

TRIUMPHANT DEMOCRACY

IN A SPEECH AT CHICAGO, ILL., GEN. BLACK RECENTLY SAID:

Fellow-citizens, what is the ground of complaint with this majestic procession of the triumphant Democracy? What is lacking in its accomplishments that would secure our glory, increase our prosperity or establish our safety? Its public officials are not defaulters. They have not formed rings. They are not waxing fat with unholy contracts. They have not purchased or sold your franchises. They have not depleted your public treasury. They have not swelled the list of your obligations. They have not corrupted your governmental system. They have not bought and sold offices. They do not dishonor your power. They have not neglected your interests.

Why, then, should any American citizen impeach or demand its removal?

Pardon me for a classical illustration, old as human thought and true as human creed. When Ulysses and his companions landed from their journey and spread their feasts upon the sandy shore there came upon them the obscene harpies, devouring and defiling their food; they were repulsed and when the Greeks returned again to their tables again the harpies rushed upon their would-be prey and again they were driven afar. Will you invite back by the reversal of the Government policy and the condemnation of the Democracy the harpies who have sat at your public tables, the members of the "rings" and the "combines?" The spoilers are still alive. They have not lost their cohesive power. They but await the opportunity to return and renew their nefarious demands upon your patrimony and your prosperity, and so surely as defeat shall befall Democracy just as surely will return that era and the dominance of those practices which are the inevitable sequence of the federalistic idea. Every starving monster whose fangs a triumphant Democracy tore from the flesh of the body politic is arrayed to day secretly or openly against that Democracy.

In the campaign which is to come and which is now beginning you will be summoned by hate, revenge and avarice to undo the fair progress of three and one-half years of fraternal sway and to restore old organizations to power; to divide the land upon sectional lines; to dominate and overwhelm one section by the numerical supremacy of the other; to continue a system of excessive taxation and, in the name of national glory, to forget and destroy true liberty, prosperity and equality.

It should not be! It will not be!

The instincts of the better American nature will permit no backward movement on the path of our restoration. The Democracy will continue dominant in the midst of a people of growing fraternal relations whose rule is law, whose inheritance is the whole American earth. Intrenched in the hearts of the American people, it awaits the onset of its ancient foes, secure, serene, triumphant.