

[undated]

Mr. Charles S. Hanlin, of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the convention: The American people admire frankness, sincerity and courage in public life, and I should be false to Massachusetts, -the old Bay State, -if I did not pay my personal tribute, as well as that of my State, to this expression of these qualities just given by our nominee for President. The courage he has shown is the courage that elects Presidents of the United States.

My friends, I shall take but one moment of your time. The distinguished Democratic leader of the House, Mr. Williams, has told you that in committee we voted down every kind of a financial plank because we wished to keep the monetary standard out as an issue; that we thought it had no place in this campaign.

This is true, so far as concerns a majority of the resolutions committee; but to prevent any misapprehension, I want to say that we of the minority believed there should be a positive declaration for the gold standard and we did not cease our efforts until hours after the gold resolution, after long, weary debate, had been defeated, by a vote of thirty-five to fifteen. As a result of that vote there has arisen some misapprehension throughout the United States. I am frank enough to say here that I think that apprehension, unexplained as to the facts, in some respects may not be without justification.

On being defeated on that resolution, as the representative of Massachusetts, I felt it my duty to file a minority report; and I am going to tell you why I did not do so. It was because I feared that a minority report might not be accepted by this convention, and that such a result would seriously affect us in the coming campaign. Why? Not because we do not all acknowledge that the gold standard is a fact,--undisputed and uncontested,--the law of the land,--but because the delegates might say, "Being not an issue, being a dead issue, we do not want it in a platform devoted to live issues, and therefore we will keep it out." I feared the people of the country might misunderstand such action, if taken, and I relied with certainty upon a declaration from the candidate, whomsoever he might be, to remove any possible doubt of his or the Party's position upon this matter.

I therefore filed no minority report.

Our nominee, however, by his manly telegram, has made known his views and we must reply in no uncertain terms. If there is any hesitation now, the Democratic party is lost. If, however, we rise to our feet and take advantage of our opportunity, we shall find that the American people, admiring courage, truth and honor, will rally to our standard and we will enter on a lasting career of pure Democracy, the Democracy of the people.

I appeal to you, our friends in the South. You know what danger is over-hanging you. You know what the Republican platform means. It means future Force bills. The people of Massachusetts do not fear Force bills. We never would submit to be interfered with in our just rights of voting. But, my friends, when the Force bill was introduced in 1890, the South called to us for help. We rallied to the polls; we challenged the Republicans to debate that measure under the shadow of Bunker Hill, and we buried it by our votes as deeply beneath the ground as Bunker Hill monument rises proudly above it.

Let us show the courage of our convictions. Let us vote to send this telegram to this great leader, and we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that the response from the people will be immediate and sure. Let us not fear to be courageous. The people admire courage. Let us say what we mean. Let us tell our xxxxx standard bearer that we understand his views and that they are not objectionable to the Party.

The gentleman who nominated him yesterday uttered a noteworthy sentiment. He said,—"He is content to be the servant, not the master, of the Democratic convention". Those were true words, as true today as yesterday. But, my friends, in this respect the Master in that platform has not spoken, and the servant, with a

sense of honor worthy of emulation, has frankly revealed ^{to} the master his opinion and asks that that opinion be recorded.

My friends, we have the opportunity of a lifetime. We have the opportunity to re-establish a government of laws in place of the government of men now at Washington. Let us not cast it away. Let us send out this message, and I make the prediction that when the votes are counted on election day, we will find that the country has declared overwhelmingly for that upright Judge, that worthy citizen, yes, that proved statesman--Alton B. Parker. (Applause)