SEEKING A SUBTERFUGE.

MARYLAND REPUBLICANS, ANXIOUS TO GET AWAY FROM THEIR RECORD IN STATE AFFAIRS, ARE SEEKING TO TAKE REFUGE BEHIND THE FINANCIAL QUESTION.

A TRICK THAT CANNOT BE TWICE PLAYED.

They Proclaim Their Purpose to Take "No Step Backward" in Respect to Promises by Which Maryland Democrats Were Once Deceived, but Which Have Been Deliberately Repudiated by the Republican Administration in Congress.

How the Republican Congress Repudiated the Gold Standard Doctrine and Ridiculed Its Advocates.

The Strong Protest of Senator Vilas, and Speeches of Leading Republicans.

The Silver Question, Having Been Put in Abeyance by the Joint Action of All Political Parties, Cannot in Good Faith be Injected into the State Campaign.

The "Republican League of Business Men," recently formed in Baltimore City, with a view to maintaining the fortunes of their party in the coming campaign, commence their "declaration of principles" as follows:

"In 1895 the Republican party of this State in its platform made three distinct promises to the people. It has fulfilled all three.

"First—That it would enact an election law by which the people should be guaranteed fair elections.

"Second—That it would enact an equitable assessment law; and

"Third—That it would submit a civil service act to the people at the polls.

"For the accomplishment of these reforms the people of this city and State witnessed for fifteen or twenty years one of the most bitter struggles waged in any State in the Union. How well the party kept the pledges of its platform is well known."

Then, apparently taking alarm at the painful truth conveyed by the last sentence, they abruptly leave the question of their stewardship of the trust confided to them in State matters and dwell at much length and with amusing vigor upon the extent to which the financial question was a factor in the last campaign, State and national, and affirm that "there must be no step backward in the coming campaign." They declare that "in 1896 men of all parties came together for the protection of the nation's credit and the sound money candidate for the Presidency was elected," and conclude: "It is idle, therefore, to say that only local issues are involved in the present campaign."

This same spirit of fleeing from a defense of their record in State affairs and taking refuge behind the financial question as a national issue is manifested by the Republican press and politicians throughout the State, who have shown a disposition to run to their bomb-proofs all along the line upon the first shots fired by the Democratic press into their sham "reforms" in State matters.

The previous articles of the Democratic Editors' Association have been devoted to showing in some detail and particularity how "well" the Republican party has kept that "pledge of its platform" first above enumerated, as to a "fair election law," and they here promise, in future articles during the pendency of the campaign, to demonstrate in an equally circumstantial and conclusive manner how completely false to its trust it has proved in respect to the two other enumerated reforms—"an equitable assessment law" and "the civil service act."

The purpose of this article is to show upon the public records the absolute bad faith of the Maryland Republicans in their effort to again deceive the people by injecting the financial question into the State campaign

* * *

It is quite true, as stated in the above quoted "declaration of principles," that many Democrats contributed their votes in 1896 to the election of Major McKinley. They did so, as is well known, under the mistaken belief that his party could be depended upon to support the gold standard of monetary value as enunciated in the Indianapolis platform, and that, in deference to the influence which thus secured his election, the Republican administration would adopt a conservative course on the tariff question, and give primary consideration to the principle of "sound money," as thus interpreted. To this mistaken belief on the part of Democrats the astute managers of the Republican campaign openly contributed, and, aside from the frank admonition of Mr. Harrison in his New York speech, it may be said that the whole Republican campaign in the Eastern States was run with the "sound money" idea, as expounded at Indianapolis, for the paramount principle. Especially was this the case in Maryland, where the Republican press and campaigners with one voice loudly proclaimed that the election of McKinley meant the permanent establishment of the gold standard. Deceived and deluded by these false promises, several thousand low tariff Democrats in Baltimore City and elsewhere cast their votes for William McKinley, the great high priest of extreme protection.

* * *

But the records of Congress afford conclusive proof that these promises by which Maryland Democrats were deceived into voting for a Republican President were deliberately repudiated as soon as the Republicans were in power. Instead of holding the tariff question in abeyance,as had been promised, and adopting measures looking to the permanent establishment of the gold standard, the two distinctive measures of the Republican Congress, which assembled one month after the election, were in precisely the opposite direction.

1. The tariff bill upon which they immediately set to work, and which after eight months of contention among themselves over the division of the spoils of protection it carries, has finally been enacted into law, is generally conceded to be, as a measure of extreme protection, in advance even of the famous law of 1890, which bore the name of McKinley.

2. The international monetary conference bill, prepared by Senator Wolcott, the great friend of free silver (who claimed to have stood between his party and defeat by preaching in the West a financial doctrine exactly the converse of that promised in Maryland) which was introduced in Congress in the first days of the December session, and which, by the solid support of the Republicans of both branches was promptly passed, was an open, unequivocal endorsement of the doctrine of the free coinage of both silver and gold and essentially based upon that idea.

This monetary conference bill was openly denounced on the floor of the Senate by Senator Vilas, the confidential friend of Mr. Cleveland, speaking for the gold Democrats, as a breach of faith with the "sound money" sentiment of the Democratic party, and a practical concession of "the fundamental assumption of the Bryan campaign."

MR. VILAS' STRONG PROTEST.

The following is an extract from Mr. Vilas' speech in the Senate:

"Mr. President, I desire simply to express my opposition to this bill, not to engage in a fruitless debate. I shall mention but two or three points of objection, and them briefly.

"In what it says, still more in its implications, the bill is worse than useless—it is highly vicious. It is another of the ambiguous and timid utterances, of the projects, illusory—perhaps it is not too much to say deceitful—by which those of our countrymen who put faith in the declarations of Congress, as guided by wisdom, are perversely taught misconception of the true principles of Government, of finance, and commerce.

"I do not charge that the scheme is not supported with sincerity, nor that in fact no conference is purposed to be held, or if held, no practical result is anticipated—though for this there might be grounds of suspicion, as the Senator from California (Mr. Perkins) intimated yesterday. I take it rather as being what its words indicate, and there find it worse in effect than if merely insincere.

"It proffers again to the public as sound and wise theory that bimetallism, in the sense that a stable, practicable, and useful standard of value may be compounded of the two metals, gold and silver, both enjoying free and unlimited coinage at an arbitrary ratio, if only many nations will try it together instead of ours alone. In that it defies the teaching of history, the advice of experience and experienced men, and the deductions of sound reason. * * *

"In either aspect the pursuit of a bimetallic standard of such a character is as idle as would be human effort to divert the Gulf Stream or warm the climate of the poles.

"But still more, this bill implies to the public mind, and the inference is certain that such a standard of value is far better and more desirable than the present. It is complete acknowledgment of the fundamental assumption of the Bryan campaign that a gold standard of monetary measurement, however freely silver may be used within the sphere of its practical usefulness, is wrong, not right, a false, not a true, standard, the product of evil law, not of just and natural law, an injury done society by human error which can be in some way redressed, and therefore ought to be. And it fairly leads to the recent issue that but for the wicked resistance of other countries the grievous wrong might be righted and the woes of mankind, here and elsewhere, vastly alleviated. Sir, no wonder men listened to the siren tones that lured them toward this fancied blessing and said: 'Let us try it alone, let us be free and independent, let us have the boon of prosperity, 'without the consent of any other nation on earth.'

"If they had been right in their basis, which this vicious and misleading bill now implies, they were right in this insistence, for it is assuredly a truth, sir, in my poor opinion, that any people under the sun may pursue alone the sound principles of finance, commerce, business and good government, without any exception whatever of a single principle among all that rule those subjects, independently of other nations, and be gainers, not losers, by their faithful adherence to them. Not always to the full extent that co-operation with others would insure but always to advantage and benefit far beyond any attainable by not pursuing them."

REPUBLICANS RIDICULE MR. VILAS AND DEFEND THE DOUBLE STANDARD.

The leading Republicans of both branches of Congress, not only by the open support of this free silver measure, repudiated the promises by which Maryland Democrats were deceived, but they subjected Mr. Vilas and the gold Democrats whom he represented to unfriendly criticism amounting almost to ridicule. Let the following extracts from speeches of leading Republicans bear witness:

SENATOR HOAR IN BEHALF OF SILVER.

The following is an extract from the speech of Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, in support of the bill and in criticism of Mr. Vilas:

"Mr. President, I should like to say one or two words upon this matter, not to delay the vote. A good many Senators have spoken as if they think the possibility of an international arrangement for bimetallism is a mere chimera or dream, and have almost implied that those persons who propose to make the attempt are endeavoring to mislead somebody or cajole somebody or turn the attention of somebody away from what is practical in this matter. But I think those gentlemen fail to take into consideration one or two facts. There is no doubt whatever that a very large majority of the people of the civilized world are in favor of having what is known as the double standard—gold and silver—prevail. Look at the condition of public sentiment in the United States. There are a few worthy gentlemen who agree with what I understand is the opinion of my very able and industrious friend from Wisconsin (Mr. Vilas), which he has just announced. But the Democratic party and the Populist party, the supporters of Mr. Bryan, who are counted by millions in this country, believe that doctrine. The Republican party, so far as it can be judged by its platform, has declared its belief in that doctrine, and has pledged itself to promote this result. There are a few exceptions, as I have said. There is the exception represented by my honorable friend the Senator from Wisconsin. Then there is my honorable friend the Senator from Nevada (Mr. Stewart), who says, if I understand him correctly, that he does not want foreign nations to agree to use silver as a money with us, and have it established for their benefit. * * *

"Mr. President, how is it in foreign nations? I had some exceptional and unusual means of learning something about the matter this last summer when I was abroad. * * *

"I do not wish to be understood in saying this as expressing confidence that this consummation is at hand at all, but I wish to state that the time has come for another effort. I wish to state that this opinion in these four great nations, France, Germany, the United States, and England, saying nothing of Russia and of the smaller Latin nations or of the smaller nations on the north—some of whom, though not all, are eager to follow if France and Germany will take the lead—is growing. It will be stronger twelve months hence than it is now. It is stronger now than it was twelve months ago. And it is the opinion of a vast majority of the thinking men, of the men engaged in agriculture, of the men engaged in manufacture, and also of the scholars of the universities of mankind, whether this thing will be accomplished in three months or three years, it is coming, and coming to stay."

SENATOR ALLISON FOR BI-METALLISM.

Senator Allison, of Iowa, is the leading Republican of the Senate. He also criticised Mr. Vilas' gold standard views and advocated bimetallism. The following is an extract from his speech:

"Mr. President, this chamber seems to be divided very much as the country is divided, into those who believe in the single gold standard, because they believe it is not possible to have a double standard and equivalence of value between the two metals in circulation, and those who believe it is wiser and better for us to have a single standard of silver. So I find the Senator from Nevada (Mr. Stewart), and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. Vilas) in loving accord opposing this measure. There are others who believe that the metallic money of the world consists of both gold and silver, that it has always consisted of these two metals and is likely to continue to consist of them. The Senator from Wisconsin says the two metals have never circulated side by side. I shall not take the time to argue now that he is mistaken, but it is an historical fact they practically circulated side by side for hundreds of years when the ratio of a given number of commercial nations was the same.

"Mr. President, I do not advocate this policy because it is found in the platform adopted at St. Louis. I advocate it because I be-

(Concluded on third page.)

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