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Warren Fisher, Editor
Grimes Caywood, News Editor

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A FINAL PLEA.

The campaign to establish a hospital in Carlisle faces defeat, unless generous contributions are received within the next ten days. The failure of this movement, which is based upon the noblest of motives, love and Christian charity, will be little short of a disgrace to this town and county.

Often we are too close to an object, a cause to get the true perspective. Perhaps it is so in the hospital campaign, for when a former Carlisle woman makes a contribution of $100, the largest gift with the exception of that made by Mr. E. R. Bradley, a subscription from a Member of Congress, we wonder if this will not be a revelation to local people?

We wonder if it will not bring home to all of us the importance of this project and the shame of its failure?

The Mercury has done its best in a cause that we believe is worthy, a cause that will result in the alleviation of suffering and the saving of human lives. We make this final plea to the good people of Carlisle and Nicholas county that the proposed county hospital may not be allowed to die through the lack of some six hundred dollars: a year.

POLITICS

Just now we hear wounded Republican talk of "bolting" Such talk reminds us that in our experience of "bolting" Republicans we are at one with a venerable English professor, who was asked by a member of his class if he believed in ghosts. I would not go so far," replied this ancient and learned man, "as to say there are no ghosts; but though I have searched diligently for one all my life, I have never seen one."

Which paragraph from these columns, issue of August 11th, reminds us that as yet we are at one with the venerable professor. There may be bolting Republicans, but we haven't seen them.

All of which is by way of warning to the Democrats that they might do well to remember that in the last analysis this present political campaign is between Republicans and Democrats and not between "the issue" and the Democrats or "the issue" and the Republicans. If you are a Democrat, you should support your ticket if you have every reason in the world to do so. That next year is a presidential year should be sufficient reason, if you do not enthuse over the ticket.

In politics this newspaper has reached the age of reason. We can't somehow, make the welkin ring and get excited and hot under the collar over the prospect of someone getting an office and per diem and perquisites. But we do admire a man who refuses to use all of the old wornout ballyhoo that has been the stock in trade of the politician is Kentucky of late years. We are tired of hearing promises of tax reduction, promises of no pardons, promises to do anything that seems popular when the prospective knows and the promises should know that those pledges are impossible of fulfillment. Mr. Beckham is not scatterbrained enough to promise to appoint a negro stenographer to an sensible, dignified and economical, the most promising candidate for governor seen in this State in some years. In the ticket he is running on he has a record of excellence and nothing to warrant repudiation.

We have yet to hear any unbiased, reasonable criticism of Governor Beckham. On does fear "effectiveness," by which those opposed to him claim he would be swayed. The Mercury does not believe that Mr. Beckham, already signally honored by his party, would close his political career as the pawn of any man, but let us grant, solely for the sake of argument, that he would be dominated by a power or powers "behind the throne." In such event, to what condition a whit better would one fly in seeking the other camp? Frankly, the game of politics is been-ridden more or less, from national to county contests. "'Tis true 'tis pity, pity 'tis 'tis true." So, granting a contingency that we do not believe possible, admitting, for the sake of argument, that Mr. Beckham will listen unduly to whispers from "behind the throne," we yet can find no reason for not supporting the ticket. If intelligence and honesty and political power-that-be constitute the fly in the ointment of any Democrat's party regularity, how stomach t'other fellow? Even a change of "voice from the wings" would be refreshing. Variety's sometimes the salvation of politics as well as the spice of life. Swapping horses once in a while pays things up. We are not crusading any great "stream" that we can see, despite what seems to us the undue importance attached by many to "the issue."

If you are a Democrat, you should vote the Democratic ticket in November. If you are a Republican, we know where to find you. You'll be in your camp, working to elect a Republican as Governor of Kentucky. You'll find Marse Bob Loans there and Mrs. Christine Bradley Smith and others who fought, bled and didn't quite die for "the issue." Harry Giovanoli (noblest Roman of them all, to our mind) alone sticks to his guns, and constitutes the exception which proves the rule.

Yes Democrats had as well quit playing with the idea that the Republicans are going to help you elect a Democrat as Governor of Kentucky. It's going to take Democratic votes and Lots of 'em.

DE SENECTUTE.

"Youth, large, lusty, Living—
Youth full of grace, force, fascination!
Do you know that Old Age may come after you, with equal grace, force, fascination?"

Here's hoping Whitman was right. For a certain radio program came as a decided shock the other night to one who is not anywhere near that Byronic age where one "calls his old debts in . . . to square the accounts of evil and find a desired balance which the devil." No, indeed, not even of middle age, in those howling days, when the difference is to be noted between Grandmo and Fanny the Flapper, both going 'pon and at street level, except that one is "sure that she wears 'em" in the case of both.

But here came that program, "for the old folk," as the announcer put it, in the exuberance and ignorance of his youth—"Comrades" and "Rosie O'Grady," "Little Annie Rooney" and "After the Ball." And waves of memory poured in with the ether waves. Lord, how they poured! and for a moment swamped one recure in his conviction that a man is only as old as he feels, so long as he keeps his nerves in the morning and doesn't rush in where angels fear to tread and attempt to dance with the jerky fills of those "Black Bottom" days. They were quiet memories, but more exciting somehow than the more barbaric jazz that ever had its birth in the beat of Congo tomtoms. But that's a bad sign for the cree we would make for sustained youth.

"Comrades, comrades; ever since we were boys,
Sharing each other's sorrows,
Sharing each other's joys."

Barefoot boys idling along a winding branch; riding an old fat white mare that waggled its ears with the rhythm of her runnin' walk. The long, long dreams of youth. Some day men might fly like birds. Huh! "On eagles wings and light on daddy's woodpile" that's what they's do. And this fool talk of a horseless carriage— dargnoit! I'd take a good tryin' mare and a Moyer rumbuckit every time. Yes sir, I would!

"Sweet Rosie O'Grady I used to know;
She's my pretty lady—O, every one knows;
And when we are married, as happy we'll be;
For I love sweet Rosie O'Grady, and Rosie O'Grady love me!"

Folks with tubes in their ears and wearing silly expressions bearing of the saccharine charm of the Irish Rose by way of Edison's gramophone. World wonders never cease! Some said the World was going to make a record that wouldn't scratch, a flat record that needn't be lifted with tenderness aplayed out inside and scraped carefully in return. No, the World alone could reproduce your own voice, though the reproduced performance might give your descendants a weird idea of grandpa's vocal powers. Still those knotty problems don't do everything. A lot of fool talk and foolishness some take did.

"I won't be a stylish marriage
I can't afford a carriage—
But you'll look sweet
Upon the seat
Of a bicycle built for two."

These "safeties" sure were the thing and now they were making "tandems" and you could take your girl on the front seat and "burn the wind." (That was before the days of "making time.") But the fool contraptions scared horses, people said, and some young smart alec wouldn't step and pull off to the side of the road. They made boys hang-out-hard, the oldsters claimed, but gosha' mighty! didn't a pneumatic tire ride easy, after you'd gotten used to the feel of the wheel velocipede? Youth and progress were in accord in the roaring nineties, as always and forever.

"Kissing my sweetheart,
A lady fragrant as a rose—
Down fell the glass, pet,
Broken—that's all—
Just as my heart was
After the ball!"

One looked on, while "bright lights were gleaming in the grand ball room." It was a little devil-ish, to tell the truth, and indeed even the graceful measures of that poetry of motion, the waltz, Devilish, thigh to thigh and all removed from his partner and muffled all tactile sensation with a handkerchief, where the right hand touched the whalebone. And the boisterous gallop of that new-fangled dance, the two-step. Well, ballin' was both the delight and the youngsters, themselves dallied with this sinful lope cautiously.

Hohum! Not so long ago, not so long ago. But long enough, the Lord knows! Radio and radio programs reminiscent, anyhow! They touch the receiving set of memory tuned in afterward. For an hour after that program, memory's dials were set for "Kathleen, mavourneen, the grey dawn is breaking; the horn of the hunter is heard on the hill; the white wings that never grow weary; it spread out my white wings and sail away"; and then my Pa owns a billygoat farm; keeping Shiguan ain't no heaven—tararara boomdeay! tararrem boomdeay! . . . the World's Fair, the only one ever held; Columbian Exposition, the Midway, waiters beating boomdeay! . . . the Midway, waiters beating boomdeay! . . . wide straw sailors, with a black cord to hook to one's layel . . . the whaleback steamer, with the calliope . . . but no automobiles, only strange and fearsome carriages.

And one's own talks of airplanes and riding in the contraptions with as much insouciance as one thought of mounting the narrow seat of a Columbus buggy and dangling a left foot out with nonchalant airs. Queerness, in the days of the linen duster, to ride on top of it all. Liberty must carry that article about with it, the old Sharkey. He was young then, when we were in the saloon on Fourteenth street. We were quite young, quite young, and somewhat nervous at the fact we faced that night he had never met his match, except in Jim Jeffries, that mountain of a man. Tells how he was like a ham; his forearm and wrist like a ham; his body like a bolster, he said of Jeffries; "I hit him hard; I sprained me arm, but he never knew it." We were quite old Jeffries," they said, each a few years apart, and he fired that terrific punch at Johnson.

Old age? Dum vivamus vigilamus! Which, of course, in the knowledge of the language is no worse than it was in the "mauve decade," with Oscar Wilde's "Tells how he's like a hen; his forearm and wrist like a hen; his body like a hen" boogey," he said of Jeffries; "I hit him hard; I sprained me arm, but he never knew it." Yes, we were quite young, quite young, and somewhat nervous at the fact we faced that night he had never met his match, except in Jim Jeffries, that mountain of a man. Tells how he was like a ham; his forearm and wrist like a ham; his body like a bolster,