

A Catalogue of Carpers.

Commentated.

They are not all with us yet; there are several varieties that we haven't got, and each variety contains several individuals. There is the man who is deaf and can't read, we haven't got him nor any of his family. But he is a scarce article; and while our sympathies go out to him, yet for the present we must be content to let him find an asylum in some more ancient party, some party that was young when he was in full possession of his faculties. Then there is the man who refuses to listen and who won't read; we haven't got him either. And the fellow who is too lazy to think, he isn't with us. The very mention of reform makes him tired. To catch up with the advance thought of a new party would worry the poor soul to death. He gets hold of some cheap, meaningless phrase such as "principles of democracy" or "republican doctrine" and he crones it over to himself until he falls asleep. He has learned the old phrase by heart and it costs him no effort to repeat it, and as it means anything or nothing, he expends no mental force in trying to comprehend it.

Then there is the man who is a half brother to the lazy man, he is the timid man. The thought of the work that the Populists have laid out for themselves scares him out. He would like to be with us if we would only be satisfied with telling the railroad companies that they ought to be ashamed of themselves for charging so much freight, and then if that didn't make the companies put their fingers in their mouths and hang their heads with shame, to reduce the rates by law at least 5 per cent. But government ownership or control—the very thought staggers him.

If the Populists would only ask to have things changed just a little bit—a little more money, a little less tariff, a little more time, say thirty days on foreclosures, a little less boodling, a little less interest, he would join the ranks. But we are too radical for him now, it scares the poor timid soul to think of it. So he and his half brother, the man who is too lazy to think, get together and the one starts up his tune of "principles of democracy," or "republican doctrine," and the other softly hums "go slow" till they hypnotize each other, and while in that condition they cast their ballots on the other side.

Then there is the man who wants to belong to all the most fashionable institutions, we haven't got him yet. He is the man who always joins the most fashionable church or society and deals at the most fashionable place. He never starts anything, nor never leads, but is content to tag along behind, provided there is plenty of glitter and style in the procession. He and the lazy man and the timid man will all come to us when we don't need them.

There is the man with his belly against the pie counter, don't count him in, for even if the pie is all gone before it reaches him he will sniff the next batch baking and wait for that. He has put in the best part of his life leaning against that counter and it would be cruel to ask him to leave it now before he gets a pie. Let us try to get along without him. We couldn't use him if we had him. We haven't any of the kind of work that he is used to. He "fixes" votes for a living and leans against the counter for recreation.

Another specimen who doesn't see any virtue in reform movements, and consequently isn't with us, is the "worshipper of light ancestral," who "makes the present light a crime." He is always looking back over his shoulder,

and the reform party is not back there. He is the kind of a chap that measures the value of all institutions by their age. He wouldn't join a brass band without first counting the wrinkles on the horns, or a lynching party unless it was founded on the Jeffersonian principles of democracy. He wages constant and relentless war on all new fangled institutions and the mention of a new political party rouses his religious ire as something sacrilegious. If his great grandsons take after the old man we will get them.

Then there is the man who is prosperous, or who thinks he is. He is working like a slave and living like a barbarian and is actually surprised to find that he is getting a little ahead. He never expected so much prosperity. He won't join the calamity howlers. No, sir! If his neighbors don't get along it is their own fault, he thinks. Ten years ago he had nothing, now he is worth \$1,000. He can't see that he has done hard work enough and lived mean enough to be worth \$10,000. He would be satisfied to shovel gold out of a mine all day and let somebody on top of ground steal the biggest share of it, just so that he could find a few dollars lying around when he crawled out in the evening. He is a hopeless case, and it would be impossible to loosen up his hide enough to make room for a broad gauge idea. Nature never intended him for a Populist, in fact she made a mistake when she made him a voter at all.

Then there is the man who has been set down on and the man who has been kicked out; they are both out to stay, thank the Lord. They both feel sore and have gone to the republican sanitarium for treatment, and we have no fear but they will receive the proper treatment.

The fellow who wants to run things, the man who would sooner be first in some republican township primary of six than second in a Populist caucus of 100, isn't with us. He is on the outside looking in over the fence and wishing that he hadn't kicked so hard against the new party in the start. He tried to be a leader at one time, but he led in the wrong direction. He went one way and the crowd went another. The only way that he can lead now is to get in the rear and follow up. He is waiting for the party to about face and march back so that he will be in the lead. Let him wait.

Then there is the man who gets his ideas ready made, and gets a new batch from every man he talks to. He is so uncertain that it is hardly safe to put him on the list of "doubtfuls" for he may be "solid" against us to-morrow.

After enumerating all those we still have left the man whose financial interests keeps him out. He belongs to the class that the Populist party was organized to fight, and it could hardly be expected that he would help to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs for him. So we can count him on the other side till the inclemency of the weather places the icy shield over the region of torrid temperature. He was born, bred and stall-fed in older parties and there he will stay. There may be a few other individuals on the outside that are a cross between two or more of those already mentioned and also a few unclassified, but the more conspicuous and numerous ones have been given. None that have been mentioned are rare plants; any community can furnish specimens of each.

CON HEALY.

Say the rich, through their militia, to the poor: "If you don't starve quietly we will kill you and make you keep quiet." And the preparation to do it is going on day and night all over the country. See daily press.—Coming Nation.

A Conflict of Opinions.

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—I see in the ADVOCATE of February 28 the address of the national committee, and I must confess that I was greatly surprised at the construction they place upon the financial plank of the Omaha platform. They state that they are in favor of establishing a financial system that is strictly American, and declare that the issue is made by the declaration in the Omaha platform in favor of the free coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 and the issuance of standard money exclusively by the government without the intervention of banks. They then proceed to say that this legal tender standard money is to be redeemed in metal.

Now I don't know where they can find anything in the Omaha platform that would or could by any kind of twisting construed to have any such a meaning and I protest against any such construction by the managers of our party. The dollar that has to be redeemed by some other dollar is not a dollar at all and is only a device to enable those who can control the redeeming dollar to levy tribute upon the people. If we are to have a purely American system of finance why not make all forms of our circulating medium *absolute money* redeemable in nothing but receivable for everything, and a full legal tender. Let this be issued by the government and let the demand for its use determine the volume or amount.

I have always thought that such a system was what the Omaha platform demanded, and I think the great mass of the People's party so understand it; and if there is to be a different construction placed upon the financial plank I think there will be some kicking done by some of the most ardent workers in the party. I would like to hear from the ADVOCATE and others on the subject.

Q. A. BALDWIN.

Goes Him One Better.

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—Your issue of February 28 contains an article on "Government Banking," by J. C. Ruppenthal, jr. Speaking of the bill in the hands of Representative William Baker, he says: "It provides for banks in every county seat and city of over 10,000 inhabitants." County seat of 10,000, etc.? If so I would provide that every county polling 1,000 votes should be entitled to a bank, to be located at the county seat, for the poorly settled portions of our country are as much entitled to the conveniences and necessities for carrying on business as the more settled parts.

He also says: "The cashiers are to be elected by the communities in which the banks are to be located." Well, that depends. The spirit of that is all right, but who does not know that the man who can carry the larger vote is not always the better educated—not even well educated? Our civil service examinations seem to be a farce, and yet it seems that a cashier, elected by the people, ought to be submitted to some test of his qualifications. I indorse the government banking as all right. Government could run a bank as well as to issue money orders and postal notes at the various postoffices.

POPULIST.

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