

HIGHEST TYPE OF CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN

Churchmen Who Know Judge Taft Reader Him This Sincere Tribute.

The Attitude of the Republican Candidate Towards Religion and a Life Which Shows Adherence to the Best Ethics and Morals.

"Because he is the highest type of the Christian gentleman."

This is the way in which I heard the pastor of a Methodist church in southern Illinois end an argument with a layman on the train coming to Cincinnati from St. Louis, writes a staff correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Bishop J. C. Hartzell of the Methodist Episcopal Church, discussing the religious beliefs of Bryan and Taft, after calling on the latter, said:

"Which of these men I shall vote for will not be decided by their religious beliefs, but what they are as men, and by the principles and policies they stand for in the administration of the government."

Remembering that Mrs. Taft is a Presbyterian, but that Miss Helen Taft was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in Washington last winter at the same time that Miss Ethel Roosevelt, daughter of the President, was confirmed, I wondered as to Mr. Taft's church association.

"Mrs. Taft and children are Episcopalians, and the Secretary frequently accompanies them to St. John's Church, where, also, he has a pew. While Mr. Roosevelt goes to the German Reformed Church, his wife and family, who are Episcopalians, attend historic St. John's Church, where they sit only one or two pews removed from Mrs. Taft and her children."

This Methodist testimony indicated to me the broad and liberal view of Mr. Taft in religious matters. In looking through the file of this same publication—the Western Christian Advocate—I found a discussion of both nominees, in the course of which it was asserted:

"The sympathies of both Mr. Taft and Mr. Bryan are very broad, and they worship easily and naturally with any Christian denomination. Whichever man is elected, the country will have, therefore, a President of clean life, lofty principles and Christian convictions."

On the same afternoon, when Bishop Hartzell called, Rev. James G. Robinson, pastor of the Baker Street African Methodist Church of Dayton, Ohio, called at the headquarters in company with W. H. Jones, one of the leading colored lawyers of the same city. Mr. Jones was proud of the fact that he is president of the Colored Taft Club, the first one to be incorporated in the United States, and Rev. Mr. Robinson admitted that he is president of the Board of Directors of the same club.

"I believe," he said, "Judge Taft will be elected by a safe and comfortable majority, not simply because he is a Republican, nor am I speaking because I am a Republican. But Judge Taft represents all of the ideals of the true Christian statesman."

As to the attitude of his own race, Rev. Mr. Robinson said: "We can not afford to line up with the Democratic party, which has been antagonistic to our interests always, and against the party headed by such wise and Christian statesmen as is Judge Taft. He is a man whom we know in Ohio is desirable that all men, without regard to

color, be treated fairly before the courts."

In introducing Mr. Taft at Toledo, Ohio, Bishop Samuel Fallows endorsed him unreservedly, and in the course of his remarks said:

"I can say, without fear of successful contradiction, that no man ever came before the American people for the highest honor in their gift so thoroughly prepared to meet its weighty responsibilities as Mr. Taft. He is ripe in the knowledge of jurisprudence and clear and firm in judicial decisions. He has won, as an executive officer in our Oriental possessions, the plaudits of his countrymen and of admiring nations. He has satisfactorily settled in those islands of the sea some of the most delicate and difficult subjects, involving deep-seated racial and religious questions, ever brought up for adjudication. He is deeply religious without a trace of bigotry, fearing God and working righteousness, as did the two Adamses and Abraham Lincoln."

In my effort to discover the qualities which led one to describe Mr. Taft as "the highest type of Christian gentleman" I learn that the candidate himself, within a month, has defined just what importance he attached to Christian character in the building of a successful career. The question had been put to him to develop his personal views, and writing in response the Republican candidate said:

"Your question suggests two others which must be answered in answering this: First, what is a Christian character, and, second, what is a successful career? First, I consider a Christian character that of one who holds as his ideal a compliance with the two commandments given by Jesus Christ, and who earnestly strives to live up to that ideal. Second, I should define a successful career to be that career which brings more real happiness to those who happen to be within the operation of the influence of the person whose character is in question."

"Coming now to answer your inquiry, I should say that a Christian character in the building of a successful career is its most important part. The longer one lives the more convinced he must become that every other incident and element of a career loses importance in comparison, and that when a man's life work is done this is what stands out, and whether the career is one of profession, business or politics, the same thing is true."

Mr. Aaron A. Ferris, a prominent Cincinnati lawyer, who has known Judge Taft for thirty years, said:

"I have never had occasion to ask Judge Taft what his creed was in matters religious. I know that, when in Cincinnati, he has been quite regular in attendance at Christ Episcopal church, of which members of his family are communicants, and of which I am a vestryman. I know very well that no one in trouble or distress ever appealed to him without receiving a patient hearing and prompt and material aid, when in his power to give it. If a man's character is to be gauged by what he does, and not by mere profession; if leading a clean and upright life is to be a guide, and doing righteous deeds is to be counted, then I am confident that his neighbors and fellow-citizens who have lived with him and know him well, without regard to creed, color or party association, would say that Taft has lived and acted in every station as a Christian gentleman."

WHAT TAFT WILL DO.

Chief Statistician of Census Bureau Writes on "The Assets of the United States."

The nation's wealth is not in the hands of a few, according to L. G. Powers, chief statistician of the census bureau at Washington.

Writing on "The Assets of the United States" in the September number of the American Journal of Sociology, issued recently from the University of Chicago press, Mr. Powers has the following to say of the concentration of wealth in America:

"If we start with the value of farms and other homes which are known to be owned by men of small possessions, the savings bank deposits and other known possessions of those of moderate means, and then add the lowest popular estimates of the possessions of our millionaires, we have an aggregate far in excess of the census appraisal of national wealth, and the conclusion under such circumstances is irresistible either that the census estimates are ridiculously small or the popular estimates of the wealth of our millionaires are greatly exaggerated."

"The writer does not find any evidence that would justify either the statement that our national wealth is grossly understated or that our millionaires own so large a share of that wealth as to leave the great majority without property."

Here is a positive declaration by William H. Taft which should reassure the friends of President Roosevelt:

"If elected I propose to devote all the ability that is in me to the constructive work of—succeeding to Congress the means by which the Roosevelt policies shall be clinched."

Taft is making a good impression by his thoughtful speeches. Bryan is as clever and as interesting as ever—and as superficial.—Milwaukee Evening Wisconsin.

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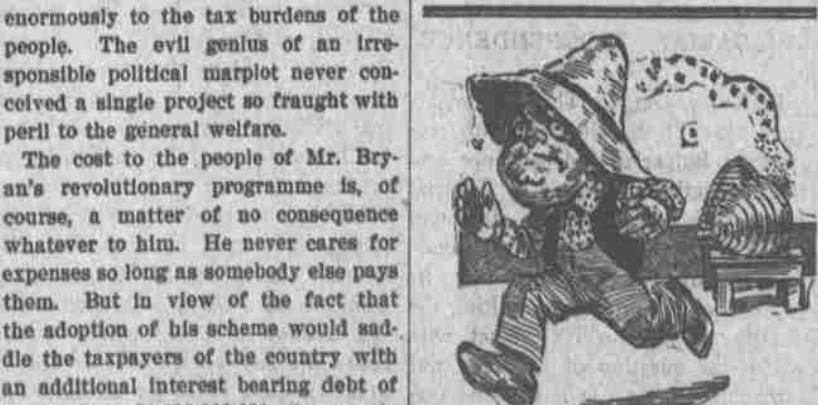
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