

# THE DEMOCRAT.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

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## A WORD EDITORIAL.

First and foremost, this is a Democratic paper, and its editorial policy will be nothing if not liberal, and it is sincerely hoped that it will not be nothing. The DEMOCRAT has sounded the key-note of its purpose in the most conspicuous line of the present issue, that good, solid old Jeffersonian dictum, "Equal rights to all and special privileges to none." In the conduct of this august periodical, fellow students, your editorial board avows this as its single policy, to give every man in college a chance to express his political

views in any way his Democracy dictates, without regard to his preference for Bryan, Johnson, Daniel, Carmack, Culberson, Gray, or whomsoever else in the world political.

And so with this statement of our intentions we invite—nay, urge all the men in college who are interested in the outcome of the Lexington Convention—and who can fail to be?—to consider the DEMOCRAT their paper and to contribute to it accordingly.

## OUR CONVENTION; THE WHY AND THE HOW.

The idea of a National Democratic Convention at Washington and Lee is much like Topsy, it "jest grew." No one would gainsay the statement that the Economics Department is largely responsible, but the fundamental reason for its existence is that a large proportion of the student-body considered from the start that it was most emphatically "worth while." It will be a striking object-lesson in politics, and there are some additional advantages that will readily suggest themselves to the student of a growing university. So much for the Why; as to how the Convention will be conducted an elaborate article will appear in our next issue,

and this statement of "ways and means" is recommended to any one desiring specific information on the details of the work.

## THE ISSUES OF THE CAMPAIGN.

The main debatable territory between the Democrats and the Republicans in 1908 will be the old fighting-ground of the Tariff. All parties throughout the country with the sole exception of a few great corporate interests are opposed to the Dingley bill. All moderate and progressive Republicans believe that our present tariff schedule should be revised, but even this scheme of moderate protection is opposed by the reactionary wing of the party. A splendid opportunity is thus offered the Democratic party to begin a fight on the principle of protection, and to urge a revision of the tariff along the lines of a tariff for revenue only. Of course, this result can not be attained at once, but the universal dissatisfaction with the existing conditions points to this as a good time to begin the fight.

The Democratic party should also insist on more efficient regulation of great corporations, and especially of the great transportation companies.

Progressive Democrats demand federal guarantee of national bank deposits, and the rather general discontent occasioned by the Fabian policy of the present session of Congress ought, in the light of recent financial history, to mean something in November.

The Democratic candidates are pretty well aligned on the time-worn question of over-sea expansion—the attempt, as Mark Twain puts it, of the American people to get into good international "society" through having dependencies.

In general, then, it may be said that the 1908 campaign will be conducted on lines of regulation, of which the main phases will be tariff, currency, corporations and imperialism.

## A PERSONAL ESTI- MATE OF WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

Mr. Editor: As I am accused of having the "Bryan craze," I will give you my personal opinion of William Jennings Bryan.

In the first place, I do not believe that Mr. Bryan is understood even by a large per cent. of his friends, and certainly not by his enemies; for example, in the aftermath of the St. Louis convention of 1904, when



Judge Parker was chosen national standard bearer, the newspapers that had opposed Mr. Bryan clamored long, lustily and loudly that William J. Bryan was done for, that he would be heard of no longer as a factor in national politics, and great double-headers in some of the big dailies published such prophecies. And now in the light of present events how do such things read? I ask in all sincerity, who has been relegated to the rear? And this incident of political history is mentioned not to wound the feelings of any Democrat, but to illustrate the point that is to be made. When Judge Parker's defeat overtook him in 1904, who was the man in all our Democratic party that could speak words of cheer and comfort like William J. Bryan? Although the Democratic party has been defeated, roused and almost completely captured, still Bryan had words of hope, words of cheer, and showed that he was still master of the situation.

General Robert E. Lee has not shown the world a greater spirit of nobility at Appomattox than W. J. Bryan has shown after great political defeats. In all of his defeats his faith in God has never failed him, he has never doubted the correctness of public opinion, if properly informed, and left to its own free-will for an expression. Mr. Bryan's faith in mankind is unparalleled by any character of modern history.

Then again, he is not an office-seeker in the ordinary sense of the term. He believes that we, the people of America, through the Declaration of Independence, received a certain form of government, and in order to maintain this form of government, we must not be guilty of certain legal or political conduct, which if left to itself will destroy our first principles of

government, and in order to defend these principles he is ready to throw himself in the breach, and this is why he comes so naturally to the front.

An ordinary politician, who looks for immediate reward in politics, can not properly appreciate the character of Mr. Bryan. In the arena of politics Mr. Bryan is a born leader; with his eloquence, with his knowledge and his sense of right it would be impossible for him to take any but a prominent place among his people.

Again, Mr. Bryan is a Christian. This profession he gave to the world when a young boy, and it is a profession that he has ever made good. When but a youth he was ever willing to stand up and read and pray in public. In all his ups and downs he has kept the Sabbath day holy. He has implicit faith in the truth of the Bible. In his daily life he accepts the Bible as an infallible book. Mr. Bryan is a great believer in the power of prayer. Men who write criticisms of Mr. Bryan always do it from their point of view, and the writer desires to say that sometimes this is so patent that it is inexcusable.

In regard to the number of times that Mr. Bryan will hereafter be before the people of the United States, he has given an answer that speaks for itself. Last winter in Washington City, at the celebration of the Grid-iron Club, when Mr. Bryan's turn came to speak, the question was put to him, "When you are defeated the third time, what are you going to do then?" Quick as lightning came the reply, "You have a candidate whose age is such that I can run six more times before I am as old as he." The meaning of this is that so long as there is a political wrong to right, William Jennings Bryan will be ready to help right that wrong.

JOHN A. McNEIL.

## JOHNSON CLUB ORGANIZED

The John A. Johnson Democratic Club of Washington and Lee University held its first regular meeting in Engineering Hall on April 16. About seventy-five members were present and an enthusiastic Johnson boom was started.

Due to the absence of Mr. W. M. Johnson, temporary chairman, Mr. J. W. Claudy took the chair, and the club proceeded with the election of regular officers. The election resulted in the choice of

Mr. J. R. Caskie, President.  
Mr. W. M. Johnson, Vice-President.

Mr. J. S. Gravelly, Secretary.  
Mr. Epes made a motion that a campaign committee, consisting of twelve members, be appointed by the regular officers to promote interest in the movement among the entire student body. The motion was unanimously carried.

The club then decided to elect a press committee to keep the Democrats in college and elsewhere posted on what the Johnson Club is doing, and also to keep the fact ever fresh in the memories of those who still have Commoner affiliations that Governor Johnson's supporters will still be doing business about May the fourth.

It seemed to be the general sentiment of the club that the Democrats of Washington and Lee are rapidly coming to realize that Johnson is the candidate who can win in November, the candidate who will be nominated in Denver in July and in Lexington on May fourth.

Look at Johnson's policies before choosing your candidate. His is the platform on which any successful Democratic candidate must run in 1908.

## QUERIES

Who is the "dark horse?"  
Is there any truth in the rumor that our Connecticut delegation is going to support a prohibition plank in the platform?

Who says we shall not have a new gymnasium if Bryan is nominated on the first ballot?  
Didn't somebody whisper "Bailey?"

Well, why shouldn't the outcome at Denver be in doubt till May 4?

What is the effect of rapid heating upon a supersaturated solution of Bryan and Johnson in the proportion of 16 to 1?

Will the Virginia delegation go to Denver uninstructed?

When the Bryan Club had met in the court house, why should the Johnson Club organize in the history room?

Will our Utah delegation adopt the unit rule?  
What is the enrollment of the Carmack Club?

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