

Panama City Pilot

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PANAMA CITY, FLA., MARCH 19, 1908.

If Bryan is Nominated.

The chiefest probable factor in securing his very possible election is not to be found in the platform on which he stands, nor in his thorough knowledge of law and politics, nor in the theories he so eloquently expounds, nor yet in his strong, independent, upright character. Neither can it be attributed to the fact that the present incumbent has made some bold blunders, and a few, perhaps several, mistakes, thereby losing to his party the confidence of the people and reflecting discredit on the principles it advocates. It is of a simpler nature than any of these, farther reaching in its effects. It lies in man's susceptibility to flattery (the Commoner makes his followers feel "we are the people") and his inclination to yield to importunity. The great teacher gave to the world a concrete illustration of the effect of importunity when he told the story of the unjust judge and of the man who arose and gave his friend "as many as he needed."

For twelve years and more William Jennings Bryan has been importuning Uncle Sam for the position as his "chief butler." Representing as this elderly gentleman does the best thought and highest intelligence of our people we dare not deem it other than the result of a normal healthy mental action if Uncle Sam were to employ him. Bryan has never changed front since he first began his importunities; more than to shift his position a trifle for sake of the relaxation. He was and, we believe, always will be, to the best of his ability "for the people." His cry of "free silver" twelve years ago shifted to "low tariff" eight years ago, and now to the plea for State Rights, which latter idea permeates and colors the entire platform.

For four consecutive presidential seasons he has launched his own campaign. His position before the American people is unique in the extreme, really isolated. Going back to our hypothesis, if he is nominated this year he will be one of three men who have received the nomination three times by his party, for the highest office in the United States. Clay was nominated three times, twice by the same party, Grover Cleveland was nominated three times and twice elected by the same party. This year should bring some of the fruits of Bryan's twelve years of asking and seeking and knocking.

Do not understand us to say that we are for Bryan. This is simply a little *resume* of the thoughts coming and going as we have seen Bryan's name year after year in the papers. Things good, bad and indifferent alike have contributed to swell the volume of importunity going up from the million throated press praying for Bryan; one of the people, chosen by the people, leader for the people.

We stand somewhat with the Indianapolis Star, not an especial friend of Bryan nor particularly pleased with the prospect of his election. But "facts is facts." This paper says of him, "In a world of crooked politicians he is straight. In a world of drinking men he is a total abstainer. In a world of the agnostic and the careless he is an avowed believer. He is a church man, a missions man, a praying man. It is a thing to be proud of."

Bryan has gotten into the blood. Bryan is in the air. Not a newspaper in the country, worthy the name that has not been his mouthpiece. A few quotations from some to illustrate, "BRYAN SUPPORTERS GATHER IN BOSTON," Harrisburg, Penn., "BRYAN PARTY FORMED," Jackson, Miss., "BRYAN CHARGES USE OF MONEY," "BRYAN SPOKE TO MEMPHIS AUDIENCE," &c. Such headlines could be quoted indefinitely and then more.

Do you think they are not pleading his cause?

At present the papers are full of such predictions as the following, "Favor is crystalizing around Secretary Taft and his name is being mentioned with more frequency and pleasure. On the other side it is determined at this stage that Mr Bryan will be the candidate." "Kansas has gone for William Jennings Bryan, but news of that sort is simply a repetition of popular sentiment elsewhere in this broad country." Again and again we read such as the following. "The evident Democratic disposition is to accept Bryan and defeat not so gracefully as greedily." We have been so interested in this feature of the Bryanic importunities that the count has been taken in several instances to find the number of times Bryan's name has appeared in one single issue of a paper, and exclusive of political or personal information regarding him we have found it so many as ten or twelve times in little pleasantries alone. To illustrate, One of the things to be considered in thinking of Bryan as a president is that the commoner might become a daily publication." St. Louis Times. "Mr Bryan is fortunate in the hostility of certain yellow newspapers. The more they fight him the stronger he becomes," Buffalo News.

Of one thing rest assured, whoever takes the presidential chair, the worst fears of the pessimist will never be realized; neither will the highest hopes of the optimist be fulfilled. It would be well also to remember that innuendoes and slurs cast at Uncle Sam and his servants are only thorns in ones own flesh, and slime upon ones own person; for each individual is one ninety-millionth part of this great body politic.

We give this little incident to strengthen our position taken in the main editorial, and to present more forcibly the value of importunity.

Camp Meeting John Allen was one of the most picturesque characters of his time in Maine. Apropos of railroad passes a very interesting story is told. It occurred when Governor Morrill was president of the Maine Central. Allen's applications were refused a number of times, because if there was one thing above all others which Morrill disliked it was to issue passes. The governor came down to his office in a somewhat brusque frame of mind that day. Those familiar with the storm signals quietly backed off and waited for an explosion. It came. One of the first letters opened was from Camp Meeting John Allen requesting a pass for "self and wife." The secretary approached his chief with some hesitation.

"Here is another letter from Mr Allen asking for a pass," he said and laid the missive gingerly on the governor's desk.

The governor read it through and blazed away for a few minutes; then, tossing the letter to the astonished secretary he said, "make it out."

The young man retired and began to fill in the various blank lines, but when he came on to "what account" the pass was issued he was puzzled and ventured to seek information.

"On what account, governor?" he asked.

The chief looked irately over his spectacles.

"Account, account? Account of—persistence. Be sure to put it in, too," and he growled as the young man passed out. "These Methodist parsons may have to get us all passes on the road to heaven, and I want Maine Central to have good connections with Camp Meeting John Allen's route."—New York Tribune.

The Japanese government had built nothing bigger than a gunboat previous to 1904 and now in less than four years she puts out an armored cruiser, first class, in less than six months from the time of the laying down of her keel. It is oriental in toto from "stem to stern" from turret to keel by Japanese conception and Japanese material. If the little Japs keep on 'twon't take so long for her to become the "Island Kingdom of the World" as one might think at first sight.

"Mrs Hetty Green says that she had rather have her daughter marry a good, live newspaper man than any duke on earth. Well, there are about as many needy members of the 'fourth estate' as there are impecunious noblemen."—Ex.

Grover Cleveland's Birthday.

Aside from football games and other athletic contests there is only one day in the year when this sleepy old town rouses from its lethargy and lets itself loose. That is the 18th of March, the birthday of Princeton's most distinguished resident, Mr. Grover Cleveland. On that day everybody who is anybody in Princeton calls at the big white house, which is the Cleveland family house, to pay his respects; there is a steady procession of messenger boys delivering telegrams of congratulations, the postman makes extra calls to deliver the letters addressed to the ex-president, and a crowd of college boys marches over to the front lawn of the Cleveland house singing and giving the Princeton yell in his honor.

The noteworthy thing about this demonstration of respect in honor of the only living ex-president is that it grows in volume with every recurring anniversary. Every year the number of visitors, telegrams and letters grows larger and this year, when Mr. Cleveland will be 71 years old, it is expected that the observation of the day will be more general than ever. The Sage of Princeton, as he has come to be called, therefore presents the striking figure of an ex-president who, instead of dropping into comparative obscurity after leaving office, has steadily bulked larger and larger in the public eye. At the present time there is probably no man in the country whose opinions are so frequently sought by the newspapers or who receives so many requests for the endorsement of all sorts of reforms and faddist movements, not even excepting President Roosevelt himself.

There have been some ex-presidents who have been followed into retirement by the plaudits of the country and who were looked up to even more after leaving office than before. Washington, Jefferson, John Quincy Adams and Grant were examples in point. There have been others like Tyler, Fillmore and Hayes who dropped into comparative obscurity as soon as they left the White House. Cleveland's case is unique in that when he quitted the chief magistracy after having been twice elected and a third time receiving a majority of the popular vote, he was one of the best-hated men in the country. His own party had practically disowned him; he had been made the target of violent personal abuse, and he was held responsible for the panic of 1893, just as a great many people are holding President Roosevelt responsible for the panic of 1907. Since that time, however, the public attitude toward Mr Cleveland has changed until he is now fairly deserving of the title given him last year as "the most distinguished private citizen in the world."

A review of the fluctuations in the popularity of Mr Cleveland is given in the March number of Appleton's Magazine by John T. McCutchen, who sums it up in the rather striking title *The Rise, Fall and Rehabilitation of Grover Cleveland*. The article points out that Americans are often more fickle in their treatment of popular idols than the so-called mercurial Latin races, that after crowding honors upon a man, naming cigars, babies and dogs after him, and shouting ourselves hoarse in his praise we suddenly turn our backs on him and leave him wondering what has happened.

"It isn't often given to a man to live through a rise Napoleonic in its swiftness," says the Appleton's article, "to jump to the highest place in the nation; then, with blighting suddenness, to find himself a shattered idol with few to raise a friendly voice against the storm of denunciation, and finally to see that same nation come back to greet him in humble friendliness. Usually a statesman's vindication comes more slowly. He dies, crushed and lonely, in some St Helena and then, long afterward, he becomes the idol of those who helped to crush him. History gives him proper appreciation, but only his descendants may enjoy the tardy award.

"Mr Cleveland has been the exception. He is alive to enjoy his justification. The powerful politicians who knifed him for daring to put country above party have now been forgotten, or have faded into semi-obscurity, but with each passing year the wise old Sage of Princeton, stubborn in his high ideals of duty, unswerving in his old-fashioned honesty, expands

in greatness. His words of homely wisdom are heavy batteries, and when he fires a broadside at some prevailing style of corruption, the country applauds and remarks approvingly; 'Grover's a mighty level-headed old party.'"—Times-Union.

A certain class of people are always harping on the beauty morally and advantage materially as a result if we would just "all pull together." But the great trouble is we all want our rope pulled our way. "Live and let live" is a better motto, and quit this pulling and hauling and get down to sawing at your end of the log and "just keep sawing away."

Attention Veterans.

Headquarters, Camp McMillan.

No. 217, U. C. V.

At our last meeting at Vernon our Camp set the (3rd) third Saturday in March for our next meeting. Having received notice from General Pasco that our Brigade will meet at DeFuniak on the (3rd) third Saturday in March. I therefore call our Camp Meeting at Wausau on Saturday the 14th, 2nd Saturday in March. Please notify all Comrades and be with us on the 14th of March.

S. M. ROBERTSON,
Commander.

J. A. MATHIAS, Adgt.

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TIME TABLE No. 3.

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No. 3	No. 1	Dis	STATION.	No. 2	No. 4
2:40pm	7:30am	0	Lv. Dothan, Ala. Ar.	12:35pm	7:15pm
3:10 "	8:00 "	10	...Hodgesville	12:10 "	6:50 "
3:40 "	8:30 "	20	...Camellton, Fla.	11:40am	6:20 "
3:55 "	8:45 "	26	...Welchton	11:20 "	6:00 "
4:15 "	9:05 "	31	...Cottondale, Fla.	11:02 "	5:45 "
4:45 "	9:35 "	38	...Alford	10:32 "	5:13 "
5:00pm	9:45am	41	Ar. Round Lake Lv	10:27am	5:05pm
.....Fountain
.....Panama City

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