

completely as to the best course for the democratic party to pursue. This harmony is so harmonious as to arouse the suspicion that either the republicans are badly deceived as to what is best for their party or that gold democrats are very much mistaken as to what is best for the democratic party.

“THE PEOPLE SOVEREIGN.”

In his seventh annual message to congress, President Monroe said:

Meeting in you a new congress, I deem it proper to present this view of public affairs in greater detail than it might otherwise be necessary. I do it, however, with peculiar satisfaction, from a knowledge that in this respect I shall comply more fully with the sound principles of our government. The people being with us exclusively the sovereign, it is indispensable that full information be laid before them on all important subjects, to enable them to exercise that high power with complete effect. If kept in the dark, they must be incompetent to do it. We are all liable to error, and those who are engaged in the management of public affairs are more subject to excitement and to be led astray by their particular interests and passions than the great body of our constituents, who, living at home in the pursuit of their ordinary avocations, are calm, but deeply interested spectators of events and of the conduct of those who are parties to them. To the people every department of the government and every individual in each are responsible, and the more full their information the better they can judge of the wisdom of the policy pursued and of the conduct of each in regard to it. From their dispassionate judgment much aid may always be obtained, while their approbation will form the greatest incentive and most gratifying reward of virtuous actions, and the dread of their censure the best security against the abuse of their confidence. Their interests in all vital questions are the same, and the bond, by sentiment as well as by interest, will be proportionately strengthened as they are better informed of the real state of public affairs, especially in difficult conjunctions. It is by such knowledge that local prejudices and jealousies are surmounted, and that a national policy, extending its fostering care and protection to all the great interests of our union, is formed and steadily adhered to.

This sentiment from one of the greatest as well as one of the earliest presidents is respectfully commended to the present chief executive, who not only meets a new congress, but is himself new

to the responsibilities so suddenly and unexpectedly thrust upon him.

The people have been agitated by conflicting principles; they have discussed conflicting policies and they have been led or misled by conflicting evidence. It would be well for the president to take the people into his confidence at the very beginning of his official career and state to them the facts as he understands them and the policies which he believes it best to pursue. If he believes that a "branch bank" is a desirable thing, let him frankly say so and give his reasons; if he believes that an "asset currency" is safe, let him declare it; if he thinks that the silver dollar should be made redeemable in gold, let him say so and also state whether he recognizes the fact that the retirement of the silver dollar is the natural and necessary result of its being made redeemable in gold. If he thinks that a national bank note, issued for the profit of the banks and controlled in volume by banks for their own interests, is better than a greenback, let him state his position and invite judgment upon it. If he thinks that a private monopoly is a good thing, let him explain why; or, if he believes that it is indefensible and intolerable, let him point out an efficient remedy.

If he believes in the strenuous doctrine that this nation will decay unless it diverts itself with the pastime of subjugating or killing off "inferior races," let him openly announce his advocacy of an imperial policy and reconcile, if he can, the principle of such a policy with the principles of a republic. If he believes in taxation without representation and government without the consent of the governed, let him apologize, in the name of the American people, for the war of the revolution and for the loud professions which we have made on the subject for more than a century. If, on the contrary, he accepts the doctrines set forth in the Declaration of Independence, let him reconcile them with the actions of our carpet-bag government in the Philippines, or use his great influence to bring the government back to its old foundations.

The president has shown that he possesses physical courage; will he now prove his possession of moral courage? Will he be entirely frank with the people, outline his policies and ask judgment upon them? Or, will he resort to the ambiguity that has characterized the utterances of most of the republican leaders? The people are the exclusive sovereign, and they are entitled to candor and honesty from those whom they entrust with authority.