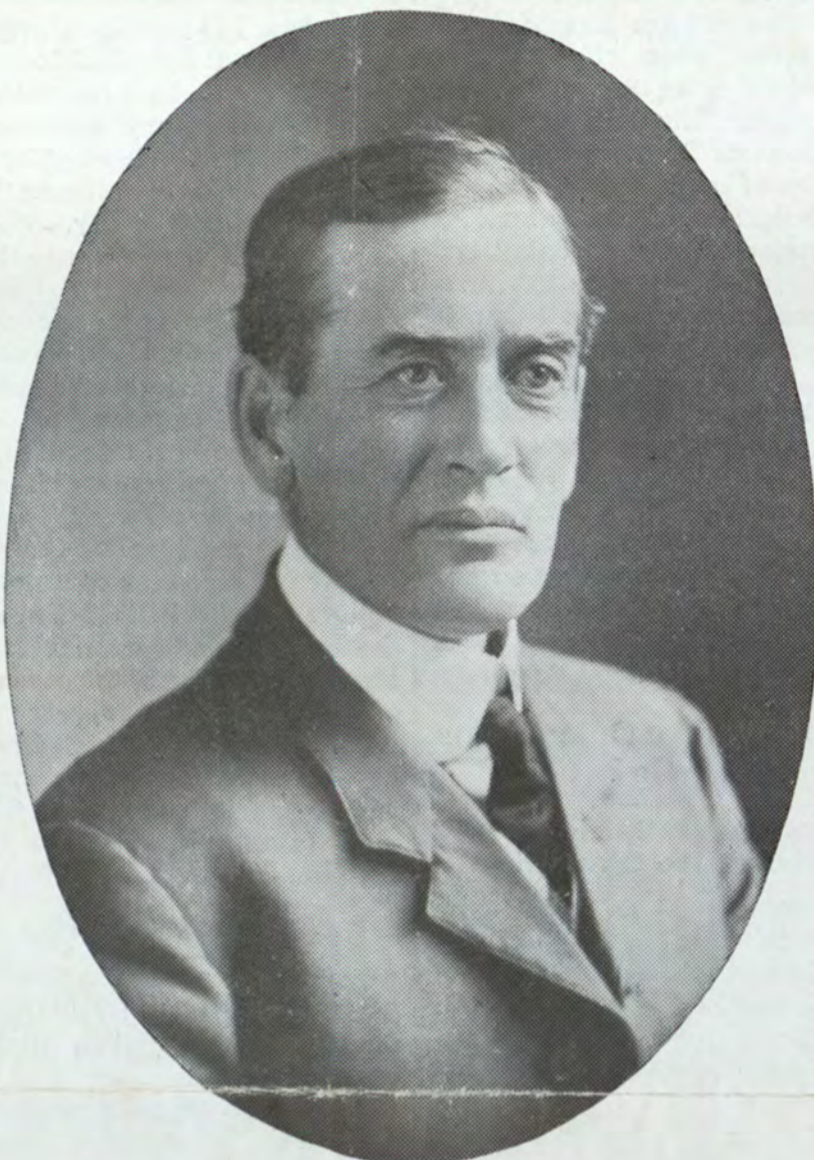
The answer reverberates from tens of thousands of echoes: because he is honest, because he is truthful, because he advocates no principle of government inconsistent with the teachings of our Declaration of Independence.

The men who criticised Mr. Bryan so unmercifully in 1896 for maintaining the theory that silver bullion was a good enough basis for a banking currency, the same men now have no criticism whatever for Mr. Aldrich's Bill now before Congress, which attempts to make railroad bonds, stocks, etc., a basis for our national currency, when the fact stares us in the face that has been recently established in a court of law, by the very best expert testimony, that eighty-five per cent. of the value of such bonds and stocks is water.

All water but fifteen cents on the dollar; but still our financiers are willing to take it without a word of protest because it comes from a Standard Oil banker, and these same financiers in 1896 from the housetop declared how dishonest it would be to make silver bullion a basis of currency, when it possessed an intrinsic value many times over what the railroads' security was worth on a bull market.

This comparison is introduced to show the point of view from which the banker and the financier judge the money question.

When the heads of the great life insurance companies, in 1896, wrote personal letters to the policy-holders of their different companies, starting out by saying, "I am the President of such-and-such a Life Insurance Company," and "I am a member of the same church that you, Mr. Policy-holder, are a



GOVERNOR JOHN A. JOHNSON OF MINNESOTA

member of," and "I am either an elder, a steward or a deacon of the church of which you, Mr. Policy-holder, are a member, officer or pastor," and "I appeal to you to vote at the national election for the 'Gold Standard' and thereby maintain national honor, and make your policy good dollar for dollar;" the motive for this undue patriotism of the trade of these great corporations was not questioned, but a few years afterwards, when Hyde, one of the Presidents, gave his one-hundred thousand dollar dinner, accompanied by a can-can, all of which was paid for by the widows and orphans, and Tom Lawson made public his charge of embezzlement against these men, upon legal investigation it was found out that these same men, viz: the Hydes, McCalls, Alexanders, etc., had been guilty of wilful stealing at the very time they were writing to the dear pastors, elders, stewards, deacons to be honest, and cast their votes for the gold standard. These facts of history are recalled to show what the basis of patriotism was in 1896, and

how humiliating it must be now to men who were misled by such an *ignis fatuus*.

To think of a coterie of rogues and thieves of New York City writing to the pastors of our Southern churches, as well as the officers and members of our churches, who held policies in their different life insurance companies, and telling our Southern men how to be honest, and how to vote, is one of the most monumental travesties of truth and honesty that the pages of modern history afford. And how humiliating to think that our people in Virginia, in Lexington, were caught with such bait.

The very worst charge brought against William J. Bryan is that he was twice defeated. "This is the unkindest cut of all," when we remember that this charge is brought by the very men who helped to bring about that defeat.

Whenever a man now-a-days begins to prate about Bryan's defeat, you can be sure that he is more than two-thirds Republican, and if you will talk to him

(Continued on fourth page.)

An Appeal to the Young Democracy of the South.

We are witnessing today, as Woodrow Wilson pointed out recently at the Jefferson-day banquet in New York, a bankrupt Democracy with Mr. Bryan acting as receiver. The Democratic politicians of the South and East are tired of Mr. Bryan and want to see him discharged, but they dare not come out in the open and oppose him. Why is this? The reason is not far to seek: they are afraid of him, and the results of the campaign of 1904 show that their fear is well-grounded. Does any one seriously believe that Mr. Bryan worked for Judge Parker's election? Now we freely admit that Judge Parker stood no chance of success. The country was overwhelmingly for Roosevelt at that time no matter whom the Democrats might have nominated. But in view of Mr. Bryan's vehement denunciation of the half-hearted support given him by the Eastern Democrats in 1896 and 1900, we submit that he is on the horns of this dilemma: either he is not as strong in the middle West as he claims to be and was not able to carry any of the States in that section for Parker, or else he was not loyal to Parker and deliberately allowed him to be defeated in those States, in which case he is unworthy of any further recognition from his party. Mr. Bryan's recent address before the Kentucky legislature confirmed a wide-spread suspicion: he did not want Parker to be elected.

And so today, with the experience of 1904 before us, Mr. Bryan says to his party: "Nominate me or bust." How long is the poor old helpless solid South—helpless because it is solid—going to submit to this sort of dictation? For forty years the South has been accepting any candidate the Democracy of the North—more recently of the West—has seen fit to thrust upon it. What is the character of the Western Democracy which is now omnipotent in the councils of the party? A party which remains long in the minority always gathers into its folds the dissatisfied and radical elements. The Southern Republicans, the minority party of their section, are always in line with the National Republican party because the Republican party of the South is nothing more

(Continued on fourth page)