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**UNCLE SAM'S HEAVY BURDEN.**

—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**McKinley's Letter.**

The President Invents a New Phrase, But His Letter Has No Other Merit.

From the New York Journal. President McKinley's letter of acceptance resembles a folding bed with a piano front. When you look at it first you think it is a financial argument, but when you let it down you find that it is an apology for imperialism.

The Republican party has maintained that the silver question is the supreme issue of the campaign. The president has kept up that profession. Therefore, he begins his letter with a disquisition on finance. But he realizes that it would be ruinous to sit in a corner soliloquizing about one topic while the people were thinking and talking about another, and, therefore, after gliding lightly among a number of other issues, he settles down upon the subject of imperialism, and dilates upon it to the extent of 10,000 words.

Mr. McKinley is entitled to the credit of inventing a new phrase. He does not venture to say that the silver question is the chief issue before the people, but he remarks: "If another issue is paramount, this is immediate." He does not show, however, why it is immediate. He does not show that a Democratic congress would pass a free coinage law or that a Democratic administration could disturb the present financial system. It is true that he furnishes one more contribution to the exposure of the hypocrisy of Republican financial legislation when he says that it was so framed as to be effective only "so long as those who adhere to this platform are kept in control of the government." But his own secretary of the treasury, in his sincere moments, could have told him that any apprehension of financial danger from Democratic success was purely fanciful.

From the Pittsburg Post. President McKinley, in his letter of acceptance, insists there was no alliance with Aguinaldo by any of the American army or naval officers, but he does not tell how Dewey brought Aguinaldo to the Philippine islands in an American war vessel, and armed him and his followers, and co-operated with them. Nor does he mention the fact that in June, 1898, Aguinaldo proclaimed the Philippine republic and raised its flag, and McKinley never protested until the following December. Senator Wellington, of Maryland, has shown that the treaty with Spain would have failed of ratification had not a promise to guarantee the ultimate independence of the Philippines been made, only to be broken as soon as the treaty was ratified. McKinley says the Filipinos began the conflict, but fails to quote Gen. Otis, showing how the fighting was begun by the Americans, and how he rejected Aguinaldo's plea for a suspension of hostilities and insisted upon war to its end. He claims the largest portion of the Filipinos "are loyal to us," but he neglects the fact that nowhere out of the sight of the American lines in the Philippines can an American go in safety. The McKinley letter is undoubtedly smart, but how this world is given to smart lying.

From the Springfield (Mass.) Republican. We can find in this letter of acceptance no word indicating any change in the policy of Mr. McKinley's administration to hold the Philippines, and hold them forever, as a subject colony of the United States. The president makes free use of the words "liberty" and "self government" as the end of his purposes respecting those islands, but these words are plainly not used in their full and accepted meaning. It is "self government" under absolute American sovereignty which he plainly means. It is "liberty" within lines drawn by an absolute alien power which he clearly has in mind. And this is the "liberty" of the vassal and the slave—nothing more.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent. Every man is right in claiming full credit for what he has accomplished and no one will complain because the president is generous in praise of himself. But a bountiful providence had something to do with the prosperity which has prevailed during the last three years and other influences, not within the control of the administration, worked auspicious results. In view of those facts the president's pretense that the administration is responsible for all is foolish, if not false.

From the Philadelphia Record. The prosperity of the country, the

treasury surplus, the favorable balance of trade and all the favoring benefactions of a kind and gracious providence are in turn woven into the president's narrative. The bad trusts mentioned, and the good trusts mentioned, and the tariff is fitted with a halo of commendation, and even reciprocity is marshalled before the eyesight of the nation as a thing of loveliness.

From the Baltimore Sun. This may be Mr. McKinley's idea of freedom, but it is a monstrous doctrine for the president of a free republic to promulgate. Mr. McKinley has not strengthened his party's position by his letter of acceptance. He cannot convince the American people by such arguments as he arrays in this letter that the dangers of imperialism as practiced by this administration are less serious than they appear to be.

Schurz Answers Gage. The Ex-Cabinet Official Invokes the Deadly Parallel in an Effective Way.

Carl Schurz has written, under date of Sept. 10, a second open letter to Secretary of the Treasury Gage in rejoinder to the latter's reply to Mr. Schurz's first letter. In it Mr. Schurz remarks that the Gage letter "only shows to what lengths partisan zeal will go in the attempt to frighten the people into the belief that only Mr. McKinley's reelection can save them from general ruin."

To Mr. Gage's remark that the Republican congress and administration would "probably" find it difficult, owing to possible obstructive tactics of the minority, to use its power before the inauguration of Bryan to make it impossible for him to put the finances on a silver basis, Mr. Schurz answers: "There will be no trouble about this if the Republican majority is willing to do it. \* \* \* The Republican majority in congress not only can, but if only for its own moral salvation, will do this thing in case of necessity, and you, Mr. Secretary, then relieved of your partisan campaign service, will, as a good citizen, be one of the first to urge it to be done, if you sincerely think the currency law to be as defective as in your recent threat of disaster you represent it to be."

Mr. Schurz also quotes Mr. Gage's declaration in an interview on July 15 as an answer to the apprehension expressed by him six weeks later. "I believe," said Mr. Gage on July 15, "that silver will never drop below par in gold. The crux of the proposition is that adequate measures have been taken by the new law to prevent such a contingency. \* \* \* In the event of Mr. Bryan's election I think the gold standard would be resolutely maintained so long as the law remained on the statute book."

Mr. Schurz declares that the secretary of the treasury's letter of Aug. 25 "is an attempt to terrorize the American people with a threat of business disaster, that they may be deterred from considering any other question and from casting a vote which would amount to a condemnation of Mr. McKinley's imperialistic policy. I, for one, refuse to be terrorized. \* \* \* I am convinced that the battle for sound money is substantially won, and that whatever apparent danger to the gold standard may still arise it must and can be overcome without the people subjecting themselves to a moral thrashing and conscientious action upon public questions of equal and even superior importance."

A United Democracy. More than ever before in the history of the Democratic party all factions have been merged under the peerless leadership of William Jennings Bryan for a vigorous and righteous campaign against the un-American and vicious policies of imperialism, militarism, protection of the trusts and the other crying evils which the Republican party is pledged to maintain and extend. Four years ago the party was divided upon the issue of a financial policy, and today the Democracy is once more firmly united and its standing shoulder to shoulder in the support of an issue of higher and more immediate importance, because it involves the very foundation principles upon which this country is established.

Everywhere throughout the country come assurances that many prominent men who left their party ranks in 1896 will this year march under Bryan's banner for the maintenance of those fundamental policies of government

which have fostered our growth into a nation, which can rightfully boast of her prominent position among the peoples of the world. The Republican party has criminally committed itself to the policy of land grabbing, which has ever been foreign to the principles of a republic such as this, and it has become the duty of the Democratic party to protect the nation against the foes within, ever the most insidious and powerful.

The Republican party cannot with any degree of truth assert that only a portion of the Democratic party is holding up the hands of its standard bearer in this campaign. It is not one section of the country alone or one section of the country more than another that is represented in the Democratic party for this campaign. In every state of the Union, including even the recognized Republican states, there is a marked and ever increasing abhorrence of the evils which go to make up McKinleyism, which will draw thousands of Republican votes to the party which pledges itself to halt the government of the United States and drag it back from the perilous course on which the present administration has launched it.

In view of the expose which even the Republican newspapers have made of the starvation wages paid the coal miners of this state the campaign cry of "full dinner pail" seems something worse than a hollow mockery and a sham.

With all their sneering at the phrase, "the consent of the governed," the Republican party managers will find that it is as firmly embedded in the issues of this campaign as it is in the constitution of the United States.

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