

mission with Bryan's faithfulness and courage. Should he measure up to this standard, he will secure for himself that devotion of the masses which only three democratic leaders besides Bryan have won in the whole history of the United States. Should he temporize for party's sake or his own sake with the plutocratic interests or their political wolves or journalistic jackals—should he make Mr. Clark's mistake of falling into the lap of the Hearsts, of the Murphys, of the Sullivans, of the Taggarts, of the Ryans, of the Belmonts—he will be written off as a political asset of democratic Democracy along with others who have thus fallen by the way. But Wilson's record so far in his brief but brilliant and confidence-making career, is the best of guarantees that neither Bryan nor Bryan's host of confiding friends will regret the hour when Bryan's devotion to democracy, rising above all inferior considerations and coupled with unexampled political ability and courage, made Wilson his successor in the democratic leadership of the Democratic party.



### Bryan at Baltimore.

It is no empty compliment, that which pretty much all the papers but Hearst's—the latter for obvious and disgusting reasons—are paying to William J. Bryan as the Warwick at Baltimore. Few public men of any country or time, having his opportunities for self-service, would have undertaken what he accomplished: no other man in our time and country could have accomplished it had he made the effort. The convention had been well put together for a definite and treacherous purpose. This purpose contemplated the nomination of Speaker Clark with a view to his defeat at the polls by President Taft, or of Governor Harmon as second choice with a view to the election of either Harmon or Taft. Two things were necessary: First, that the affair should be labeled "progressive;" second, that the contents of the package should belie the label. Bryan detected the fraud and promptly denounced it. His fight had every appearance of a hopeless one. The scheme had been put together so well that the schemers held a majority of the convention under their control at first. But back of Bryan were the "folks at home." As he pummeled away, lonesome in leadership but not in support, the treacherous plans of the plutocrats slowly disintegrated; and Bryan's fidelity and courage were at last rewarded by the convention's nomination of the one principal candidate to whom the Interests, from their sad experience with him in

New Jersey, were unalterably opposed. Their solitary hope now is that before the November vote is counted they may "bring Wilson to his senses;" divorce him from Bryan, entangle him with bosses, taint him with Interest perfumes. A nicely groomed college professor in the White House, a publicist who appears classical and doesn't get in their way, would delight them; they would be equally well pleased, perhaps better pleased, if the game that was played upon Speaker Clark could be played upon Wilson, and Taft be consequently re-elected; but "a Bryanite from New Jersey," that is what they fear.



### Speaker Clark.

One of the Hearst papers attributes this language to Speaker Clark:

I lost the nomination solely through the vile and malicious slanders of Col. William Jennings Bryan of Nebraska. True, these slanders were by innuendo and insinuation, but they were no less deadly for that reason.

It may not be true that Mr. Clark has used this language. We hope he has not, and trust that no one will accuse him of it without better authority. But the idea thus offensively expressed, that Bryan accused Clark of making a treacherous bargain, must have lodged in the latter's mind or he could not have expressed himself as he did in his convention letter to Senator Stone. The fact is, however, that Mr. Bryan made no accusation of bad faith against Mr. Clark—neither directly nor by innuendo or insinuation. The utmost that can be inferred from what he said, as in any way reflecting upon Mr. Clark, was that Mr. Clark was the unconscious factor in a plan "to sell the Democratic party into bondage to the predatory interests of this country;" not that he had been false, but that he had been duped. And this was true. Mr. Clark's manifest innocence of the bargain relieves him of all possible imputations of bad faith; but it added nothing to his qualifications for the Presidency in times like these. Mr. Bryan would have been basely disloyal to all that he represents in public life if he had allowed a personal friendship or obligation to blind him or silence him. It is better by far to be called "ingrate" by self-seeking friends than to be traitor to a people's cause.



Speaker Clark and his friends don't seem to realize that the very nature of their assaults upon Bryan goes to prove that Bryan performed a public duty in securing Wilson's nomination.

They put all their emphasis in Clark's behalf upon his having earned public preferment by long and unbroken service to the Democratic organization, right or wrong; they put all their emphasis in criticizing Bryan, upon Clark's past service to him as the Presidential candidate of his party. The whole Clark campaign, so far as his managers have made it public, was a campaign for personal reward. To that end their demands upon Bryan were to redeem personal obligations which they wrongly assumed that he incurred through the support Clark had given to him in three Presidential campaigns, and which Bryan rightly insisted were not in the nature of personal obligations at all. This animus, which permeated the Clark campaign and broke out at the end in spasms of ridiculous indignation, points to the inherent weakness of Mr. Clark's candidacy—the weakness upon which Mr. Taft's managers had shrewdly counted in their solicitude for Mr. Clark's nomination.



We do not happen to know what it was that drove Bryan into making the nomination of his political associate and one-time favorite for the Presidency impossible. For aught we know, he may only have been put upon his guard, as a capable leader, by impressions created by the whole situation whilst it developed before him. Least of all do we suppose that he had any knowledge of the details of the bargain. The details of such bargains, though they leak out, can never be known by others than the parties to them except at second hand and third hand. It will be understood, therefore, that we ourselves claim no absolute knowledge of that bargain. But the farther the matter is probed, the clearer it will probably appear, as we have reason to believe, that the bargain, schemed out by Senator Crane of Massachusetts, had somewhat such a setting as this, namely:—President Taft is satisfactory to the Interests. He has been tried by them and found true to them. It is important to the Interests, therefore, that Taft be nominated by the Republican convention. This suits Senator Crane as far as it goes. But the Interests want some such man as Governor Harmon or Mr. Underwood nominated by the Democrats, so that no matter who wins they will not lose. This does not suit Senator Crane, his sole object being to re-elect Taft. It was incumbent upon him, therefore, not only to force Taft's nomination at Chicago, but to bring about a weak nomination at Baltimore. And almost he did both—not quite but almost. Of course Speaker Clark wasn't promoting Senator

Crane's plan consciously. He only happened to fit into it. The Democratic nomination was necessary to Senator Crane's purpose, and Speaker Clark was available; a complication of weaknesses for the fight at the polls was also necessary to the plan, and these, too, Speaker Clark possessed. We do not say this in any derogatory sense. Speaker Clark is an honest, amiable, brilliant, lovable, trusting man of the old type of Southern statemanship; but among the weaker candidates for election he was the strongest for the Democratic nomination; and that was what Crane needed in his plans for Taft. So the *high hand* took care of Taft at Chicago, and the *deft hand* tried to take care of Taft at Baltimore. But Bryan spoiled Senator Crane's game.



Naturally, Mr. Clark's disappointed supporters—both those who were in the secret with Senator Crane and those who were dupes along with Mr. Clark—are resentful, and Bryan is the object of their wrath. Yet Mr. Clark ought to realize that in accusing Bryan after the manner of the Hearst quotation above, he only helps to force public opinion into regarding him as the victim of men whose schemes it would have been wiser for him to have shunned than to have welcomed. The more vigorously he assails Mr. Bryan, the stronger does his unintended tribute to Senator Crane's sagacity become.



### Harmony.

The false note at Baltimore was "harmony." The value and the virtue of harmony depend upon the elements to be harmonized; and all that "harmony" meant at Baltimore was Democratic harmony—the harmony of men and interests with nothing in common except a party label and hunger for office. Harmony among men who regard the Belmonts and Murphys and Ryans and Sullivans and Hearsts as faithful Democrats, and those who believe in Bryan and Wilson and their kind, is a sham. Who cares whether the Democratic party displaces the Republican party in power, if the Interests are to own the incomers as they have owned the outgoers? Nobody outside of the pie-counter brigade. By all means let's have harmony; but let's have it between believers in democracy, not pretenders but believers. Between democrats and plutocrats, the more discord the better.



### Roosevelt's New Party.

Mr. Roosevelt demands a new party notwith-