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EDITORIAL

WHY NOT APRIL 1?

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THE Populist Party is the first in the field. At least, it is the first to make ready to launch its presidential craft upon the stormy seas of the approaching presidential contest. It has issued a call for a national convention to meet in St. Louis on April 2 of next year, and promulgated the principles that are to draw and hold together the members who may assemble.

The principles are:

“Hope cannot be placed in the promises of either of the two old parties. Both have entangling alliances with the enemies of the government and cannot make substantial progress for reform in this generation. Thus, an independent party, free from predatory affiliations, becomes necessary, if the power of monopoly and privilege is to be taken from the banks and stock jobbers; if the rule of the people is to be restored in our time. The People’s party opposes any system permitting any class of citizens to paralyze the industries and bankrupt the industrious millions. To this end the convention has been called.”

For simplicity of principles and vagueness of bonds the Populist manifesto can hardly be beaten—as a gatherer and holder of the just discontent of the land.

Who is there who would place “hope in the promises of either of the old parties”? Echoes answer: “FOOLS ONLY!”

Who is there who does not realize the necessity of an “independent party, free from predatory affiliations”?—Echoes answer: “FOOLS ONLY!”

Who is there to disagree with the People’s party in opposing “any system permitting any class of citizens to paralyze the industries and bankrupt the industrious millions”?—Echoes answer: “FOOLS ONLY!”

One more question—Who is there who would consider as solid enough to hold, and clear enough to direct the modern revolutionist, a proclamation that is merely a

negation and, consequently, neither sets up the revolutionary goal nor remotely squints at the method to reach the goal by?—Echoes answer: “FOOLS ONLY!”

There is one more question that the Populist proclamation suggests:—Why not hold that convention on APRIL 1?

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