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Is admired by all women; so is the
WOMAN'S PAGE
of the JOURNAL.

WILLIAM R. MORRISON AND HIS STRONG POLITICAL VIEWS.

Interesting Personal Traits and Characteristics of the Noted Illinois Statesman, Soldier and Presidential Aspirant.

Always Looked Upon as One of the Strong Figures of the Democracy.

Though Poor in Worldly Goods, He Is Rich in Mental Resources, Courage and Honesty.

FINANCIAL VIEWS PLAINLY STATED.

He Would Continue the Use of Both Gold and Silver, but Does Not See How It Can Be Done Under Present Conditions.

It was at Springfield, in Springer's district, during the last Congressional campaign, the Democratic management had made a round-up of their best and strongest. The list of names included those two notables of a Jackson Democracy, Colonel William R. Morrison and Vice-President Stevenson.

It was an occasion of political gala. The crowd was full of enthusiasm; the speakers overflowed with eloquence; hope rode on the Democratic air, and Springer, who was doing the running, with his daily carnation blazing in his buttonhole, felt and seemed a winner.

One of the unscheduled features was a little, gray man, very drunk, who sat in a front seat. At odd and inopportune intervals the small, gray, drunken man sprang to his unsteady feet, gave forth a war cry and declared:

"Rah! for Adley Stevenson, th' nex' Pres'dnt of th' United States!"

This full of old the gray, small, drunken man declaimed, and his meagre voice, shrill and harsh as a hen hawk's, split the air like a knife.

Colonel Morrison approached the front of the platform to begin his remarks. The gray, small man, with his drunkenness, sat immediately beneath his nose. At this crisis, and before Morrison could begin, the gray, small man was on his feet, with his off-beat yell:

"Rah! for Adley Stevenson, th' nex' Pres'dnt of th' United States!"

Morrison bent a twinkling, kindly eye upon him.

"That's right, old man," said Morrison, "keep yelling and don't grow weary in well doing. To encourage you, I'll say that if Stevenson won't take it, I will."

Morrison Was Announced.

The crowd cheered; and this, one might

own view of the question upon which the convention is likely to be at variance?"

"None," continued Colonel Morrison, "except that I am not a master of the subject, and do not know a way, which seems practicable, to settle the money question as I think it should be settled. It appears that half the convention—maybe more—will advocate free silver coinage—10 to 15—which, as things now are, will speedily result in silver being our only money of redemption. It would retire gold as money, and leave us on the silver basis. We would have temporarily fewer dollars, and these very much less valuable as money."

Would Use Both Metals.

"Part, maybe a majority, of the convention will press the Administration plan of adhering to the single gold standard, and retiring Treasury notes; our money and currency then to consist of gold and national bank notes, the silver we now have to be kept at par with gold, as now, and for use in smaller transactions. Gold alone is now a too narrow and insufficient money basis. We have borrowed, by sale of bonds, \$80,000,000 each year of this Administration to keep on as we are going. Under the Administration plan the national banks, to keep their money good, would need to supply gold when demanded, as the Treasury does now, and would do it, as the Treasury does now, at the public expense. As often as hard times overtook us, business wrecking would set in; time for settling would be upon us, and the property of the financially weak would pass to the strong."

"If I had my way about it I would, as is said in the act repealing the Sherman law, 'condemne the use of both gold and silver as standard money,' which has been so often declared to be the Democratic policy. If you are going to ask me how this is to be done, I say frankly I do not see the way under present circumstances without the co-operation of other countries, and this co-operation I see no immediate prospect of securing."

"Have you read Secretary Carlisle's Chicago speech?" I asked.

"Yes. It is a discussion as to the effect of depreciated currency on the wages of labor. I do not believe, and doubt if anybody does, that a depreciated currency is a good thing for labor or any other interest. Mr. Carlisle has such intellectual strength

period of inquiry or illustration so as to include 1873 to 1878 and some after years.

Not Due to Free Silver.

"He also calls attention to the low wages paid in Mexico and the silver countries of the East as evidence of how silver reduces wages. But wages in Mexico were below ours when their silver dollar was worth as much anywhere in the world as our gold dollar. This makes the common man believe that the lower rate of wages in Mexico or elsewhere comes of other causes than the low value of their silver dollar."

"It would, I think, be absurd to credit their progress to free silver, yet the fact remains that two countries which have achieved marked progress in the last twenty years have been Japan and Mexico, where silver is still the principal coin. Japan has just won her place among great nations, and the progress of Mexico is hardly less remarkable."

"Mr. Carlisle discusses the evil effects of 16 to 1 silver coinage, rather than the good we may expect from the Administration money plan. It is difficult to keep up with the Administration; it so often moves on in the direction of the demands of the thrifty in finance. I would be willing to take as the Democratic policy or platform the declaration made in the law repealing the Sherman act. Here it is:

"And it is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States to continue the use of both gold and silver as standard money, and to coin both gold and silver into money of equal intrinsic and exchangeable value, such equality to be secured through international agreement, or by such safeguards of legislation as will insure the maintenance of the parity in value of the coins of the two metals, and the equal power of every dollar at all times in the markets and in the payment of debts. And it is hereby further declared that the efforts of the Government should be steadily directed to the establishment of such a safe system of bimetallicism as will maintain at all times the equal power of every dollar coined or issued by the United States, in the markets and in the payment of debts."

"This was voted for by many so-called silver and anti-silver Senators and Members, and was approved and signed by the President during this Administration. Such a declaration of purpose best indicates the way to the prosperity and progress of our people. But any policy under our Government must respond to the popular will, which should not be arbitrarily overthrown."

"To insure such a policy, counsel should rather be taken of the people's representatives than of a bunch of financiers, who may be learned in their craft, but whose



WILLIAM R. MORRISON.
He is a candidate from Illinois for the Democratic Presidential nomination; has pronounced views on the financial question; does not believe in a free use of the veto power, and is acceptable to the silver men of his State.
(Sketched from life by a Journal staff artist.)



say, the candidacy of Morrison for the Democratic nomination in '96 was announced. To-day he is the declared choice of many of the most potent of the chiefs of the party; not the least of whom is that Black Douglas of Democracy, David Bennett Hill.

What the Southern element would describe as "a powerful smart chance" exists that, with utter silver and Richard E. Bland on one side, and William E. Russell and utter gold on the other, as an end to distraction the fame of Morrison will meet with high convention favor, and his choice be made. All the more might this be looked for by those who peer from the turkeys of politics, were the St. Louis Republican Convention to come to a split. With added reason for harmony the Democracy would cluster about Morrison like swarming bees.

For all these opening probabilities a word from Morrison on the question which fills the day is not amiss. I sought him in Washington in the rooms of the Interstate Commerce Commission, of which railway court he is the chief.

"What is the prospect of Democratic harmony on the silver or money question in the Chicago Convention?" I asked.

"Indoubtedly there will be a division of opinion," replied Colonel Morrison, "but the convention should find harmony in the will of the majority."

"Have you any objection to giving your

Morrison Gives His Views on the Financial Question.

(Sketched from life by a Journal staff artist.)

and balance that it is sometimes difficult to tell which side he is on of the line between what is and what is not. He has a way of riveting things together intellectually which have no other connection. He used a Senate sub-committee report respecting wages and prices to show the injurious effect of depreciated currency on the wages of labor, and claimed this as proof that 10 to 1 silver coinage would especially and in an exceptional way be hurtful to laboring men. This report covered a period of fifty-two years, including the thirty years from 1862 to 1894. The Secretary took for his purpose only the seven years from 1862 to 1869, during which the rise in wages did not keep up with the increase in the price of the things wages buy. The Senate report shows that wages in the currency paid for labor continually fell from 1878, when silver was demonetized, until 1878, and again increased from the passage of the Bland-Allison bill in that year. The same report shows the increase of wages since the war measured in gold was very much greater before than after 1873. A fuller consideration of what bearing 10 to 1 silver coinage might have on wages would result if the Secretary had so extended his

place as its purpose. The charge broke on the Confederate entrenchments like a billow. When the underflow of attack set backward Morrison was left behind as dead.

His obituaries were published. They were later found to be an error. They were all right—excellent, good obituaries, alike a credit to authors as to Morrison. The one error arose from Morrison's failure to remain dead.

He revived, fell to the care of the hospitals, and the news went North to negate the obituaries. Mrs. Morrison found her devoted way through the smoke of battle to the very blazing front of war itself, and brought him back to home and health in Illinois.

Then he was named for Congress by the local Democracy—the party to which he always belonged. The platform was weak, hinted at the war as a failure, and babbling of peace at any disgraceful price. Morrison smiled as he read it together with the notice of his nomination. With a grim twinkle of the eye he wrote across it to the committee:

"Gentlemen: Interpreting your platform to urge a vigorous prosecution of the war, at whatever cost to final success, I accept your nomination. WILLIAM R. MORRISON."

"Thus did Morrison first go to Congress. Grant wrote across his resignation as he accepted it: "We lose one of our bravest officers."

At Fort Donaldson Morrison led a charge against so deadly and ferocious a foe that compared therewith Napoleon's little trip with his light brigade at Balaklava was a mission of white wings with a milk-pore

district just below St. Louis on the Illinois side of the river. This was in 1826. He is a resident of that region to-day. His father was born there in 1800. They were Scotch—the Morrisons of the Highland broadsword breed. Morrison has all of the vigor, the honesty, the valor, both moral and personal, as well as the poverty of a Highlander. There is but one great difference between Morrison and your true Scot: Morrison has a glint for his humor, which is as foreign to the Highlands as Helvelth.

Morrison has done and stood for many notable matters. He is about the only man whose history, at the Pension Bureau, records as having refused a pension after it was granted. When the law gave every Mexican war soldier a pension, Morrison returned the first instalment and directed his name to be stricken from the rolls.

After the war, Morrison was the first tariff reformer. He struggled for lower taxes from the moment he stepped into Congress, and stood to defend the public money, as well as the public's pockets, from those thieves who, under the cover of legislation, siphon the one and search the others.

On tariff it was Morrison who, as chief of the Ways and Means Committee, while Carlisle was Speaker, first proposed "protection," said Morrison, "other than that incidental to revenue, is spoliation. It takes from one to give to another. Protection which would take equally and bestow equally would be no protection; better nobody, harm nobody."

It was in 1854, twelve years ago, when Morrison made and reported his famous "Horizontal Bill," reducing the tariff. Randall, the Simon Girty of the Democracy, drew about him enough resagades to come blue with the Republican forces of protection and defeat the bill by four votes.

Since that time, however, "tariff reform" has been a party watchword, and on this issue the Democracy has twice won a White House in the dozen years that have passed. If the Democracy stands to lose that White House in the contest drawing on, it need not, at least, be attributed to Morrison or the issue he forged. Democratic degeneracy has other causes. The mice of Mugwumpery, for one matter, have been gnawing its roots.

On the subject of finance, Morrison speaks in his interview above. If one were to light the lamp of fullest inquiry and search Morrison for his every thought on the money subject, one would find that as conditions now collide and the shoin of finance is entangled to-day, Morrison does not see a path to the possibility of maintaining two coinages, one gold and one silver. It could not be done without an agreement among the nations.

"And you can't expect the creditor nations, like England," says Morrison, "to agree to anything which would, by cheapening money, depreciate their dues."

But One Other Native Left.
Morrison does not look for any international agreement which will make silver the general money, shouider to shouider with gold, and yet he believes that this failure of the world to agree leaves but one alternative to America—all gold or all silver. He sees no middle ground.

There is this, however, which Morrison does believe which makes him available at Chicago. It is no new tenet, and was once a favorite plank of party platforms in the old wars of the Whigs and the Democrats. He does not believe the veto power was

given to a President to play with as might some perverse infant with a rattle-box. It should be this veto power—only be invoked, thinks Morrison, when some grave constitutional question is at bay.

There would be no such question produced by any bill of finance, whether it were as yellow as saffron with gold, or like silver, pale as a ghost. And with Morrison at the White House, whatever Congress by its vote declared as a money law, would meet no death-stab by a veto. It would become law.

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DANGER FOR REPUBLICANS

General Michener Warns His Party Against the Pitfalls of Over-Confidence and the Financial Question.

Washington, April 19.—General L. T. Michener, the Republican leader of Indiana, sounds a note of warning to his party. The tendency to over-confidence, in his opinion, is the grave danger that surrounds the Republicans. General Michener will be remembered as one of the Harrison managers at Chicago in 1858, and later at the Monacaolis convention of '62. He is now living here and enjoys the confidence of the bosses and the reformers.

"The Republican party," said General Michener, "is beset with dangers. One is over-confidence. The rank and file of the Republican party, and too many of its leaders, think this an easy campaign—a 'yellow' campaign—and have no doubt of the result. An over-confident party is half whipped. The exuberant, thoughtless, impulsive and unreflective attend the primaries and are elected delegates to the nominating conventions, where they make weak nominations and construct unworkable platforms. Strife and discord follow. Sober-minded men become disgusted. Party organization is neglected and independent voting follows."

"One danger is the factional strife in several States that we ought to carry if harmony prevailed in them. The party is sadly divided in the city and State of New York. The new liquor law may add to the burden there. The Democratic party for the first time since 1832 is hoping for victory in that State and will struggle hard for it. Many thoughtful men believe we are in serious danger in the Empire State. The elections of 1895 gave us Kentucky and Maryland, and there seemed good reason to believe that we would carry both States next fall, but the unfortunate factional strife being waged in each of those States makes success very doubtful. If the feeling of serene confidence continues we may expect sharp and dangerous factional differences in other States, for when hope reigns, ambitions and rivalries flourish."

"Is there danger in the silver problem?" "There is. Free silver men are to be found in nearly every community. The number in the East is far greater than is generally believed. They are to be found here in all parties. They are multitudes in the Central States and they abound in the South and the far West. They are likely to dominate the Democratic National Convention, and the delegates from Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Montana will make a determined effort in our national convention to secure nominees and a platform to their liking."

"What if they do not succeed?" "Who knows? The Republicans of those States who believe in free silver may feel obliged to leave their party or organize a new one. I know that many of their leading men are seriously thinking of taking the latter step. At any rate, we are in danger of losing the thirteen electoral votes of those States, as well as their representation in the next Congress. How are we to pass tariff legislation through the next Congress without the help of the Senators from those States? That is surely a serious question."

Mrs. Hilton Regaining Strength.
Mrs. Margaret Hilton, the woman living at No. 239 Henry street, who was arrested just after leaving the hospital, on a charge of soliciting, on Thursday night last, was said to be considerably improved last evening at Bellevue.

NEBRASKA DEMOCRATS DIFFER
Many Indorse Free Silver and Others Are for Sound Money

Omaha, Neb., April 19.—Democratic county conventions were held all over Nebraska yesterday to elect delegates to the State silver convention called at Lincoln April 22. In nearly every instance the delegates were instructed "for the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1, without waiting for the consent of any other nation on earth."

Many conventions endorsed W. J. Bryan for the nomination for President at the Chicago convention. Administration Democrats held conventions in two counties and passed resolutions endorsing the policy of Interstate Commerce, close with a White House, the President's office will have held no better since the broad and dignified day of George Washington.

ALFRED HENRY LEWIS.
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