

In Portree, the capital, there was a great gathering of people from points in Skye and neighbouring islands going off to the fish-packing on the east coast—women for the most part, many of them robust, resolute-featured girls in short skirts and turned-up aprons, with a shawl drawn tightly over the shoulders and head and arms bare. They all bore their belongings in a bundle on back or arm, and most of them spoke Gaelic.

We had left everything fair and beautiful—starlight, clear sky, soft breeze—when we went to our berths and when we rose early in the morning to land at Portree it was raining again and it kept it right up, as its custom is, till we said farewell to the Western Highlands and landed in Inverness.

KATE WESTLAKE YEIGH.

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The Presidential Campaign.

THE fight is on, and an intensely earnest and exciting struggle it is. All the formal preliminaries are out of the way and the opposing forces are using all kinds of weapons in the conflict. The Republican party and sound money Democrats are agonizing to win, while the silver wing of the Democracy and the Populists are just as determined to achieve victory. In the Eastern and Middle States the feeling is general that McKinley will be elected. In the South and West people are predicting that Bryan will be President. It is, however, a hazardous thing to foretell events, especially those of a political character, but the probabilities are that the Republican candidate will be elected. On his side there are many elements of strength which are having their effect. The business depression which began in 1893 has been steadily utilized by the Republican party to bring the working population back to a belief in the power of protection to compel prosperity. It was the prevalence of this popular belief in the efficacy of high tariff that secured the nomination of William McKinley at the St. Louis convention in opposition to the wishes and plans of the bosses. The gold standard plank in the platform adopted at that convention was satisfactory not only to the manufacturers and capitalists belonging to the Republican party, but to the business community generally. Thus all the monetary institutions, the commercial and industrial interests are in the Republican campaign. That means that the sinews of war in aid of McKinley's cause are abundant and will be freely used to secure his triumph. Then the press is overwhelmingly on the side of the gold standard. Scarcely a journal of extended circulation and influence is to be found advocating the free and unlimited coinage of silver. There can be no question that the energetic advocacy of sound money day after day must have a profound effect on the numerous readers of the leading newspapers. The Republican propaganda is most thoroughly organized. No means by which the public mind can be reached is neglected. Political leaders of great ability address great mass meetings in the principal cities and the remotest country village and cross roads school-house is frequently visited by the humble but vociferous stump orator. McKinley clubs are everywhere, uniformed bodies march with flaming torches and bands of music and bicycle corps parade in honour of the good cause. The vast flood of campaign literature to counteract the heresies of the Free Silverites is spread over the land. All kinds of appeals are made to secure the assent of dubious voters. In lofty strains the national honour is held up as an inspiration, while personal interests are pressed home to the attention of the various classes. The awful consequences of electing Bryan are depicted in the darkest colours, compared with which the blue-ruin vaticinations of Canadian politicians were mild and harmless. From the opening of the campaign the prophecies of the utter annihilation of democracy and populism have been numerous and explicit, but in an undertone there regularly comes the monition that nothing must be taken for granted. They are sure to win, but in order to do so every effort must be made. What is colloquially spoken of as bluff is very conspicuous in the conflict. One regrettable feature is the general lack of fairness towards political opponents. Free silver writers and speakers are savagely eloquent in their denunciations of trusts, monopolies, and millionaires. The other side superciliously assumes that all who favour free silver are knaves and fools.

It may turn out that not a few votes have been lost to the Republican party by the persistent representation that only demagogues and unprincipled agitators have taken the stump for the white metal. Law-abiding and honest citizens, such as the majority of farmers and working people are, resent being called Socialists and Anarchists, and yet these offensive epithets are constantly bandied about in the columns of otherwise reputable newspapers.

The currency question has been made the main issue in the fight. A mass of people mistakenly believe that the sixteen-to-one heresy will be for the benefit of the great producing classes of the country. How such a result will be effected by the change they propose they do not make apparent. The movement has acquired strength from the conviction that the interests of the masses are being sacrificed for the benefit of the classes. The vast power of trusts and combines, fostered by a protective tariff, is making thousands reckless and discontented, who vaguely and dimly imagine that any change might possibly bring relief. We read urgent appeals to the people to make the Republican majority so overwhelming that populism may be wiped out. Discontent with existing conditions cannot thus be repressed. Though the movement that has for its banner to-day Free Silver may be defeated, it will form new combinations and inscribe some other legend on its standard and renew the struggle. Unlike McKinley, Bryan has taken to the stump in person. The Ohio candidate is staying at home and men of various positions and callings are making pilgrimages to Canton, where the high priest of protection gives them a little oratory and his benediction. From now till election day Bryan will keep on speaking. No sooner had he returned from his eastern journey than he began a southern tour, where he is meeting with an enthusiastic reception. The only money power on his side is that of the silver mine owners, who would profit by free silver, whoever else might lose. The big majorities in Vermont and Maine for the Republican ticket are taken as indications of how the country will go. That, however, is uncertain. The strength of the free silver vote is an unknown quantity and can only be ascertained when polling has closed. This much, however, may be regarded as certain, that McKinley's election will be followed by a great commercial and industrial revival that will, for a time at least, bring heart and hope to the people. Confidence will be restored and the great captains of industry will be ready to push trade with all the energy and capital they can command. Until the election is over stagnation will continue. BEN ARNHEIM.

Chicago.

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Parisian Affairs.

OPINION commences to have had a little too much of the horn-blowing about the Czar being the head pacificator of Europe. It is his interest to uphold peace as it is of the other powers, and perhaps more so, as the Russians are not at all in a position to command the direction of affairs in a European conflagration. The Czar backs the Sultan's throne, that is, props up the rotten Porte and the cruelties of its creatures. But the moment is not distant when a more decisive action of the six powers will be required than joining Russia in writing diplomatic love-letters to the Sultan, and whispering into his ear fee-faw-fum! while some of the powers at the same time wink at his Majesty not to be afraid; the roaring is only that of "Bottom the Weaver." It is not the less a fact that Russia aims to win for herself all that can be gained by working with the six powers. The other five ought to be just as wide awake to grind axes for themselves. The Emperor of Germany makes no mistake about the situation. He joins in the Litany for the Peace of the Continent, fully aware that it cannot be of much longer duration. To avoid the possibility of being accused of breaking the fragile peace, is what makes all the allies form the Peace programme.

To dethrone the present Sultan, as if he were a Viceroy of Egypt, or to partition his empire among greedy heirs; apparent, these are considered to be the only two solutions; both are full of danger, but better to radically finish with the open and running gangrene. It is now seen from his triumph in regulating the Cretan question, that Lord Salisbury will not be caught with such chaff as doing the Euro-