

# Travel With William Jennings Bryan

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**S**outh reached India—and what extremes are there! Southern India penetrates the Indian ocean and is so near the equator that the inhabitants dwell under the heat of a perpetual summer, while the rocky sentinels that guard the frontier are clad in the ice of an eternal winter. As might be expected in a land which has every altitude from sea level to nearly 20,000 feet, one finds all varieties of vegetation, from the sturdy fern of the tropics to the sturdy cedars that blossom in the snow—from the grain and orchards of Agra, Ough and the Punjab to the cotton, rice and fruit of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The extremes are as noticeable among the people as in nature's realm. In learning there is a great gulf between the Hindu pundit and the ignorant rascal; there is a wide difference between the wealth of the native prince and the poverty of the masses; and there is a boundless ocean between the government and the people.

Eastern India is entered through Calcutta, a city of more than a million inhabitants, which has been built up under British occupancy. It is the capital of the province of Bengal and the winter capital of British India.

### Winter Capital of British India.

I say winter capital because the higher English officials have their headquarters at Simla, 8,000 feet up in the Himalayas, during eight months of the year. Calcutta is on a rocky island, one of the numerous mouths of the Ganges; and the Ganges, it may be added, is a little disappointing to one who has read about it from youth, instead of being a large river flowing down from the Himalayas directly to the sea, it is neither of great length nor of great width and it runs for hundreds of miles along the foot of the range and joins the Brahmaputra, which comes from an opposite direction and apparently is much longer. The mouth of the joint stream forms a delta like that of the Nile, which at the coast is something like 200 miles wide.

Lacking the antiquity of the cities of the interior, Calcutta does not possess many things of interest to the tourist, no elaborate tombs, no massive mosques and few temples of importance, although all shades of religion are represented here. There is a very pretty Jain temple in the suburbs, and in the city there is a Hindu temple where goats are offered as a sacrifice, but the center of Hinduism is at Benares, while Agra, Delhi and Lucknow furnish the finest specimens of the taste of the Mohammedan rulers. There are at Calcutta some fine public buildings and less pretentious private blocks, some beautiful parks and a very extensive museum.

### Mecca of the Student.

In this museum one can learn more of the various races of India, of their dress, implements and weapons, more of the animal and insect life, more of India's mineral wealth, more of her agricultural products and manufactures than he can in weeks of travel. He sees here mounted specimens of bug and butterfly, bird, fish and beast. In the very Mecca of the student and we saw a number of groups thus engaged.

Among the insects there are several which illustrate the primacy of nature to a marvelous degree. Some are like dried grass, like moss and some like leaves. The most remarkable of these is a leaf insect which can scarcely be detected from a leaf even after it has been pointed out. There is a mountain grouse which turns white in the winter, and in some countries a hare which undergoes the same change. In Ceylon there are crabs with legs like pieces of coral and a color closely resembling the sand upon which they crawl, but the leaf insect surpasses them all. Not only is its color identical with the leaf, but its body and wings are veined and ribbed like a leaf; even rust spot could be found on some of them. We could hardly believe our own eyes had we not seen some of these insects alive and some of the young just hatched.

### Famous Banyan Tree.

The botanical garden, while not equal in variety or beauty to the gardens at Bulenzorg and Kandy, has one object of growing interest, viz., a gigantic banyan tree. This tree is a century and a half old and shades a spot of ground almost a thousand feet in circumference. Great arms run out from the parent trunk and these are supported by aerial roots or minor trunks, some of which are several feet in diameter. Seen from a distance the tree presents a very symmetrical appearance, and, as it is still growing, it is likely to become, if it is not already, the largest tree in the world.



View of the Himalayas From Darjeeling.

pearance, and, as it is still growing, it is likely to become, if it is not already, the largest tree in the world. The zoological garden contains some excellent specimens. We were especially interested in the Bengal tiger, in a red-nosed African mandrill (which looks like a cross between a hog and an ape), and in the monkeys. Three of the latter belong to the shouting variety—at least, they do shout. When the attendant gives the cue they set up such a chorus of ear-splitting yells as one seldom hears. The roaring and reeling makes a din before which the noise of a football game seems tame. While not a football enthusiast, I venture the suggestion that an American team would do well to secure the assistance of these rosters for they could work up the necessary enthusiasm on short notice and with a great saving to the throats of the students.

On the streets of Calcutta one sees Indian life in all its forms. The coolies wear the tightest possible clothing and carry enormous burdens on their heads.

### Grand Piano Among Eight.

I saw eight of them hurrying down the street at a fast walk bearing a grand piano on their heads. In another place one man carried a large Saratoga trunk on his head down the hotel stairs. He had to have assistance in lifting and lowering it, but when it was once balanced upon his head he marched off with it with apparent ease. The coolie women also carry burdens upon their heads, water jars being their specialty. Two and even three of these, one on top of another, are sometimes carried thus. The brass water pot is, by the way, never out of sight in India; it is to be seen everywhere, and the scouring of these pots seems to give employment for leisure moments.

While much carrying is done on the head and on the pole, carts of all kinds are numerous. The water buffalo like a cross between a hog and an ape, and in the monkeys. Three of the latter belong to the shouting variety—at least, they do shout. When the attendant gives the cue they set up such a chorus of ear-splitting yells as one seldom hears. The roaring and reeling makes a din before which the noise of a football game seems tame. While not a football enthusiast, I venture the suggestion that an American team would do well to secure the assistance of these rosters for they could work up the necessary enthusiasm on short notice and with a great saving to the throats of the students.

The merchants of India are a shrewd and persistent class. They press their wares upon one at the hotels and in their shops, and the purchaser never knows whether he is buying at a bargain or paying two or three prices.

The Indian women of the higher classes are in seclusion all the time. They seldom leave their homes and when they do venture out, they travel in covered chairs or closed carriages. This custom was brought into India by the Mohammedan conquerors, but it has been generally adopted by Hindu society. There is a growing sentiment among the educated Hindus against this practice, so burdensome to woman, but custom yields slowly to new ideas. At Calcutta we met several Indian ladies of high social rank who in their home life have felt the influence of western ideas and who have to some extent lessened the rigors of the zenana (seclusion). Two of these ladies—one a princess—were daughters of the famous Keshub Chunder Sen, the great

### A Matter of Conscience.

It is not at all uncommon for the dealer to begin negotiations with the assertion that he has but one price and that his conscience will not allow him to ask more than a fair price, and conclude by selling at a 25 or 50 per cent discount. It may be that the natives are treated differently, but the foreigner is likely to be charged "what the traffic will bear."

You cannot judge the value of a merchant's stock by the size or appearance of his store. He may have a little booth open in front, with no show windows, but when he begins to bring out his trunks and bundles, he may exhibit jewelry worth a hundred thousand dollars or rich embroideries worth their

weight in gold. The merchant sits cross-legged on the floor and spreads out the wares which his attendants bring, beguiling you with the while with stories of Lord So-and-So's purchase or of Lady What's-her-Name's order, or of an American millionaire.

The native buildings are, as a rule, neither beautiful nor cleanly. The little shops that open on the street exhibit food and vegetables arranged in heaps, the vendor apparently indifferent to dust and flies. The houses are generally of adobe, plastered with mud and without floors. In the warmer sections of the country they are built of matting and bamboo. The rich Indians live in substantial homes with high ceilings, tile floors and spacious verandas, but these are very few compared with the mass of the poor.

### Women Kept in Seclusion.

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The Great Banyan Tree at Calcutta.

Hindu reformer, whose writings made a profound impression on the religious thought of the world. In the group was also a daughter-in-law of Mr. Sen's, a brilliant woman who was left the widow of a native prince at the age of 13 and who recently shocked the orthodox Hindus by a second marriage. I mention these ladies because they represent the highest type of Indian womanhood, and it would be difficult to find in any country, in a group of the same size, more beauty, culture and refinement.

### Picturesque Dress of Natives.

The principal article of feminine dress is the sari, a long strip of cotton or silk, part of which is wrapped about the body to form a skirt, while the rest is draped over the head and shoulders in graceful folds. This garment lends itself to ornamentation and is usually embroidered along the edges, sometimes with silver and gold. We have not found in our travels a more becoming and attractive costume.

The dress of the men is so varied that description is impossible. One form of dress resembles the Roman toga. Many wear trousers made by mysterious windings and foldings of a long strip of cloth, others wear loose pantaloons. The coats are as multi-form as long, close-fitting ones being the most popular. But the hat is the article to which most care is given. While the fez is popular, it is not so conspicuous as the turban. The latter is to be seen in all colors, shapes and styles. The educated Indians have adopted the European dress, but the change in costume has not been rapid.

Calcutta is one of the educational centers of India, and one finds in the city many of the leaders of thought, educational and political. The University of Calcutta grants degrees and affiliates to itself the colleges whose students are preparing for the university examinations. Besides the university there are medical, law and technical schools which draw young men from the entire country. The position taken by Lord Curzon in the matter of higher education aroused so much opposition among the native population that an association was formed two years ago for the purpose of raising money to defray the expenses of students desiring to study abroad. Last year 14 students were selected and sent to different countries. This year 44 are going, and I had the pleasure of meeting them at a public reception given them at the town hall.

### Editor Offers Prayer.

This meeting interested me very much. It was opened with a prayer by Editor Sen of the Indian Mirror, a liberal Hindu, and it was such a prayer as might have been offered in any American church. It was so brief that I quote it in full: "We thank thee, O God, that by thy blessing these young men whom we sent abroad for study last year are

doing their work well and have by thy grace been kept in the right path. We are now met to his farewell to a much larger number of our youths, who are shortly leaving these shores for study in distant foreign lands. We ask thy abundant blessing on them and we humbly beseech thee to protect them in their travels by sea and land and to bring them all safely to their respective destinations. May they be diligent in their studies, obedient to their teachers, grateful to those by whose help they are being sent abroad, and blameless in their conduct. May the love and fear of God rule their hearts, and may they return to us and to those nearest and dearest to them in due course crowned with full success and filled with an earnest desire to labor for the good of their country and their poorer brethren. We commend them to thy gracious keeping as we now bid them a hearty farewell, and beseech thee to help us all to live and work for the glory of thy name and the good of our fellow men now and always."

Most of the students were going to Japan—one of the many indications of that country's increasing influence in the orient—some were going to England and a few to America. Those bound for America called upon me later at the hotel, and I found them an earnest and ambitious group. They had, as all the Indians whom we met seemed to have, a high opinion of our country and their information and their ability to the advantage of their country.

### High Positions Won by Indians.

In Calcutta there are a number of Indians who have won prominence in various spheres of activity. Editor Sen, to whom I have already referred, is one of the most influential of the native editors and writers. Editor Banerjee of the Bengalee is both a writer and an orator, and the editor of the Patrika has made his paper an exponent of advanced political thought. The Tagore family has furnished several men prominent in religious, literary and official life; education has found a patron in the Roy family, and Dr. Bose has won more than a national reputation in science.

Those who visit Calcutta cannot afford to miss the ride to Darjeeling, a summer resort perched upon the foothills of the Himalayas. The journey is rather fatiguing—three hours to the Ganges, then an all night ride to the foot of the range and then an eight-hour climb on a two-foot gauge up the mountain side, but it amply repays the effort. We count this experience among the richest that we have enjoyed. The day at Darjeeling is about 7,000 feet above the sea and the sides of the Himalayas are so steep at this point that it is only 50 miles down the zigzag

little railroad to the plain where the elevation is but 200 or 300 feet. I do not know where one can find more of the grand and picturesque in the same distance than on this narrow gauge that threads its way up the rocky sides of this most stupendous of mountain ranges.

### Effect of Mountain Life.

Darjeeling is so near to Tibet, Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan that one finds here a motley variety of types and sees something of the native life of the forbidden land that stretches along the northern border of India. The mountain tribes are sturdy in build, coarse in feature and lighter in color than the people of the lowlands and we saw some types that strongly resembled the American Indian.

But to return to the mountains themselves; the view from Darjeeling is unsurpassed. The Kinchinjunga peaks rise to a height of 28,168 feet above the sea, or nearly twice as high as Pike's Peak, and though 45 miles distant are clear and distinct. The summits seen above the clouds, seem to have no terrestrial base, but hang as if suspended in mid air. The best view is obtained from Tiger Hill, six miles from Darjeeling and 3,000 feet higher. We made this trip one morning, rising at 3 o'clock and reaching the observation point a little before sunrise. I wish I were able to convey to the reader the impression made upon us.

While all about us was yet in darkness the snowy robe which clothes the upper 13,000 feet of the range cast a tint of pearl from the first rays of the sun, and, as we watched, the orb of day, rising like a ruby globe from a lake of dark blue mist, glided peak after peak until at last we saw Mount Everest, earth's loftiest point, 29,000 miles away and nearly 1,000 feet higher than Kinchinjunga. We saw shadows fleeing from the light like hunted culprits and hiding in the deep canyons. What marked the triumph of the dawn as it swept down the valleys.

### Inspiration From the Heights.

How puny seem the works of man when brought into comparison with majestic nature! The groves, which inspire when measured against the virgin forest! His noblest temples, how insignificant when contrasted with the masonry of the hills! What canvas can imitate the dawn and sunset? What inland work can match the mosaics of the mountains!

Is it blind chance that gives these glimpses of the sublime? And was it blind chance that clustered vast reservoirs about inaccessible summits and stored water to refresh the thirsty plains through hidden veins and surface streams?

Who wonder man from the beginning of history has turned to the heights for inspiration, for here is the spirit awed by the infinite and here one sees both the mystery of creation and the manifestation of the Father's loving kindness. Here man finds a witness, unimpeachable though silent, to the omnipotence and the goodness of God.

## VIENNA'S BOOK OF HONOR

### Where the Great in Music Mingle Their Ashes in Central Cemetery

(From a Journal Staff Correspondent.)

**I**n Vienna's "Graves of Honor" lie the remains of such a galaxy of great musicians and composers as perhaps can be found in no other country in the world. Here in the most beautiful part of the Central cemetery, the largest burying ground in Europe, lie Beethoven, Gluck, Schubert and other masters of music of scarcely less renown.

A magnificent monument to Mozart stands in the midst of them, but it is only a monument, and marks no grave. For the whereabouts of Mozart's remains is a mystery, except as regards the skull, which is in the possession of a friend of the family.

Other monuments cover the graves of painters, sculptors, artists, authors, players, all of whom occupied high positions in the world of art and culture.

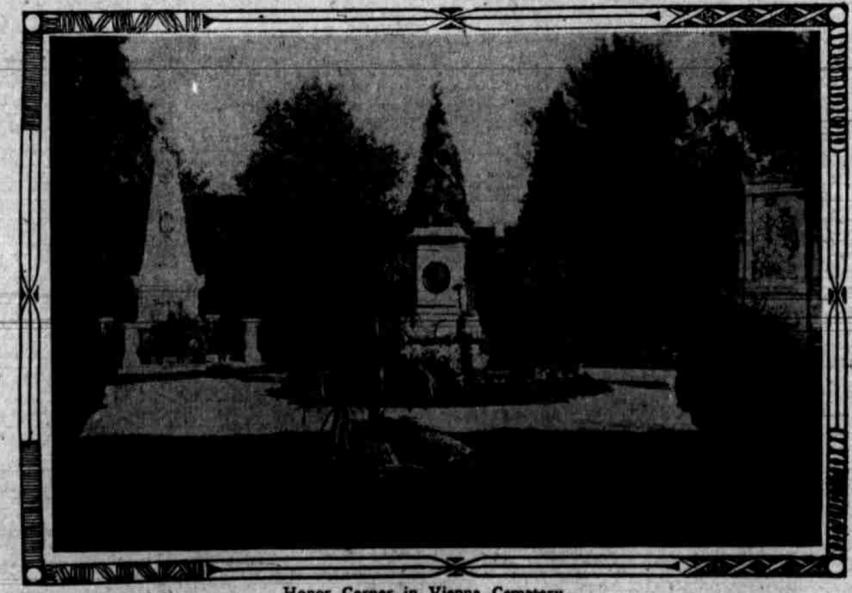
These so-called "Graves of Honor" are of quite recent date. When the great Central cemetery was first opened a few years ago a number of small local burying grounds which had sufficed for the city's needs were closed, and in some cases it was even proposed to build over parts of them. Scattered among these little cemeteries were the remains of many eminent citizens and residents of Vienna, and as it seemed only fit and proper that these should be treated with all honor and reverence the city council decided to have them taken up and rein-

terred in a prominent position in the new cemetery.

A small area was chosen for the reception of these illustrious dead, and also for other great men who might come after them. The city bore all the expenses attending the removal and re-burying, and sometimes provided the monument. In other cases, however, the friends and admirers of the deceased artists undertook the erection of the monuments.

In view of the approaching centenary of the death of Haydn (in 1909) one of the city aldermen recently proposed that this great composer's remains should be brought from the small village churchyard where they were laid and placed beside his distinguished associates. The alderman, however, had overlooked the fact that the great noble family of Esterhazy had removed Haydn's corpse 14 years after his death to a magnificent tomb upon their estate at Eisenstadt. Haydn had been private organist and music master to the Princess Esterhazy, and they had, therefore, provided this final resting place for him.

The spot chosen for the "Graves of Honor" has been tastefully laid out and planted with choice trees and shrubs and beautiful flowers. It will shortly be still more beautified by the erection of a magnificent church and colonnades which will cost nearly \$1,000,000. According to the plans which have just been approved, the building and its surroundings will give a somewhat similar



Honor Corner in Vienna Cemetery.

effect to the great square of St. Peter's in Rome. The church will be of imposing proportions, its gilded cross rising 300 feet above the ground. The crypt will provide space for 40 graves and in the colonnades including the area in front, will be mural graves after the custom of the Romans and early Christians. These colonnades will be 1,000 feet in length and will afford space for

## MADE NICKEL POPULAR

### French Minister of Finance Resorts to Ruse to Circulate Coin

(From a Journal Staff Correspondent.)

**M.** POINCARRE, the minister of finance, has given striking proof of his resourcefulness. When he assumed office he found that the new 25-centime nickel coin—which corresponds exactly to the American "nickel"—was exceedingly unpopular; so much so that there was serious talk of calling it in again. Various methods were discussed among the departmental officials for pushing the circulation of the coin. It was gravely proposed that a pamphlet should be published for gratuitous distribution calling attention to its advantages, citing its demonstrated utility in the United States, and appealing to the patriotism of the French public to support it.

"Just leave the matter in my hands," said M. Poincarre, after these suggestions had been laid before him, "and I'll guarantee that within a few weeks the nickel will be the most popular coin in Paris."

Had M. Poincarre laid his scheme before his colleagues they would probably have rejected it as undignified, unprecedented and contrary to all the red tape rules so dear to the official mind. He said nothing to them, however, about the plan he had in view. Nobody knew who started the rumor, or the means that were adopted to spread it, but one day all Paris was whispering that in the hardest and most contentious workers at the bar, but in his younger days he was a journalist.

engraved in tiny letters. And everywhere the story was told that the first person who took one of these coins to Rothschild's bank in the Rue Lafitte would receive \$5,000 for it, that for the second nickel similarly inscribed \$2,000 would be paid; for the third and fourth \$1,000, and \$400 for the last of the five. It was said that Rothschild had a large stock of nickel on hand which he wanted to get rid of to the government, and had devised this sort of gratuitous lottery scheme in order to create a demand for the nickel coins as would force the government to buy the metal of him.

The credulous French folk, who dearly love anything that appeals to their gambling instincts, readily swallowed the story. Small tradesmen, who had previously fought shy of the new coin, were eager to obtain it. The lower classes insisted on getting nickels with their change. In a few days the nickel 25 centimes was the most popular coin in Paris and the demand for it exceeded the supply. Needless to say, no one has yet got hold of a coin on which, even by the aid of a microscope, the name "Rothschild" can be discovered. But there are still thousands of people in Paris who are convinced that with good luck they may obtain \$5,000 for 5 cents. It must not be inferred from this that M. Poincarre belongs to the mountebank type of politician. He is one of the hardest and most conscientious workers at the bar. But in his younger days he was a journalist.