

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### STAND BY TRIED FRIENDS.

An old axiom admonishes people not to cast aside old friends for new; a reason for the advice being that the former are tried and known while the latter remain to be tested and their quality is therefore uncertain, no matter how good they promise. Further, the person who casts aside an old friend merely to give place to a newer fancy displays in himself a vacillation of character that betokens ingratitude; if, indeed, it is not akin to treachery, since it is false to a friendship of which it has been the beneficiary.

It is a matter of common observance that in politics especially ingratitude is a prevailing sin; and it is largely owing to this that villainy in politics is so prevalent—since the baseness of being ungrateful and untrue to sincere friendships invites and comports with almost every other species of dishonorable action. Among a people, however, who value honor and esteem success in politics on the plane of highest integrity to be a desirable attainment, there can be no inducement even in the sharpest drawing of party lines to descend to the ungrateful or to forget or spurn those who have proved their friendship by heroic fidelity in the hour of doubt and trial.

In the political arena in Utah there has been much of the deepest interest in the past sixty days; and so absorbing has been the discussion of the foremost topic therein that to a marked extent political lines have been forgotten in the overwhelming surging of the people toward the constitutional principle of the full coinage of both gold and silver, and the elimination of the single gold standard system. In a sense, outside of the intermountain states this matter of coinage is the paramount political issue; but within those states it is practically removed from that domain and becomes a question of patriotic support to the national Constitution. Among the great mass of voters in those states, there is no political line on the topic of free coinage, and they repudiate any attempt to enforce the single gold standard as such an issue locally; hence, locally, expressions and suggestions of friendship in methods in behalf of silver do not take on the form of partisanship.

In the period of sixty days referred to, the free silver wave in this country has assumed remarkable proportions, and still is increasing in force and magnitude. The recognition of that fact also calls prominently forward the further fact as to whence the great wave received the impetus which sent it forward with vastly accelerated speed. There is no getting away from the truth that this source of energy was in the bolt of the silver men at the St. Louis Republican convention. If that bolt had not been made, the situation would have been entirely different.

By their heroic action in the stand taken at St. Louis, the three leaders, Senators Teller of Colorado, Dubois of Idaho, and Cannon of Utah, fully demonstrated their staunch friendship

for free coinage of silver. Their action did more to pave the way for future progress, and for the unification of the silver forces as they now stand, than any other event that can be pointed to in the political occurrences of the year. Their bolt from a great party convention under such circumstances as then surrounded gave to the silver situation a favorable aspect that it could not have obtained otherwise—a fact that should not be forgotten in time of future recognition.

The condition now is such that all friends of silver might follow profitably in the line indicated by the bolters' action, as far as it unites all upon the great object of the contest. The gentlemen named, with others, cast aside all bonds and ties of party for that which they believed to be right, and with undaunted courage struck forward in the cause of free coinage. Those who are supporters of that cause can do no less now than rise to an equal standard of patriotism. The silver men in the intermountain states cannot be expected to turn down those who proved their integrity in leading a forlorn hope which resulted in such gain to the cause of the white metal; rather, the result that may be anticipated is that silver voters of all parties will ignore lines that before divided them and stand and work shoulder to shoulder with the old friends who have proved their fidelity to the last extremity. A shifting of friendships, a suggestion of ingratitude, a hint of divisions in the ranks of the silver people, is not to be looked for from the true friends of the white metal.

### REFORMS IN PERSIA.

Some idea of what human society once was and the progress it has made from a condition of barbarity may be formed by looking down from the level of humanity on which civilized nations now stand to the plane which barbarians or semi-barbarous people still occupy. There undoubtedly is much more to be attained before the development can be called complete, but we are advancing.

The thought is suggested by the reforms the new shah of Persia is said to be endeavoring to introduce in his kingdom. One is that the insignia of the various orders shall no longer be for sale, or at least not at the high figure his predecessor held them at. Nor shall offices be for sale. Industry and ability shall, according to the edict of the emperor, be the only consideration.

Another reform aims at the partial abolishment of the cruel and degrading corporeal punishment sanctioned by Persian custom. Formerly only the knights of the Freelon legion of honor were exempted, but now every one fortunate enough to belong to any order of this kind, is outside the reach of the bastinado.

The new shah also seeks to regulate prices on the necessities of life and to prevent the adulteration of food. A water carrier who charges more than

the regulation price for his article is liable to come in fearful contact with the stick. A baker who takes undue advantage of his customers does so at the risk of having his ears cut off and seeing those useful members of the body nailed to the door of his place of business. Similar treatment will be accorded to anyone who deals in articles of food of an inferior quality than represented.

The fanatic that killed the old shah has finally been sent into eternity, but it is asserted that before he was dispatched his body was pierced with red-hot irons until his skin resembled that of a fried fish. Also the new shah has been the object of an attack, and the would-be assassin is condemned to death by breaking on the wheel—a mode of punishment common enough in the dark middle ages and which consists in the culprit being placed on a carriage wheel and tied to the spokes, the executioner breaking his limbs by means of blows by an iron bar. Also in the treatment of regicides, the new Persian ruler seems to be on the road of reform.

### QUALIFYING AS SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

The following inquiries come from a subscriber at Cannonville, Utah, with a request that they be answered through the News:

First—What is the legal time allowed school trustees to qualify after being duly elected? And can the trustees legally qualify after the time for their qualification has expired?

Second—Is it legal for a notary public to qualify and approve of school trustees' official bonds?

Our reply to the first question is that school trustees are required to qualify within ten days after their election or appointment, and if they permit the time stated to elapse without qualifying, any action looking thereto would be invalid. If persons elected as school trustees have failed to qualify, then the old incumbents, if there are any, hold over until the vacancy caused by the failure is filled. For instance, if but one trustee is elected and he fails to qualify, the other two trustees fill the vacancy; but if there are two or more vacancies the board of county commissioners has jurisdiction.

To the second question we say that a notary public has no authority to approve the bonds of school trustees. He may administer oaths, but cannot approve official bonds. In the case of school trustees the approval is to be by the county clerk.

As a further explanation we append herewith the replies of Superintendent of Public Instruction J. R. Park, to the same inquiries:

First.—Section 47 of the school law says: "The clerk of the school board shall, within five days after such election, furnish each person elected with a certificate of election, a copy of which, with the oath of office, must be forwarded immediately to the county superintendent." As the oath of office is part of the qualification for the office of trustee, and as a copy of this oath is to be forwarded immediately to the county superintendent after receiving the certificate of election, the inference is there shall be no unnecessary delay in taking this preliminary step to complete official equipment.