

An Open Letter to Grover Cleveland.

[*The Progressive Farmer*, March 31, 1896]

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Grover Cleveland—Sir:

Thinking you might like to hear of the prosperous condition of the old north State, I take this opportunity to give you some idea how this great wave of prosperity (so much talked of but never realized) has effected us, the laboring classes of our State. I hope some remark I drop may be the means of bringing you to repentance.

You began your notorious career by oppressing the poor for the purpose of making the poor poorer and the rich richer. You have climbed the ladder one step at a time in quick succession, until you have reached the middle and well to do classes and put everything in chaotic confusion. Poverty and crime walk arm in arm, not only in the Old North State, but over the whole nation. You have robbed the farmers of more land in the last three years than enough to make a republic as large as both France and Spain. Women and children go half fed, half clothed, exposed to all kinds of weather; their haggard looks tells the pain and the privation they suffer; they work hard from sunrise until sunset, and the remuneration they get is not enough to supply sufficient food for themselves and families, let alone clothing to make their bodies comfortable, and an education is out of the question.

Are these the conditions you have worked for? If so, you have most faithfully performed the desires of yourself and your masters.

You have sold our nation to the British Jews for gold. Our Savior would share the same fate at your hands were He here in person to save a suffering people from the hands of their task masters; all the difference between you and your Judas conspirators and the betrayer of Christ is you require gold and he (Judas) took silver.

Do you in your sober moments (or do you never have any) think of the chaos and confusion you have caused? Does conscience, the white winged angel, ever disturb your meditations or rob you of sleep? Have you entirely strangled her with your wickedness so you never feel any pangs of conscience about the evil deeds you are committing?

Do you think the people do not know the cause of the desperate condition of the crimes and financial failures? If so you are mistaken; they know you to be the prime cause of the desperate conditions that assail the nation; they know it is in your power to avert them, if by calling an extraordinary session of Congress lasting three months you could and did distress the people as you have, you could have bettered the condition had your recommendations been patriotic instead of traitorous.

Yes, it is you, *you* Grover Cleveland, that is the prime cause of the disaster and disgrace that stalks abroad in our fair land, and your administration will go down in history as one of the most disastrous and disgraceful that has ever been recorded.

History is fast repeating itself. Do you want your name to go down in history in connection with Nero and the ancient rulers who wrecked their nations by their profligacy and barbarism as the most nefarious of them all? The crimes of Cortez Pizarro and Nero, the ancient goldbugs, pale to nothingness compared with those you and your Judas conspirators have perpetrated upon the people of the United States within the last three years, and still you claim innocence. Look over our land and see the suicides, murders, and robberies, and ask yourself who is the cause of all these crimes? To be sure you have not caused them to be committed before your own eyes as did some of the

ancient rulers; but you are nevertheless guilty, where they committed one crime, you, by producing want and destitution, have caused thousands upon thousands of these atrocious deeds to be committed. Can you, in the face of all this evidence still persist to claiming your innocence!

Have you not seen the hand writing on the wall? Are you so regardless to the needs of the people that you will persist in your disastrous and traitorous schemes until our country is taken in its drunken revelries? Are you not proud of the concluding hours of the Fifty-third Congress ending in revelry and prostitution? Do you feel proud of the record Washington, our Capital, is making as being one of the most wicked Sabbath breaking cities in the Union, and that a majority of our lawmakers are the leaders in the wickedness carried on on the Sabbath day?

Do you want the rising generation to follow your example? Have you not respect for your own innocent children? Do you think there will never be a day of reckoning? Retribution is sure to follow the evil doer. I warn you not to carry your scheming too far; the people are getting thoroughly aroused; they are thirsting for light; they grasp everything that gives light on the cause of their desperate condition.

I hope our next President will be a man of high principles, but a besotted brewer; one who has at least one spark of humanity left that is in common sympathy with the masses of our nation.

A Farmers' Wife of N.C.