

## Democratic National Ticket.

For President,  
WM. J. BRYAN,  
Of Nebraska.

For Vice-President,  
ARTHUR SEWALL,  
Of Maine.

## A Study of William J. Bryan.

[From Leslie's Weekly.]

The wonderful possibilities of American citizenship are strikingly illustrated in the nomination for the presidency of William Jennings Bryan, who was selected at Chicago on the 10th of July last to lead the national democracy in the quadrennial battle for national supremacy. Mr. Bryan was not a national figure prior to his speech at Chicago. He had won, it is true, fame of a tentative sort, through his brilliant speeches in congress and his strength as an advocate of silver on the stump and forum in the South and West. But his youth and his comparatively circumscribed flight across the horizon of publicity kept his name from figuring in the list of possibilities. But, to paraphrase Bourke Cockran, "his nomination was so much an improbability as to become a possibility." Chance gave him the opportunity to place the impress of his oratorical power upon the convention, and he proved his claim to greatness by rising to the occasion. His speech won him the nomination on the following day.

One of the charges brought against Mr. Bryan, in denial of his fitness for the presidency, is that he is young. This is undeniable. He, himself, admits it, and the family Bible is a mute witness to the truth of the charge. Mr. Bryan has the distinction of being the youngest man ever nominated for the presidency, and in fact is barely a year beyond the thirty-five-year age limit of the constitution. But, notwithstanding his youth, he had before his nomination for the presidency achieved honors that have come to but comparatively few men in life.

He was very young, but thirty, when he was first elected to congress, and had the honor during his first term of being appointed to a place on the ways and means committee. He was even younger when he first gained reputation as an eloquent, cogent, and interesting speaker.

Mr. Bryan was born in the small town of Salem, Illinois, on the 19th of March, 1860. His father was Judge Bryan, for a number of years a judge of the circuit court which embraced the county of Marion, and who for eight years represented that district in the Illinois state senate. William Jennings Bryan was born on a farm just outside of Salem, and, now that he has achieved distinguished honors, he shares the fate, common to the great, of being remembered as a remarkably precocious child. They relate that early in life he demonstrated the possession of wonderful oratorical powers, and that before he was fairly in his 'teens he had won as a campaign speaker the title that still clings to him, "the boy orator." His father conducted his education at home until young Bryan was ten years of age. After five years in the public schools he went to Jacksonville, where for two years he was a student in Whipple Academy. Afterward he attended Illinois College at Jacksonville, where in 1881 he was graduated as the valedictorian of his class. From there he went to Chicago, where he entered Union Law College. While a student here he worked his way by laboring as a clerk in the law office of Lyman Trumbull, at a salary of five dollars a week. His present law-partner, Hon. A. R. Talbot, of Lincoln, was

his class-mate, and relates that so slender were their resources that their lunch many a time consisted of a nickel's worth of crackers and apples.

He was graduated in 1883, and the next four years saw him a struggling young lawyer in Jacksonville. His class-mate, Mr. Talbot, had located several years before in Lincoln, Nebraska, and in 1887, while Bryan was West on legal business, he made him an offer of partnership, which was accepted, and since then Mr. Bryan has lived in Lincoln.

Mr. Bryan's predilection for politics speedily led him into the arena, where his greatest triumphs have since been won. In 1888 and 1889 he stumped the state for the democratic ticket, and his star as an orator first appeared in the firmament. His rise in politics came about in a peculiar way. The democratic party in Nebraska had for years been controlled by a coterie of old-line democrats, but they had failed to achieve any measure of success. In 1888 the scholarly J. Sterling Morton, the present Secretary of Agriculture and one of the then leaders, was defeated by a large majority in his race for congress in the First district, which then embraced the long-settled southeastern section of the state. In 1890 the democratic nomination for congress went begging, and when young Bryan came forward and asked for it it was willingly given him by the old guard. They had not looked with a kindly eye upon his rising fame, and it is shrewdly suspected that their ready acquiescence was given more to extinguish the new light than otherwise, as it was believed that when Morton had failed no democrat had any hope for success.

The young candidate had always made himself the idol of the younger element of his party, and they gave an enthusiastic indorsement to his plans. He wrote his own platform, in which a tariff for revenue and free coinage of silver were the cardinal planks, and entered upon a canvass now memorial in the political annals of the state. One of his first moves was to challenge his opponent, Congressman W. J. Connell, to joint debate. Connell was an Omaha lawyer, who had been fairly successful in practice at the bar, and, contrary to Bryan's expectations, he accepted the challenge. He was, however, no match for Bryan, and when the votes were counted it was found that the latter had overturned a republican majority of three thousand two hundred and carried the district by six thousand eight hundred.

While a resident of Illinois Mr. Bryan had rendered yeoman political service to Congressman Springer and in the preliminary contest for the speakership in the Fifty-second congress he espoused that gentleman's cause. When Springer made his terms with Crisp he rewarded Bryan's devotion by securing him a place on the ways and means committee. His maiden speech was delivered March 16th, 1892, in support of the Springer free-wool bill. It placed him at a single bound in the front ranks of the advocates of a revenue tariff. His readiness and resources as a debater soon made him a dangerous antagonist, and the eminence he gained was maintained during his entire term of service. In 1892 he was renominated. The state had been redistricted and the First made strongly republican. Allen W. Field, of Lincoln, an able lawyer, was pitted against him, but Bryan pulled through by the slender majority of one hundred and forty-two. He declined to make the race a third time, and since his retirement from congress he has divided his time between editorial work on the Omaha World-Herald and the

spreading of the silver propaganda in the west and south.

When Mr. Bryan came to Nebraska he wore a heavy beard and mustache, but e soon discarded both. He has a strong, clean-cut, fine-lined face. His eye is kindly yet piercing. His hair is raven black, with a widening circle of baldness upon the crown of his head. He is athletic in build, and his massive head in profile is strikingly like that of his distinguished opponent, Major McKinley. A distinguishing feature of the man is the unusual width of his mouth, although the lips are thin and sensitive. He is a handsome man, whose appearance before an audience inevitably attracts instant attention and interest. The predominant characteristics of his countenance is frankness. His mental alertness is shown in every movement of his eyes, his features, his lips. His voice is strong, resonant, pleasing, capable of any modulation. His gestures are graceful and easy, and before an audience he is a consummate actor, his voice and body lending themselves easily to the necessities of the moment. His manners are most engaging. He never betrays passion, but candor, earnestness, and sincerity are the impressions he gives to his auditors. He is plain, simple, direct in language, and draws his illustrations impartially from the classics and from current history.

Mr. Bryan is not a demagogue; his sincerity and his earnestness are too evident. He is a man convinced that he is the cause of the people; that is bound to triumph; that not all the hordes of organized wealth can defeat that cause upon which he believes God has placed the seal, "Just." Secure in that conviction, he has resisted all temptations to secure riches and certain honors by wearing the livery of plutocracy, one of which is said to have involved the offer, from an Eastern state, of a United States senatorship as long as he wished—supposed to have come from Tammany. In his early life he looked forward to a congressional career, and with that end in view he fitted himself for discussion of the great problems of government. After his triumphs in congress he dreamed of the presidency, but the nomination has come to him earlier than he believed likely.

Mr. Bryan is a politician of the higher type. Reliques politics. He believes that every young man should take an active interest in the game, and he believes the country would be all the better for it if they did. He is adroit, active, audacious, and tireless, and under his generalship the old leaders have been overthrown. His victory was achieved partly through tactical skill and partly through the hold he has upon the affections of his followers. His only reverse has been a defeat for the United States senatorship. In 1894 he made an offensive and defensive alliance with the populists to secure the majority of the legislature, and, though defeated, it was a close call for the republicans, twenty of their assemblymen being victors by less than fifty votes.

Mr. Bryan is a religious man, a trait of character inherited from his father, who frequently interrupted the work of his court to engage in prayer. But his piety is not demonstrative or intrusive. He is a man of admirable poise of character, has never been heard to utter a profane word, nor does he use tobacco or intoxicants in any form.

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## Notice.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Lincoln.

In the matter of the estate of Geo. W. Jackson, deceased.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY.

To Caroline V. Jackson, Mary A. Ridgeway, Martha J. Thobe, Minerva Bradley, Benjamin F. Jackson, Aveneth Tracey, Hiram Jackson, Geo. W. Jackson, Jr., Sarah Ellen Spurling, Anna E. Jackson, Eva Jackson and Edward Jackson, heirs-at-law of George W. Jackson, deceased, and to the public.

Notice is hereby given that I, F. M. Stanton, administrator of said above-named estate, will

On Saturday, August 15th, 1896,

at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. of said day, in the City of Toledo in said county and state,

offer for sale at public auction for cash in hand the following-described real property belonging to said estate, to-wit: The undivided one-half of lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32, each lot containing five acres of land, in the town of Fruitville as shown by maps and plats of the same on file in Lincoln county, Oregon; also the undivided one-half of the southwest 1/4 of section 36, town 10, south, range 11, west, except the southeast 1/4 of southeast 1/4 of the above-described land being situated in Lincoln county, Oregon, and being in all 155 acres of land, or thereabouts.

Dated at Toledo, Oregon, this 15th day of July, 1896.

F. M. STANTON,

Administrator of the estate of Geo. W. Jackson, Sr., deceased.

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