

Documents

TWO LETTERS OF GOVERNOR CLAUDE MATTHEWS

[The following letters have been selected from a number sent in by H. S. K. Bartholomew of Goshen, Indiana, who wrote the sketch of Governor Matthews published in this issue. The first illustrates the spirit of the Governor in his clash with the Chicago gamblers who attempted to make Indiana a fruitful field of operations. The second letter reveals the farmer-Governor as a sincere Free Silver Democrat shortly before the national convention of 1896.—*Editor.*]

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

Indianapolis, Ind.

July 29th, 1895.

Mr. H. S. K. Bartholomew,
Middlebury, Indiana,

Dear Sir:—

Your favor of 25th. inst. duly received. I thank you for your kind words of commendation, and congratulations over the close of Roby. It has been gratifying to me to believe that I had the support and approval of all our better citizens. It has been a hard fight, with a shrewd, active unscrupulous body of men. I think it is now down, but it has been such a hydra headed affair all through, that one cannot tell when or how it may appear. However I will have a club for each head as it rises, and will keep throwing them until the clubs are exhausted, or they have been. As you state some of the papers have mentioned my name as a possible candidate for the Presidency. I am grateful and believe I so appreciate the complimentary expressions, but I have not, nor can I become an aspirant for that office. I have not yet placed so high an opinion upon my worth or ability. I am not basing any expectations, consequently my disappointment cannot be great. I do not think the active seeking of this nomination has often led to success. The people generally make this selection.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

Indianapolis, Ind.

May 25th, 1896.

Personal.

Dear Mr. Bartholomew:—

I steal a moment from a burdensome correspondence to thank you for the copy of your sketch of my son Seymour. It is a neat and generous tribute to a noble young man, of high aspirations and worthy ambitions. He was always a good friend of yours, and we thank you for this kind remembrance.

I appreciate your cordial approval of my position on the all absorbing

issue,—the money question. We are living in serious times, and the next few months are to determine whether a permanent prosperity is to be given to the people, or whether we are to be placed in bondage to the money power. To continue and fasten upon ourselves the single gold standard, further reducing the value of property, especially farming property and products, making it still more difficult for the unfortunate now in debt to find relief, as this will come with the rapid appreciation of gold, so soon as it may be determined to make this the sole standard and redemption money, and rendering it easy for gold syndicates in this Country and Europe to have the entire Commercial world at their feet.

This will prove a positive calamity, and the few reap the benefit at the expense and suffering of the many. Let us declare for the double standard, gold and silver on an equal footing, and restore silver to its rightful place in the coinage of the Country as it was prior to 1873.

With such a platform we will carry Indiana, and [have] a chance at the Country. It is important that the friends of silver should be active and wide awake, that the sentiment of the people shall have voice. We want good, true men as delegates to the convention, and to otherwise be in attendance. It is a time demanding earnest work, especially in selecting delegates.

A COLLEGE MAGAZINE OF 1861

A copy of the *Wabash Monthly* for January, 1861, fell into our hands a few years ago. This periodical was "published by an Association of the Students of Wabash College". The editorial staff was selected by the Association. Nine numbers a year were published, beginning in November. The subscription price was \$1.00 per year. The issue for January, 1861, is marked Volume II, No. 3. The editors were J. E. Cleland, W. T. Hart, W. R. Higgins and R. B. Spillman. The contributions are either unsigned or such signatures as *Oneirapolis*, *Cam*, *Keuah*, and *P. Roceed* are appended to articles.

The table of contents for the issue in hand include: "The Fire-Fays" (a long poem); "Three Puffs" (the prophetic vision of a smoker); "Thanksgiving Journal" (printed below); "One Ideaism" (an essay dealing with the dangers of riding a hobby); "Homer—A Dirge" (printed below); "Colloquy" (a dialogue between Dr. Johnson, the man of candor, and Emperor Napoleon, the man of illusions); "Eloquence of the Waters" (an attempt at a prose poem or literary effusion on the beauties of water under various conditions and on the influence of "that most versatile of the elements.") "G'Lang" (a humorous poem of three pages); "The Friendships of College" (a stilted sentimental essay of two pages, followed by a page of miscellaneous sayings); "Editorial Miscellany" (five and one-half