would be superseded by higher obligations which we could not hesitate to discharge.

Cleveland added some 44,000 places to the classified service. He and Olney negotiated a general arbitration treaty with England. His first administration had to handle a surplus, his second a deficit. Carlisle in his report to Congress in 1894 recommended a plan for a reform of the currency, but the party was hopelessly divided on the money question and nothing was done.

The record of no President is safer in the hands of history than Grover Cleveland's. Bold, blunt and frank, there were no after developments exposing conceitments or throwing a shade over any of his acts. He received the full attacks of criticism while he was in office and immediately after; the major part of appreciation and praise came to him later. The more light thrown on him and his administration the greater and wiser both appear.

He added, or restored, power and prestige to the President's office. He lived to see nearly all old enmities born of bitter days removed, and when standing on the platform at the St. Louis Exposition in 1904 he received even a warmer welcome from the vast crowd than was given Roosevelt, then President of the United States (who generously felicitated him on the fact), he became Mrs. Cleveland said, "a different man."

No party could have harbored both Cleveland and Bryan when the latter had gotten his growth. With the national convention of 1896 Cleveland, Whitney, Carlisle and a host of other notable Democrats laid down their batons of command and Bryan assumed the leadership to retain it many years. But Cleveland had stamped an indelible impress on the party, and the Cleveland Democracy remained a living in the body politic, which, however, frozen out and neutralized at times, worked persistently and powerfully.

It is a question incapable of exact solution whether the Democratic or the Republican Party in 1896 was the most divided over the money question. Certainly, however, the latter turned out the better able to hold it leaders in line with the party decision regardless of their individual views. Perhaps it was because the Democrats were impressed by the moral issue so insisted on, while the Republicans more apathetically regarded only the economic issue involved.

When the 1896 conventions were over it was anybody's battle for the Presidency.

CHAPTER XXVII

THE BRYAN ERA BEGINS

1896-1901


The Seventeenth Democratic National Convention met at Chicago July 7, 1896, three weeks after the Republicans had nominated McKinley on a gold platform. Next to the Charleston convention in 1860 this was Democracy's most epoch-making convention. It was a contest of principles, not men, and had been long in preparing. During the year each state convention had been a skirmish leading up to the main battle; thirty of them had declared for free silver and fourteen against, Florida's convention alone expressing no views. Neither wing had settled on a candidate, and while Bland, Boies and others had active friends they would not have allowed their candidate's interest to stand in the way of one thought better to represent the principle or more likely to succeed. Principle and desire for success were stronger than either personal or party feeling.

In January, 1896, the Democratic Party was so torn with dissensions that Republicans boasted that they could elect a rag baby that year. But as the silver sentiment crystallized it became a question where the Republican Party would stand, and what in the world would happen. McKinley's own state convention a few weeks before had straddled the question completely. Only the Populist Party was undivided on the subject.

The Democrats of New England and the Middle States, joined by Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, favored the gold standard, and so uncompromisingly so that for some time before the convention met a bolt from the party had been frankly discussed in the newspapers. New York and some other states had postponed naming electoral tickets in anticipation of a bolt.
THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

THE STORY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

As the party of Abraham Lincoln, the Democrats have a rich history of fighting for the rights of the common man and standing up to those who would deny them.

In 1860, the Democratic Party nominated Lincoln for President, and he went on to win the election, becoming the first President to be elected after the Civil War. Lincoln emphasized the importance of the Union and the abolition of slavery, and his administration played a crucial role in ending the war and poverty.

The Democratic Party has continued to be a leading voice for progressive policies, such as healthcare reform, education, and environmental protections. The party has also been a strong advocate for civil rights and has worked to ensure that all Americans have access to opportunity and justice.

At its core, the Democratic Party is dedicated to the principles of democracy, equality, and justice for all. The party has a long history of fighting for the rights of the common man and will continue to do so in the future.
Chapter XVII

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

December 1, 1961

THE STORY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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