

A. R. Talbot.

W. J. Bryan.

F. H. Allen.

*Talbot, Bryan & Allen,
Attorneys and Counselors at Law.
48-49-50 Burr Block.*

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Mr. I. J. Dunn,

Chairman of Banquet Committee, Jackson Club,

Omaha, Nebraska.

My Dear Sir:-

I thank you, and through you the Jackson Club, for the honor you do me. It is a source of great regret to me that official duties here prevent my attendance upon the annual banquet given by the Jackson Club of Omaha in commemoration of the services of the distinguished democrat whose name is borne by your Club.

I trust that the celebration of Jackson's Day may present an occasion in Omaha and elsewhere for an earnest protest from the democratic hosts assembled against the attempt now being made by some of our leaders to turn over to the banking corporation the issue of the nation's paper currency. At least, it is to be hoped, that the memory of Jackson will not be desecrated on that day by speeches lauding the national bank currency, in the suppression of which Old Hickory won his greatest victory for the people.

It is appropriate that the name of Jefferson should be linked with that of Jackson for the latter courageously applied to the conditions existing at his time the principles taught by the former; and they will stand together in history as the best exponents of true democracy.

After enjoying honors which fall to the lot of but few mortals, Jefferson selected for mention upon the simple monument which marks his

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resting place the three things which he thought most important in the work of his life, namely, the authorship of the Declaration of Independence, ^{*the authorship of*} ~~and~~ the statute of Virginia securing religious liberty and the establishment of the University of Virginia.

He might have allowed his fame to rest securely upon the first of these great works, for the Declaration of American Independence will ever present to the lovers of liberty the principles which must underlie every ~~democratic~~ form of democratic government. Of the self-evident truths set forth in that immortal document the declaration that "All men are created equal" is the most important because it is the most fundamental and comprehends all others. Its application now would solve aright the questions which vex the civilized world, and would both remove the abuses of legislative power encouraged by our own government and add to the laws we now have such additional statutes as are necessary to protect each citizen in the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

If all men are created equal the government ^{*should*} ~~will~~ not ~~be~~ ^{*by*} a protective tariff, collect money from the many and give it to the few; if all men are created equal, government should not legislate to make the dollar cheaper in the interest of the debtor nor dearer in the interest of the creditor, nor should it surrender to private corporations the sovereign right to issue paper money as well as other forms of money; if all men are created equal, the government should limit expen-

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ses to actual needs and not make appropriations for the benefit of those who urge extravagance because of the profit they find in government contracts; and if all men are created equal the government should restrain every arm uplifted for a neighbor's injury. It is common to-day to hear the doctrine of non-interference advocated by representatives of trusts and monopolies because these immense aggregations of wealth, having strangled competition, only require to be let alone in order to enjoy an advantage to which the anti-bellum slave holder could never approach.

I have been gratified to note in recent years a more frequent reference to the doctrine taught by Thomas Jefferson, and I hail this revival of his influence as an evidence of ^a ~~the~~ return to democratic principles. Certainly there never was more urgent need ^{than now} for the vigorous enforcement of democratic principles and never, in my judgment, a time when true democracy as taught by the fathers would be welcomed more heartily by the masses.

I sincerely hope that your banquet this year may be useful in building up a stronger faith in the principles of Jefferson and Jackson. Again expressing regret at my inability to be with you, I am

Yours very truly,

W. J. Bryan