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HAIL TO THE CHIEF!

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An Exhibit on Presidents and Mississippi in Presidential Elections

*An Address to the People by the Central Democratic Club
of Meridian, Mississippi. 1892. [Meridian, MS: 1892].*

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18 August 2008 - 18 August 2009



AN ADDRESS


TO THE PEOPLE BY THE

Central Democratic Club

OF

MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI.

1892.



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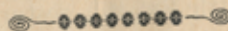
AN ADDRESS

ISSUED BY THE

Central Democratic Club

OF MERIDIAN, MISS.

Prepared by a Committee of the Club.



FELLOW CITIZENS:

We are in the midst of a political campaign fraught with consequences of a grave and momentous character. This government, founded upon principles of Democracy, which are those of human rights and human liberty recognized and maintained by law justly and impartially administered, achieved in the first three quarters of a century of its existence, to the first rank among the nations of the earth. During these seventy-five years of almost unbroken Democratic rule, the people were happy, prosperous and contented. Especially was this the case among the agricultural and laboring classes. Every man's house was his castle, and every man stood upon an equality under the Constitution, before the laws, and in the courts. There were under Democratic rule, no monopolies, trusts and combines to oppress the people. There were no privileged classes, who, under the false and fraudulent plea of "protection to American industries," robbed the laboring classes of the fruit of their labor and toil, and accumulated to themselves great fortunes of wealth, by which they were enabled to further monopolize the

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wealth of the country, and levy still more oppressive tribute upon the rewards of labor.

But in 1860, a party came into power upon a sectional issue, and the country was precipitated into a war such as the world hitherto had not witnessed. We cannot undertake here to recount the history of this great struggle in which the Democratic theory of government was at stake; suffice it to say, that although the battle was lost to those who contended for the great principles of free government as founded by the fathers of the Republic, the great principles of Democracy survived and still live.

When the smoke of battle had cleared away and the clash of arms had ceased, and men had returned to the vocations of peace, the great battle for the restoration of Democratic principles in the administration of government was resumed in the press, upon the hustings and at the ballot box, and not, too, without a measure of success, that brought pride and joy and happiness to every home in our broad southland.

RECONSTRUCTION.

Who can forget the wrongs and oppressions of those fearful years of Republican misrule in the South which followed the war? Our State Government was stricken down at one blow, the Governor of the State carried off a prisoner and incarcerated in a felon's dungeon, the Legislature was dispersed, judges and sheriffs and other officers deposed, and the property, the liberty and the lives of our people were placed in the hands of a military satrap, whose word was the supreme law of the land, upheld and enforced by federal bayonets.

In this state of affairs our State Government was reconstructed, and those who had been our slaves were enfranchised, whilst many of our wisest and best men were disfranchised. The opportunity for public plunder was so great, that it attracted the vicious and depraved from every quarter. They

These are some of the evils—the great grievances of which you complain, and justly too; but they are chargeable to the Republican party wholly and solely. The man who denounces the Democratic party for these, or for any of them is stupidly ignorant or wilfully dishonest. The history of the Democratic party for a hundred years shows that it is the party of the people and cannot, by virtue of the very laws of its existence, commit any act to wrong or oppress the people.

These present evils that afflict so oppressively the great masses of the people, are by no means the greatest evils that can befall the country. The whole tendency and teaching of the Republican party is toward centralization of power in the General Government, the destruction of the rights of the people, and the establishment of Empire governed by Plutocrats; and say what you may, today the great battle is joined between the contending forces of

PLUTOCRACY AND DEMOCRACY.

The lines of battle are formed. Mr. Harrison and the Republican party representing the Hamiltonian theory of Government, viz: That the Federal Government at Washington should be the source of all power, and authority—the great fountainhead, from which the States must derive their powers. Mr. Cleveland and the Democratic party representing the Jeffersonian theory of Government, viz: That the Federal Government at Washington is not the source of all power and authority, but is a Government of granted and limited powers; limited by the terms and conditions contained in the Federal Constitution. As a natural consequence the Republican party stands for a Government of the few over the many, and the fruit of this theory is seen in the National Bank system by which the right to issue bills for circulation as money, is vested in the hands of a few, and this is accomplished by a Federal tax of ten *per cent.* levied upon all issues of State Banks, the effect of which has been to destroy all banks, other than the National Banks; it is also seen in the protective tariff by which the few wealthy manufacturers are enabled to levy a tribute for their sole benefit upon the labor of the masses; it is also seen in the proposed Federal Election Law, commonly called the "Force Bill" by which the party in power is enabled to carry all elections in the States by the aid of Federal election supervisors who are invested with the power of calling to their aid Federal soldiers, and thus perpetuate itself indefinitely in power; it

ADDRESS.

is further seen in the legislation that demonetized silver, and fosters trusts, monopolies and combines.



POOR.

ADDRESS.

THE GRAND BATTLE.

The political battle now being waged by the people for the people, against the compact well organized forces of centralization is one that ought to enlist the sympathies of every patriot in this land; and the man who would allign himself with the enemies of true Democratic Government, or who would create a diversion in favor of them surely has not considered the gravity and magnitude of the dire consequences that such conduct may bring upon our country and its institutions.

THE SO-CALLED PEOPLE'S PARTY.

It is no longer a fact to be concealed or disguised that the so-called People's Party, but recently organized has attained sufficient numbers and influence in the country to excite the serious apprehension of all true patriots. Not that there is any possibility of its gaining a permanent lodgment in the convictions and affections of the liberty-loving people of this country; but it is liable to create a diversion which will inure to the benefit of the Plutocratic or Republican party and so weaken the forces of the Democratic party.

It is not to be presumed that a party which advocates the revolutionary doctrines of the People's party can ever find permanent lodgment among the free people of this country. Its complaints are numerous, and some of them well founded; but the remedies proposed are worse than the evils complained of. It proposes to abolish the National Banks, and to give us in lieu thereof irredeemable fiat money; it opposes monopolies and yet advocates the formation of the most stupendous monopoly on the part of the Federal Government ever heard of—the acquisition by the Government of all the railroad, telegraph and telephone lines in the country, with its army of employees and hangers-on, numbering near a million men. Henceforth no man in all this broad land could have any voice in the management of these institutions,

and every avenue of complaint and redress would be closed to the citizen, and the people would be at the mercy of the party in power; it advocates the sub-treasury bill, which if put into practice would effect the financial market like the winds effect the sea; ever and anon the volumn of currency would swell to huge proportions and as the loans matured and were paid, the volumn would shrink so that it would be a billowy sea of expansion and contraction upon whose treacherous bosom no business enterprise could safely ride.

Many if not all the evils complained of by the so-called People's Party can, and will be cured by the Democratic party, when it attains to full power and control of the Federal Government. But if we concede that this Third Party is a necessity of the times and its principles deserve the support of the people; we maintain that all true Southern men and patriots are shut out from its support by the character of its chief standard bearer.

JAMES B. WEAVER.

No true Southern man can maintain his own self-respect and vote for J. B. Weaver to fill the place occupied by Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Jackson, and the long line of honored statesmen and patriots. His record during the war is one of shameful cowardice, tyranny and oppression. The man that makes war upon defenseless old men, and women and children, is both a coward and a tyrant. That Weaver did this read the following well authenticated statements of

HIS WAR RECORD WHILE COMMANDER OF THE POST AT PULASKI,
TENN. 1863-64.

Believing it due the people of the South that Gen. Weaver's conduct towards our people, while commander of the post at Pulaski, Tenn., in the latter part of 1863 and 1864, should be known and exposed, the Giles County Democratic Exe-

cutive Committee at a regular meeting August 27, 1892, decided to have the following affidavits of some of our most worthy and reputable citizens published. These are a mere sample of his acts:

JNO. P. WILLIAMS.

Mr. Williams is an industrious, and inoffensive old Mexican soldier and farmer living about 3 miles Southwest of Pulaski. He had a large family of little children and his widowed mother's family to provide for. On one occasion, when Weaver was passing Williams' house he drove off every fattening hog Mr. Williams had, and allowed his men to shoot down all of the women's turkeys before their eyes, and when asked for a receipt or voucher Weaver flatly refused to give any kind of receipt. This he did without any cause whatever as the Government had an abundance of supplies at Pulaski.



CANDIDATE WEAVER'S WAR RECORD.

PLEASANT SMITH'S STATEMENT.

Hon. Pleasant Smith, an old citizen and former Mayor of the city, was here all of the war. He says Weaver was the worst man that ever was in this country, and that every Southern man who votes for Weaver should be disfranchised.

HON. R. M. M'CORMICK,

an old and reliable citizen says he does not think there is a worse man than Weaver in Purgatory.

D. T. Harrison, an old citizen of Pulaski, Tenn., was here while Col. J. B. Weaver was commander of the post.

D. T. HARRISON'S AFFIDAVIT.

He states of all men he ever knew Weaver was the worst—that he seemed to have a perfect hatred for the Southern people, and took a delight in abusing, persecuting and robbing them—that he had no respect or feeling for old defenseless men, women and children. Mr. Harrison also states that a Mr. Lanier, of Nashville, had given him (Harrison) \$1,935 with which to buy some cotton, but as soon as Weaver found it out he had Harrison arrested and took \$935 of the money, and then added falsehood to robbery by reporting to Mr. Lanier that Harrison had made way with the money.

Weaver staid in Mrs. A. M. Ballentine's house down in town and not on Harris' premises outside of town.

D. T. HARRISON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me August 25, 1892.

J. J. McCALLUM, J. P.

DR. J. C. ROBERTS' AFFIDAVIT.

Weaver was a terror to all men, women and children in this region around about our town and country—especially to those who were known to have money. He arrested me

to you a strong, good government wisely and justly administered.

THE SITUATION NOW.

But what is the situation now? To answer this question, we have only to call to mind the fact that, although we overthrew the Republican party in our State in 1875, and have had control of the State Government since that time, we have never been able to overthrow that party in the administration of the National Government. We have at intervals, had one branch or other of the Federal Government in the possession of the Democratic party; but at no period since Mr. Lincoln's inauguration in 1861, has the party been in possession of all the branches of the Federal Government. At no period in 31 years has it been in a position to enact its policy of reform and good government into law. Indeed it has often given its sanction to measures, not because it approved them as wise or right, but because they were the less of two evils; and hence they were sanctioned in the interest of the people because it was the best that could be done.

During all these years, the policy of the General Government has been dictated, guided and controlled by the Republican party, modified only at times by a Democratic House, or by a Democratic President during the administration of Mr. Cleveland.

THE PEOPLE HAVE GRIEVANCES.

That the people have grievances that cry to heaven for relief is true. Some of these we will mention. The National Bank monopoly of the right to issue bills for circulation; the



THE TARIFF AS A "STIMULANT"

robber tariff by which the consumers and laborers pay tribute to the rich manufacturers; under this law Mississippians pay nearly two million dollars per annum, not into the Federal Treasury, but into the pockets of manufacturers; the demonetization of silver, by which gold has been made dearer, and all articles of produce made cheaper, so that the laborer pays higher for what he has to buy, and gets less for what he has to sell; the reckless expenditure of money in the administration of the Government, through which the favored few amass great fortunes in a few years; the millions bestowed in the way of pensions, to pension agents, and to soldiers (?) who never fought a battle; the fostering of great financial combinations, trusts and monopolies by which the wealth of the country is aggregated in the hands of the few, to the great injury and oppression of the laboring classes.

gathered into our State in circling swarms, as carrion crows gather around the putrifying carcass. Taking advantage of the ignorance and superstition of the lately enfranchised colored people, they reveled for nearly ten long years in the stolen spoils, the labor of a prostrate long-suffering people.

That some idea may be formed of the extent of the robberies perpetrated upon the people of this State under Republican rule, we call your attention to a few facts. During the five years ending January 1875, the average excess of appropriations over receipts was as follows:

From January 1st, 1870 to January 1st, 1871,	\$586,432
" " " 1871 " " " 1872,	569,002
" " " 1872 " " " 1873,	373,976
" " " 1873 " " " 1874,	763,121
" " " 1874 " " " 1875,	528,163
Grand total	\$2,850,695

Again, the annual average cost of State administration before the war for ten years, was \$325,000. The average annual cost from 1870 to 1875, under Republican rule was \$1,431,407.

The tax on property before the war was \$1.60 on the \$1,000 valuation.

Under Republican rule it was in 1870 \$5.00 on the \$1,000 valuation; 1871 \$4.00 on the \$1,000 valuation; 1872 \$8.88 on the \$1,000 valuation; 1873 \$12.10 on the \$1,000 valuation; 1884 \$14.00 on the \$1,000 valuation.

The public debt notwithstanding these enormous taxes, was increased during these five years from \$200,000 in 1870 to \$2,850,695 in 1875. Remember that the county and mu-

municipal taxes during this period were still greater than the State taxes.



THE REPUBLICAN PARTY PROTECTING THE WORKINGMAN

During this brief rule of the Republican party, the lands that were sold for taxes—for the people had been mercilessly robbed of the last farthing and could not pay their taxes), amounted to 6,500,000 acres, equal to 10,000 square miles, or over one fifth of the area of the whole State. This magnificent domain, once private property, owned by our citizens thus confiscated, constituted a larger area than the States of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware combined; larger than Massachusetts and Delaware combined.

We put you in remembrance of these things, fellow citizens, believing that you cannot and will not vote for any man, who comes amongst you abusing and decrying the Democratic party—the party that overthrew this corrupt reign of political prostitutes, and public plunders and gave

and tried to extort from me \$500 for my release, but when he found I could not be bulldozed he turned me out without charge. He extorted in that way many of our best citizens' money and everything else.

On another occasion Weaver had me arrested and forced me to receipt \$7,000 due me on a farm I sold before the war on a credit. All this money proved a dead loss to me. I regard him as a stamp or photo. of the old arch Demon himself.

J. C. ROBERTS.

Sworn to and subscribed before me Sept. 8, 1892.

J. W. BRADEN, Circuit Court Clerk

In January 1864 Weaver took from the following parties the sums opposite their respective names:

Thomas Martin.....	\$250 00
Dr. Wm. Batte.....	100 00
Charles C. Abernathy.....	250 00
Robert Dickson.....	250 00
J. H. Newbill.....	100 00
J. M. Morris.....	100 00
David T. Reynolds.....	250 00
B. Abernathy.....	200 00
Thos. B. Daly.....	200 00
Total.....	\$1,700 00

The above parties were old men staying at home and interfering with no one. Several of them had borne their muskets and followed the stars and stripes through the Creek, Florida and Mexican wars. They are all now dead except Dr. Wm. Batte, who is now living here and cheerfully gives the following affidavit:

DR. BATTE'S AFFIDAVIT.

STATE OF TENNESSEE, }
GILES COUNTY. }

This day personally appeared before me, Dr. William Batte, known as a gentleman of high standing and credibility, and says that he was a citizen of Pulaski, Tenn., during the war of the rebellion and has been ever since. That he was personally acquainted with J. B. Weaver, who as Colonel of the United States troops was in control of the U. S. Forces stationed in Pulaski, Tenn., in 1863-64. That said J. B. Weaver was very oppressive and extortionate upon the citizens of said town and vicinity. That said commandant J. B. Weaver issued a military order requiring the above parties and perhaps others to pay over to him a large sum of money for the alleged purpose of supporting refugees then within his lines. This order was accompanied with the threat that if not complied with immediately that the parties on whom the demand was made would be sent South. Under this threat affiant paid over to said J. B. Weaver the sum of one hundred dollars, and affiant verily believes the other parties on whom the demand was made paid the above amounts required of them.

WM. BATTE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me August 22, 1892.

J. W. BRADEN Clerk County Court.

TREATMENT OF D. K. COX.

Weaver had Mr. D. K. Cox arrested, imprisoned and threatened with death unless he paid him (Weaver) \$500. As Mr. Cox did not have the money, his friends paid it for him and had him released. Of these friends Col. S. E. Rose and J. B. Stacy are now living here. Below is the affidavit of Mr. D. K. Cox's son.

E. R. COX'S AFFIDAVIT.

Personally appeared before me E. R. Cox, a reputable citizen of our county, and states that he was in the Confederate

army during the war, but after the war he frequently heard his father, mother and others speak of the above facts. And from what he has heard from said sources he swears that he believes said facts are true.

E. R. Cox.

Sworn to before me Sept., 1892.

R. J. CURTIS, J. P.

Jasper Cox a worthy and reliable citizen of Giles County makes the following affidavit:

I, Jasper Cox, of the County of Giles and State of Tennessee, upon my oath state that during the war while Weaver, the present People's Party candidate for President was stationed at Pulaski, he (Weaver) took from me four thousand dozen thread worth at that time two thousand dollars and refused to pay for it or give any receipt whatever for it. I afterwards employed J. G. Whitson as my agent to collect pay for the thread. Whitson wrote to Weaver about it and Weaver replied that he had turned it over to Jno. F. Dillon, Surveyor of Customs, at Nashville. Whitson then wrote to Dillon about the matter and Dillon replied that Weaver had never turned over to him any cotton thread; that he (Dillon) knew nothing about it. According to my best information and belief Weaver appropriated my thread to his own individual use.

JASPER COX.

Sworn to before me September 1, 1892.

J. W. BRADEN, Clerk County Court.

Following is Weaver's letter to Whitson:

BLOOMFIELD, IOWA, }
APRIL 15, 1867. }

J. G. Whitson Esq., Attorney:

DEAR SIR—Your letter of the 10th inst., came to hand. In reply I have to say that if such men as Square Rose, old Mr. Pillow, Judge Walker, Robert Gordon and Thomas Martin will certify to me that Mr. Cox was strictly and in con-

science a loyal man throughout the rebellion, and that this cotton yarn was his own property (I heard when I took it that he had "gobbled it from the Rebs at Lauderdale Mills). then I will assist you in getting the pay for it. I turned it over to Surveyor of Customs at Nashville. I think his name was John F. Dillon, at least he formerly lived in Giles County.

Very truly yours,

J. B. WEAVER.

Here is an acknowledgment from Weaver himself that he did steal the cotton yarn, and refused to return it or pay for it unless parties would swear that Cox was a loyal man, according to Weaver's interpretation of that word. He knew that these gentlemen would swear to no such thing, and this was his only excuse for stealing the twist.

W. J. ABERNATHY'S AFFIDAVIT.

In the first part of 1864 I was in prison at Point Lookout, Md., Company D., 9th Division. My father sent me in a letter twenty dollars from Pulaski, Tenn. When I received the letter there was only ten dollars in it, and the letter was very much defaced especially the part referring to the twenty dollars, but with difficulty I made it out. And on the letter was written, "INSPECTED AND TEN DOLLARS ALLOWED BY J. B. WEAVER, POST COM." After coming back from the war I told my father that I never received but ten dollars in said letter, and he was surprised as he had sent twenty dollars and believed I got it, and the other ten dollars has never been seen or heard of since. I think I now have the letter at home—I know I saw it with Weaver's name a year or two ago. I was a member of Company A. 3rd Tenn. Infantry.

W. J. ABERNATHY.

Sworn and subscribed to before me Sept. 10, 1892.

J. W. BRADEN, Clerk Circuit Court.

TESTIMONY OF ONE WHO WITNESSED IT.

TALLAPOOSA, GA., Aug. 23.

Atlanta Journal:

I see in your issue of Saturday, the 21st inst., a copy of clipping from GILES COUNTY DEMOCRAT, charging Gen. Weaver, the People's Party candidate for President, with beastly cruelty towards the citizens of Pulaski and Giles County, while in command of the Union army at that place in 1864.

I can fully substantiate a number of the charges contained therein, and could add many others of like character, all from my own recollection. Although quite young at the time such a state of terror as we were kept in by this brute in human form made an indelible impression on my mind.

My father, Dr. Perkins, was living in Pulaski at this time. Our house, my grandmother's (Mrs. Dr. Ordway, now of Nashville), and Major Jones, a relative of ours, were used as officers' quarters. We were all subjected to many insults. Major Jones' family were ordered out of their house at about 12 o'clock on a bitter cold night in December. They were not allowed time to dress. Mrs. Jones had to wrap her sick child in bed clothing, carry it in her arms to a neighbor's house. Many acts of barbarous cruelty committed on my relatives and friends are fresh in my memory. Men of the highest standing, both young and old, were thrown into prison, kept there for months and some shot down like dogs with never a charge entered against them. Ladies were insulted on the streets—it was indeed a reign of terror. Such acts of vandalism and crime I have never even read of in a civilized country. All of it was done by the order, or with the consent, of Gen. Weaver."

After the war he became a blatant South-hater and voted for all the measures of oppression brought forth by his party—the Republican party—in those perilous days of reconstruction. There was nothing too mean and vile that he could say against the then poor down-trodden people of the South.

Through the oppressive legislation of the Republican party, to which Mr. Weaver then belonged, the people of this State were bowed down under the yoke of oppression; the heel of the negro was upon our necks; recklessness and extravagance ran riot in our halls of legislation; the people were robbed of what should have gone to feed and clothe their little ones; their lands were confiscated by the million acres, as we have shown, and during these perilous days Mr. Weaver was denouncing us in unmeasured terms.

If you will examine the Congressional Record of July 10, 1888, you will find that Mr. Henderson of Iowa—a colleague of Mr. Weaver's—exposed the record of this South-hating, office-seeking demagogue.

“The clerk read as follows:

THESE ARE SOME OF WEAVER'S UTTERANCES ON THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY MADE IN PUBLIC SPEECHES.

He said at Albia on July 18, 1866:

“I want to congratulate you first, fellow citizens, on the suppression of purely Democratic rebellion, gotten up by Democrats for the Democratic purpose of dissevering this union and perpetually establishing human slavery. Now and forever it is establishing as an external truth that the democracy in no place or State can ever be trusted with government. As a party it should disband, just as a section of it did at Appomattox.”

He said at Centerville in 1867:

“Again has the Democratic party of Iowa spoken. Why, sir, I am astonished beyond measure that a party with a record so utterly vile and wretched and wicked should be so lost to all shame and decency as to make an appearance before the loyal people of Iowa.

“They should be trampling in the wilderness of oblivion, and never more return.” [Laughter on the Republican side.]

He said in joint debate with Col. H. H. Trimble, at Bloomfield on September 4, 1868:

“Here we have the old fight over again. The Confederate Democracy, North and South, in which the infamous copperhead division of Iowa appears, are again contesting with Grant for the safety of the union. As at Donelson, he proposes to ‘move on their works at once, and there is no escape for this rank, traitorous horde, except in another surrender. Charge on them, fellow Republicans, and spare not one, not even a deputy road supervisor from total political annihilation.” [Laughter on the Republican side.]

He said in Bloomfield on September 26, 1869:

“What is the use in further arraigning the defunct Democracy, with all its hoary crimes, at the bar of public opinion? We know that its acts comprise murder, treason, theft, arson, fraud, perjury, and all crimes possible for an organization to connive at.” [Renewed laughter on the Republican side.]

“It would be a mercy to put its record a million miles deep in the pit that is mentioned in holy writ; and I may add that if a large and distinguished assortment of its alleged statesmen were sent along it would only be common justice.”

[Applause on the Republican side.]

He said in Fairfield, September 18, 1870:

“The Democracy, as usual, are loud in their opposition, but what did they ever do when they had a chance? Here in Iowa they stole the school fund and nationally they stole arsenals, the navy, the treasury, everything that was not red hot, and created the very devil's rebellion. And these men appear and ask for your support. They should come on bended knees asking your forgiveness for the unspeakable crimes they have committed and the wretched miseries they have inflicted upon our common country.”

[Loud applause on the Republican side.]

He said in Keokuk, September 16, 1871:

"The record of the Republican party appeals to the candid judgment of all men as unimpeachable, save perhaps, that it was too lenient with leading Democratic conspirators. The same old gang, save those who were shot or hung, are again conspiring to get possession of the Government next year. Woe to them! for the loyal hosts will crush them, and crush them forever and forever out of all possible danger of such a misfortune to our common country."

He said in Oskaloosa, September 25, 1872:

"No Republican can ever, under any circumstances, have any part or lot with the hungry, rebellious man-hating, women-selling gang, corporated under the name of Democracy, a name so full of stench and poison that it should be blotted from the vocabulary of civilized man and handed over to the barbarism that it so fitly now and in all the past has represented."

[Prolonged applause on the Republican side.]

He said at Stiles, September 11, 1873, in referring to the financial policy of the Democratic party:

"But then, what could you expect from the poor, blind, diseased, decrepit, dismal, damned old Democratic party."

[Prolonged laughter on the Republican side.]

He said at Monona, September, 1874:

"There can be no doubt about the question at all. With greenbacks and national bank notes our business needs are well met. There can be no better unity of paper currency than these. But the assaults of a party which, through its financial legislation, inflicted untold wrongs and robberies upon the people by permitting banks without a solid basis to issue a circulating note. * * * The fact is, gentleman, the Democracy never has been able to comprehend the financial question. Between its inherent dishonesty and apparent sensibility it makes a petty but not unusual exhibition of its corporate, consolidated idiocy

Said Mr. Harrison:

"I did not hear these speeches made, but they have been published again and again in Iowa as having been made by my colleague. I have taken these utterances from the National View, published in Washington, D. C., one of the leading greenback papers in the United States, edited by one who has been, if not now, the Secretary of the National Greenback party, and has trained at different times side by side with my colleague in advocating the interest of the Greenback party.

We certainly have these utterances from sources that are entitled to credit. I have watched with some care in the National View to see any refutation or denial of these speeches by the gentleman from Iowa, but none appeared that I was able to discover, nor have I ever seen any public refutation of them in Iowa from my colleague.

While we are having the views of individuals to entertain the American people I thought it not out of place to give my colleague an opportunity to speak, from his heart and judgment when he gave those eloquent utterances.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I withdraw the pro forma amendment.

Mr. Weaver—I renew it, Mr. Chairman.

As will be seen, the date of those so-called speeches—

A member (on the Republican side)—You are pleading the statute of limitation, are you?

Mr. Weaver—No, sir, never. I want to say those remarks were uttered in years past when the situation was entirely different from what it is now, and are the oldest kind of chestnuts in my district and in Iowa. [Derisive laughter on the Republican side.]

Mr. Henderson of Iowa—I will now return the compliments of my colleague from Iowa, who favored me with a question, by asking him if he denies that he made these utterances as just read.

Mr. Perkins—Ask him if they were true when made.

Mr. Weaver—I will reply in my time.

Mr. Henderson of Iowa—You will not grant me that answer now? Then, Mr. Chairman, I will say I have taken pleasure in having this matter read before the house, because I want to give my colleague credit for some of the best utterances that ever fell from his lips. [Applause on the Republican side.]

WEAVER AT MERIDIAN.

Is it any wonder, fellow citizens that Gen. Weaver would not divide time with any reputable Democrat at Meridian? Is it any wonder that he asked his followers to leave the house and not hear his infamous record exposed? He knew it would be done. He knew the proofs were on hand and would be made. Hon. John Allen of this State sat near him in the House of Representatives on that memorable 10th of July 1888, when Mr. Henderson read those extracts, and heard him admit their correctness, and say he had "nothing to take back." Yet at Meridian he denied them. He also denied the charges made against him of his infamous conduct at Pulaski and yet we produce the sworn proofs of their truthfulness, by reputable Southern men and women.

HIS DISREGARD OF THE TRUTH.

Many of you who will read this address heard his denials. And that is not all. You heard him say the General Government loaned money to the National Banks at *one per cent.* and the banks loaned it to the people at *ten per cent.* and this too, when he knew the Government did not lend money to the banks at all. He knew that the Banks had to buy Government bonds, and then deposit them with the Government and could issue only 90 per cent. of their face value in currency.

In further proof of his utter want of veracity, he stated the Force Bill was a bug-bear, a scare-crow; that even President Harrison himself "had gone back on it when he knew that

Mr. Harrison's letter of acceptance then published in the papers, treated it as the chief issue in the canvass. He knew the Washington Republican, the New York Tribune and in fact all the leading Republican papers were urging the force bill as the most important issue in the canvass.



"YOUR WHITEWASH IS TOO THIN!"

Let us give you a sample from Mr. Harrison's capital organ; the Washington D. C. *Republican*:

"With the Lodge National Election Law in full force over the South and various Democratic strongholds up North, we may confidently look for a different state of political affairs than now exists. New York City will then return several more Republican Congressmen than at present, while more

than twenty negro representatives from the South will render the Republican control of the future Congress absolutely safe and secure.

Heavy taxes should be laid upon the property of the whites to develop and extend the public school system of those States. Separate schools for the two races should be abolished, and the plan of bringing the youth of both colors into close and equal relation in school and churches, given a fair trial as one of the most potent elements to break down the detestable bourbonism of the South. The State laws against the intermarriage of the races should be repealed, and any discrimination against the blacks in the matter of learning trades or obtaining employment should be a criminal offense—while the colored man's right to hold office should be sacredly protected and recognized. A few years of this policy will solve the race problem satisfactorily."

Ex-Senator Platt of New York, a life-long Republican and a supporter of Mr. Harrison said in his speech in New York on the 28th of September in advocating the "force bill:" "That the Republican party had fought for it all the way from Bull Run to Appomatox, and had paid for the privilege five thousand million of dollars, and one million precious lives; and that they would continue to fight for it so long as there is one of them alive."

Does this look as if the force bill is a dead issue?

Think you fellow citizens that a man of this character is fit to occupy the great and responsible position of President of these United States? Nay you would not, as honorable men associate with him if he were to come to live among you. You could not without compromising your own honor and self respect treat him as an honorable gentleman. And yet he is parading himself around over the country, with a woman—a Mrs. Lease making speeches, he and she, abusing the Democratic party that has always stood boldly and fearlessly for the equal rights of all, with special privileges to

none. This pitiable spectacle of a woman making stump speeches to howling crowds of excited men and bandying epithets with the low and vulgar in the interest of reform is not only a travesty, but is disgraceful.

THE CONSPIRACY.

The proof is abundant that there is a deep laid conspiracy between the leaders of the Republican party and the leaders of the People's party to divide the white people of the South into warring factions, in order to perpetuate the Republican party in power.

Do you ask for the proof? Look at what transpired in Alabama and Arkansas. There has been an open fusion between the Republicans and the so-called People's party in these States. So in Mississippi no Republicans are candidates in this canvass; and every Republican in the State is openly and avowedly supporting the Third party candidates for Congress. No further proof could be desired of the conspiracy.

And are you fellow Democrats who have gone off to the so-called People's party to feel no shame at consorting with these enemies of your peace and prosperity, who for years held you almost in servile bondage, until you rose in the strength born of desperation in 1875 and drove them from power? Are they any better now than then, when you met them and overthrew them and regained control of your own State Government? Are they?

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

But what has the Democratic party done, that it should forfeit the confidence of any true patriot?

Surely in our State Government, it has proven true to every trust. It wrested the Government from the Radical party and reduced taxes more than four hundred per cent.; it has given us wise laws, faithfully and economically administered; it has given us a splendid system of free public

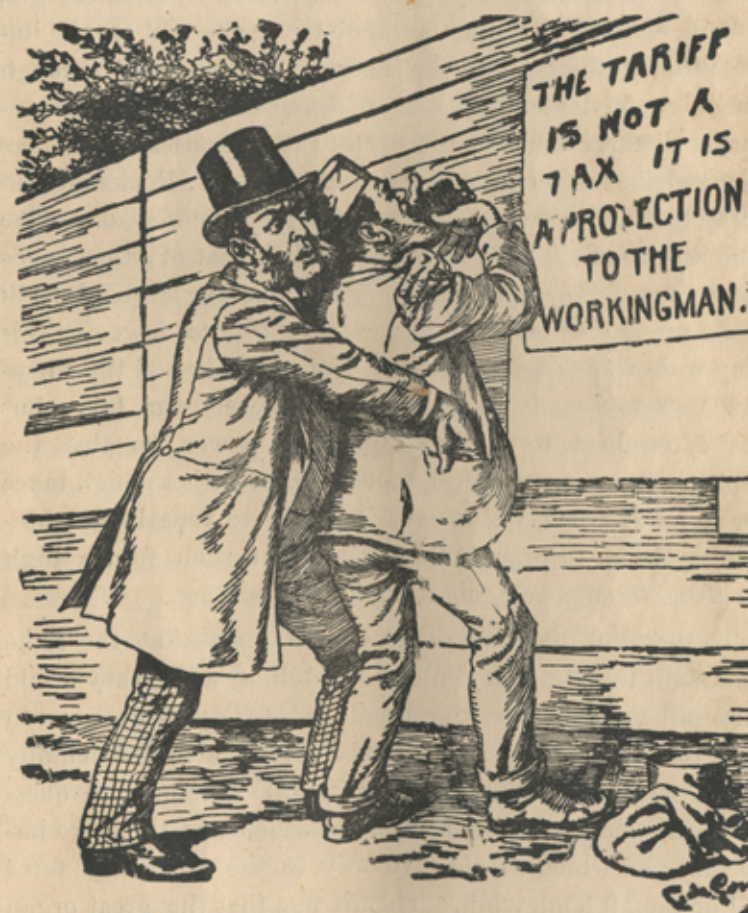
schools; it has placed the State effectually in the hands of the white people by constitutional enactment. All these things and many more it has done. It has responded to every demand made upon it by the agricultural classes without exception, and no complaint is heard against the party in the administration of the State Government.

If it can be trusted to administer the State Government which is more directly in constant, daily contact with the people, can it not be trusted with the administration of the Federal Government? We point with pride to the administration of President Cleveland, the only Democratic President this country has had in thirty years. We cannot do better than quote from an address of Hon. Mr. Herbert of Alabama who said:

"Grover Cleveland's administration was honest and economical. A surplus was accumulated in the Treasury. With that he began paying of the public debt by buying bonds. When bondholders raised the price of their bonds he allowed surplus moneys, in order to prevent a panic, to remain in banks where they could reach the people and continued buying bonds only after bondholders offered them at more reasonable prices. Thus he saved millions of dollars in the price of bonds and paid, in extinguishing the public debt during his administration of four years, \$338,074,850, and left a surplus in the Treasury then of \$83,827,190. Where is that surplus now? Go ask Ben Harrison and Tom Reed.

"Mr. Cleveland treated the South fairly. He put Southern men in his cabinet, sent Southern men abroad as ministers and consuls. He made no difference between those who wore the blue and those who wore the gray. Gentlemen tell me the new third party has abolished sectionalism. The Democratic party did that in 1885, and Cleveland put his foot down emphatically on every suggestion of sectionalism in his administration. Public office with him was a public trust to be exercised for the equal benefit of all the people of

all sections. He saw how we were oppressed by the heavy hand of taxation, and at the risk of endangering his re-election he urged a reduction of taxation. He knew the danger to himself, but he did not hesitate. He bravely suffered defeat at the hands of the monopolists and subsidists that he might educate the people to understand their rights. He went down at the polls in 1888 in the cause of the common people, whose friend he was. He was defeated by the money of the tariff barons, of the men who falsely pretended that they want higher tariffs, that they may pay higher wages, and by reason of prejudices engendered against him because he had vetoed extravagant pension legislation and because of his kindness to the South.



THIS IS THE WAY IT PROTECTS HIM.

"When Cleveland went out and Harrison came in, a Republican House came in with him. The Republicans again had full power, and they proceeded to repay to the monopolists the money that had been expended in buying the election. They allowed these men to write into the law the rates of taxes they desired imposed for their benefit on the toiling masses who were to consume their goods. The records of the ways and means committee in the Fifty-first Congress show that William Whitman, President of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, dictated the tax that was to be imposed on woolen goods; that Isaac N. Heidleberger, for the clothing manufacturers, dictated the tax to be imposed on clothing; that the makers of fire-arms, through their agents, dictated the tax on fire-arms; that Mr. Crouemeyer dictated the tax on tin plate; that Charles S. Landers dictated the tax on table cutlery; that W. F. Rockwell dictated the tax on pocket cutlery. And so it went on. The suggestions of the men who live on the sweat of other men's faces were followed literally. Thus was the McKinley bill made up, and so made up it was passed into law. In this way were war taxes increased. But not only had the Fifty-first Congress made up its mind to increase war taxes, but had determined to entrench itself in power, so that the Democratic party, which had been fighting these high taxes for so many years, would never be able to repeal this McKinley law or to prevent the passage of such future high tariffs as these people might wish to impose.

To that and they had pending in Congress at the same time with the McKinley bill a force bill, by which they would take full control over the elections of Representatives in Congress. The bill was so framed as to give incidentally control also over elections of Presidential Electors. A question arose among Republicans as to which was the more important and which should give way to the other, the force bill or the McKinley bill. Then it was that the great organ

of the Republican party, the *New York Tribune*, the paper of Mr. Reid, the present Republican candidate for the Vice-Presidency, spoke up and said the force bill was the more important, because, the paper said, that carried with it a hundred tariff bills—in other words, that bill if enacted into law would so tie the hands of the people, who might not like high taxes, that the Republican party could legislate as it pleased. That bill went through the Republican House like lightning, but it was so odious in its features and Democratic opposition to it had aroused so much public sentiment against it that three or four Republicans in the Senate had courage enough to prevent it from coming to a square vote, and in that way, and that way alone, for that time it failed.

The Democratic party opposes the robber tariff, and favors a tariff for revenue only. It believes the Government has no right to collect more revenue from the people than is necessary to defray legitimate expenses of Government economically administered and that all in excess of that is unjust, illegal and oppressive.

It believes in the free and unlimited coinage of silver, but that the silver dollar, the gold dollar, and the paper dollar, shall stand upon a parity and be of equal value.

It is opposed to the National Bank monopoly and proposes to destroy it by repealing the prohibitory tax of ten *per cent.* levied upon issues of State banks.

It is opposed to all purely sumptuary legislation, believing that the greatest liberty should be allowed the people consistent with public safety and private right.

It is opposed irrevocably to all interference by the General Government with the elections in the States, and hence it regards the force bill with alarm as a death blow aimed at the liberties of the people.

Compare these with the doctrines of the Republican and Third Parties and make an honest decision as to which you will support.

ADDRESS.

CONCLUSION.

Fellow citizens, the perils of the hour are upon us. The great underlying principle of American freedom is at stake. Democracy is engaged in a death grapple with Plutocracy for the control and direction of this Government; to falter in this hour of peril, is to show ourselves unworthy of the freedom left us by our ancestors; to join our enemies or give aid support and comfort to their allies is not only treason to the party that has always stood for good Government by and for the people, but it may prove to be the death blow to constitutional liberty in this country, and the founding of an Empire more despotic than any ever governed by the Ceasars.

Nay, let us stand by the great principles of the Democratic party and swear by the memory of the fathers of the Republic, as well as by the love of those heroes who offered up their noble lives upon the altars of our country that we will forever preserve as a sacred heritage to be transmitted to our children, American freedom as established, interpreted and maintained by the Democratic party. Thus resolved, and thus united we will in this great national contest march to a glorious victory

With freedom's banner o'er our heads
And freedom's foes beneath our feet.

W. H. HARDY,
H. SYDNEY KING,
E. H. DIAL,
W. D. CAMERON,
J. H. NEVILLE,

Committee.