

BEFORE THE JURY.

The issues have been joined. The contention on each side has been set out. The testimony in the case has been elicited. The arguments have been presented and summed up. This morning the case is with the jury, and the people are waiting for the verdict.

The jury is composed of 15,000,000 sovereign citizens of the American Republic. The matters involved in the case are the honor and the well-being of this great nation—76,000,000 free-born Americans. The task of deciding rightly is a grave one, a momentous one. A high sense of duty and a clear comprehension of the case are essential to rendering a right verdict. Prejudice should be swept aside by every voter, and he should vote, as in the sight of heaven, for what he thinks will be for the highest honor of his country and for the best interests of his countrymen. Which set of principles will make the flag of my country most glorious in the eyes of the nations of the earth? Which set of policies will make most for the material and intellectual interests of my countrymen? These are the questions every voter should put to his own conscience today, as he stands in the booth to vote.

We think it is not claiming an iota too much to say that the Republican party stands for all the multitudinous interests involved in true Americanism in all its ramifications, and for the aggregate sum of them all in their entirety.

There is absolutely no reason why a Republican should change sides in this national political contest. There is every reason why he should stand loyally with his party and do his duty by the party and by the country by voting for William McKinley for President. The party is true to its principles and to its best traditions. It stands fast, it stands firm, it stands sure, it stands true for all that is greatest and most glorious in the history of this great nation; and it so stands for all that has made the Republican party the dominant party of the nation since the Democracy in 1860 became recreant to its trust and false to all that was good in it before.

The record of the past four years, in wise legislation on financial and fiscal questions, the new banking act and the new tariff act, has lifted this country from the deep Slough of Despond in which it was in 1895. President Cleveland in his messages to Congress recognized these conditions. Mr. Bryan tried to ride into office on the same distressful conditions. They are passed from sight and the whole country is on a flood tide of prosperity in all branches of industry never known in all its history. Is it not worth our while to try and keep these conditions in full force? Why try any change or chance of change?

The record of these four years will in the time to come be regarded by generations to be born as one of the most splendid pages in the history of our country. Never before has the United States stood out in the light of so bright a glory on the globe as she does this day. The flag is an emblem of greater power and of even higher glory than it has been heretofore. The course of the administration in directing the armies and navies of the nation to great achievements in a foreign war, and again in dealing with the vexed questions arising in China, has won the respect, yes, the admiration of the world.

So the matter stands. So it is the case goes to the jury today. That the verdict will be one of conclusive unanimity on the part of patriotic and intelligent Americans, in favor of the best interests of the people and in favor of the highest honor of the nation, there can be, there must be, no doubt.

TO PATRIOTIC DEMOCRATS—GREETING:

We stand today not only at the threshold of a new century, but also at the opening of a new era, fraught with great potentialities for our beloved country. The election of today is the most important that has been held since the perilous days of the Civil War, when the United States was threatened with disruption. It is a time for true patriotism and calm logic on the part of all Americans who love the flag. It is a time when the representatives of selfish demagoguery and windy bombast should be relegated to the rear.

The double falsehood was conceived and has been widely circulated that the Republican administration is aiming at imperialism abroad and fostering the trusts at home.

It has been conclusively shown, to the satisfaction of all fair-minded men, that the acquisition of the Philippine Islands—which was practically forced upon the nation as a result of the Spanish war—is in direct accord with the previous acquisition of United States territory by Democratic administrations, and that it is the honest intent of the administration to give the inhabitants of those islands a better government than they have hitherto conceived of as possible.

It is admitted that the four years of the McKinley administration have been years of unexampled prosperity for the country, notwithstanding the great expense of two foreign wars. It is admitted that under Democratic rule this country was plunged into the Slough of Despond. It is admitted, even by fair-minded Democratic journals, that McKinley has displayed an exceptionally high grade of patriotic statesmanship, and has successfully steered the ship of state through a most stormy and perilous period.

And yet the intelligent voters of the United States are asked today to cast their ballots in favor of a radical change, and to place at the helm, in this critical juncture, an untried man.

In brief, Bryan is an apostle of Dishonor, Doubt and Disaster, while McKinley is the representative of Patriotism, Progress and Prosperity. "Choose ye, this day, whom ye will serve."

CLOSING WORDS.

These words are not penned in a spirit of controversy. They are addressed more especially to the hearts and the consciences of those who may read them.

It is every man's privilege, in this our glorious republic, to speak and write and vote as his conscience dictates. We are all glad that it is so. We are all thankful for our priceless birthright of freedom. As citizens and patriots we should each and all stand ready to defend this inheritance, if need be, with "our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

Opinions will differ. It is well that they do; for honest differences of opinion beget opposing parties, opposing parties beget discussion, and out of the clouds of discussion at last emerges the white star of Truth, which lights the path of progress.

In the campaign just closing The Times has sought to present the truth as it sees the truth. We have no quarrel with those who honestly differ from our views. The man who votes in accord with his sincere convictions performs his duty well, whether he performs it wisely or not. But every voter should seek to perform his duty today, both well and wisely.

At this last hour The Times asks every voter to pause before he stamps his ballot and ask himself, in the sacred privacy of the voting booth, whether he is about to vote wisely or unwisely.

These are the questions that each individual voter should ask himself before casting his ballot. And can these questions, if answered honestly and truthfully, be answered otherwise than thus?

The Republican party stands for progress and for prosperity. A vote for McKinley will mean a vote for the continuance of the prosperous conditions which we have enjoyed since his inauguration; for national expansion and for the sovereignty of our flag wherever it floats; for law and order; for liberty, justice and humanity; for the full dinner pail and the general employment of labor; for an honest dollar, worth exactly one hundred cents wherever it circulates; for sound public credit; for a protective tariff, enabling American labor and American enterprise to maintain themselves against the underpaid and underfed labor of foreign lands; and for all the principles and conditions that have made our nation, under Republican management and control, the greatest nation of ancient or modern times.

Opposed to these principles is the Bryan party, which stands for retrogression, for industrial adversity, for commercial depression. A vote for Bryan will mean a vote for the cessation of the prosperity which set in with the election of McKinley; it will mean a vote to haul down our flag and meanly sink away from our duties in the Philippines, virtually confessing that Aguinaldo is a patriot and that we are oppressors; a vote for anarchy and mob rule—the worst form of "imperialism" imaginable; for the empty dinner-pail; for the throwing of laboring men out of employment and into idleness, or worse; for public soup houses and Coxeys armies; for a depreciated currency and impaired national credit; for free trade and the wreck of domestic industries; for the benefit of foreign syndicates and workmen; a vote, in brief, against all the conditions and principles that have made our nation great and honored among the powers of the earth.

Which shall it be? It is for you, voter, to decide today.