

THE ENEMIES OF AMERICAN HONOR *

As Mr. Bryan continues to talk on the stump his utterances grow wilder and wilder, until they can only properly be described as the ravings of a man whose folly even surpasses his capacity for harm. Were they not so flimsy, were it not so certain that Mr. Bryan will be defeated by a more overwhelming vote than almost any candidate who has run for the presidency, his utterances would, indeed, give us cause for the utmost alarm. As it is, we hang our heads as Americans for the disgrace that has befallen this country in the nomination of such a man for such an office by one of the two great parties of the land. Mr. Bryan is appealing more and more openly to the base malignancy and hatred of those demagogues who strive to lead laboring men to ruin, in order to wreak their vengeance on the thrifty and well-to-do. He advocates principles sufficiently silly and wicked to make them fit well in the mouth of the anarchist leader. For the government of Washington and Lincoln, for the system of orderly liberty bequeathed to us by our forefathers, he would substitute a red welter of lawlessness as fantastic and as vicious as the dream of a European communist, turning aside from the American principles of government, repudiating everything which has made the name America a symbol of hope among the nations. Instead of a government of the people, for the people, and by the people,

* Speech at Utica, N. Y., September 29, 1896. *New York Tribune*, September 30, 1896.

which we now have, Mr. Bryan would substitute a government of the mob.

Mr. Bryan and his followers are very fond of attacking capitalists. A good capitalist, who employs his money and his leisure aright, is the most useful man we have. There are in this country but a very small number of great capitalists. I am not concerned for them, I am concerned for the great body of the people: because I know that the people cannot afford to go wrong or to do wrong. I am an American first. To all true Americans sectional hatred and class hatred are equally abhorrent, and the most abhorrent of all is sectional hatred piled on class hatred. We know no North nor South, East nor West. In this campaign we are following the lead of Major McKinley, and believe that on November 3 next the East and West will clasp hands with one another in triumph over the defeat of the foulest conspiracy against America that this country has seen in the lifetime of this generation.

We are most fortunate in this our State fight, because our candidate for governor* first came into prominence through doing the State the greatest service that could possibly be done it, when he hunted down the murderer of Ross and taught the Troy ring the lesson that thereafter homicide was not to be treated as one of the ordinary weapons of political warfare. I appeal to all Americans to join in the overthrow of the enemies of American honor and of American liberty.

* Frank Black.