# VILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN, THEN

Commoner Strong Reflection of Party's Great American Statesmen; His Views of the Country's Progress, Its Future and Its Greatness; Active Part He Played in National Politics in the Past

pect that he has changed more physically and temperamentally Hitherto Unchronioled Tiff. than he has mentally. I re- Inasmuch as reminiscence seems to be member the brace of his shoulders, the in order on the eve of a hattle, let us toss of the head, the ring of the voice indulge the spirit of it once more. The as he hurled across the turbulence of the author of these lines was once plucked Chicago convention hall the speech with out of the ignoble obscurity in which which his career began. No doubt he Pate, so often blind to real merit, conhad been at it some years before that. demns him to linger, and was set for

perhaps not at all. You see, long ago I struck out certain principles for my own guidance, and I took my stand upon them. Now, principles do not change. Their application changes; their meaning broadens; they reveal new aspects as the light of new events.

By William Bayard Hale, in New York even their changing applicability.

Times.

Twelve years hardly allow one to stand still mentally.

Mr. Bryan was inclined to be a little thoughtful about that.

WEST COUNTY

Chicago convention hall the speech with which his career began. No doubt he had been at if some years before that. One day—it was in, probably, 1884—when the expected orator of the day sonville, Illinois, they sent for one of the boys just out of college—he had been valedictorian—and dragged him up on the platform.

"Who is he? What shall I say about thim" inquired the old gentleman who you say that William I. Hryan on rising young attorney of Morgan county, will now address us." And the somewhat embarrassed gentleman an anounced that William Rising Bryan, a lay attorney of Morgan county, would a doubt that the rising attorney turned the laugh to his own purpose and proceeded to make the most stirring speech the town had ever listened to.

Bryan as an Orator.

For it never seemed as if Mr. Bryan had anything to learn as to the art of public speech. He is, and has been ever since he came into public view, the greatest of orators. No doubt the same thunder was in his voice then, the same lightning on his forehead, that swept the Chicago convention off its feet and ushered him, become an idol of the people, into what it sliready one of the most remarkable and peculiar political careers of history. I have seen the effect on vast throngs in svery part of the country. I have seen the effect on vast throngs in svery part of the country. I have seen the effect on vast throngs in svery part of the country. It is a more maintenant of the country. It is a more maintenance and reform when the ame impressively recommended by the panic of stops that had been made that they did not become friendly. But they heard orations of power will be a probably had in mind the president sappropriation of his own president so probably had in mind the president sappropriation of his own president is not the first appear. The three were anything worth the same thunder was in his voice then, the same lightning on his forehead, that we have the same thunder was in his voice then, the same lightning on his forehead, that we have the same thund

people. Never to despair. The thing that impresses me most today is per haps the recent astonishing rise in our

day by the number of shirts hung to dry on a line stretched the length of the car.

I have always wondered whether the tremendous physical energy used by Mr. Bryan in those unparalleled campaigns of 1896 and 1990 could have been paid out without physical consequences. Then there was that hearther breaking effort on the eve of the care vention of 1994, when the standbearer of the two precodes without the shearer of the two precodes without the edge of the shearer of the two precodes without the edge of an eye in sleep for 70 hours and won in an agony of physical exhaustion. Mr. Bryan has a right to be older in 1998 than he was in 1896.

Today there are a few lines on, his face that were not there 12 years ago, and the old ones have grown sharper. Last spring when he was here attending the peace conference organized by Mr. Carnegle he seemed to be up in weight. Eighteen months ago, in Paris, returning from a trip around the world, he looked weary and half ill. Today his girlt is not so pronounced, his cye is brighter, his bearing more slert. The same of the world's modeling of the audactly of six and-thirty is gone. To take its place a new poise, a maturer confidence, a steader and more centrolled purpose—the same purpose, but tried now in the fires of the world's, and especially of the country's, advance in intelligence and more and sweeter. He is graver. He ought to be wiser. He was talking to me of the world's, and especially of the country's, advance in intelligence and more and sweeter. He is graver. He ought to be wiser. He was talking to me of the world's, and especially of the country's, advance in intelligence and more and sweeter. He is graver. He ought to be wiser. He was talking to me of the world's name application of the strength out of a larger outlook, a maturer confidence, as steader and more applied to be wiser. He was talking to me of the world's, and especially of the country

## Principles on Way to Triumph.

"Those who are not awake to the fact that a great moral awakening is new aspects as the light of new events falls upon them, but they themselves do not change. I am true absolutely to the principles upon which I made my first appeal to the American people. I have not even had to reconsider them. I hope, however, I have been able to appreciate their widening and succepted by those who railed at the treating one, though not unparalleled them then and still oppose me. They either in social or political history—that the principles in the advocacy of which I gained some notoriety. Mr. Bryan said "notoriety" and smiled, "as able to appreciate their widening and have had altogether too much credit. It much as 12 years ago are today very so absurd as to dream it. My advocacy

'The time has come when it is perceived that religion is a concern that has to do with the family, the city, and the nation, with business and with rollitics, as well as with what we have been calling the individual life. No man can individually be a religious man who composed the acts breakly on who commercially acts irreligiously or politically consents to irreligious meas-ures. Morality is very largely a matter of relationships with others, and it is tremendously interested in a man's be-havior toward his brothers in business. What we are witnessing is a revival of religion largely concerned with men and women as members of society. There has been born a new realization of brotherhood and a new determination to accept and act on the principle of

"Today the public conscience is sensitive toan degree which a few years. ago would not have been believed. The people are hurt and grieved at the spectacle of greed, injustice and wrongdoing, with no light hurt or grief. The country today lies under conviction. Bryan's Strength and Sincerity. That is a state of mind which the old revivalists used to diagnose with satisconversion. Every one has noticed that corporations as well as individuals in business refrain today from at least certain acts and courses which a few years ago would not have troubled their minds. So much has been gained. We shall never so back to the law states and courses which a few years ago would not have troubled their be in his ability as a politician or in popular faith in his statesmanship. For shall never so back to the law states and course that eradic the minds. faction. It is the condition precedent to shall never go back to the lax standards. Conscience is awake. It is even growing refined. Can you doubt what the result will be? Why, it will not stop till it has made itself effective in business and in government. This land belongs to righteen the standard of the sta

Stop till it has made itself effective in business and in government. This land belongs to righteousness and righteousness shall prevail in it."

When Mr. Bryan is embarked on a discourse of this nature nothing turns him aside from it. He will stop long enough to reply pleasantly to personal remarks or give you a quick answer to some question calculated to get the conversation back to mundane things, but his face sobers down again quickly, and his eyes take on the rapt look of the prophet as he resumes the theme of righteousness and its triumph. At one point I asked him whether he thought the tariff question might not be taken out of politics and handed over to experts to be dealt with as a matter of out of politics and handed over to experts to be dealt with as a matter of the country to this hour of awakened conscience. Mr. Shepard, introducing me last night, remarked pleasantly that, although the White House is occupied by a political adversary, yet I invariable by a political adversary, yet I invariable want as well as the control of the country to denote the fighted should be once in his interpetation of particular hie does not strike thinker. You do me of the thorough the does not strike the does not betrave by a down again quickly, and his estraw to be subject, does not betrave by a down some lane of the subject, does not betrave by a political and the stake of much and the subject, does not betrave by a political and the personally he does also not strike thinker. You do me of the thorough the does not strike the does not strike the does not strike them to find the content of the does not betrave by a down again quickly, and his estraw to a down some lane of the subject, does not betrave by a down again quickly, and his estraw to a down some lane of the subject, does not betrave by a down again quickly, and his estraw to a down some lane of the subject. The subject of the subject of the proposal as a down some lane of the subject of the subject

dignation at the idea. "Impossible! We don't want any non-partisan com-mission on the tariff."

Shepard, introducing me last night, remarked pleasantly that, although the White House is occupied by a political adversary, yet I 'inspire and control the political ideals of that famous mansion.' Those were the extravagant words of friendship. The fact is, of course, that the events, the forces, the atmosphere, the spirit of the day has been earling twon the president, as they

come clear to multitudes. They were, a while ago, easily put aside as acside and negligible. Now they have asserted their kingly character, their right to obedience. They used to seem thard and impracticable and calculated to disturb business. Now they are seen as infinitely more important than any other considerations which affect business.

"Are you aware that the country has been going through a great revival of corporations are not punished by the

religion? Certainly, it is true. Don't you know about the evangelistic movements, that most impressive movement toward a more personal realization of the gospel? It has taken possession of the churches everywhere. It has quickened religion. It has brought in the men and organized them. We have a truly wonderful phenomenon in the splendid arrays of men who are for the first time gathered into enthusiastic and well-managed organizations for the spread of religion.

"And there is a new note in popular religion. Walle it is quickened in its personal side, it has come to a new understanding of the social significance of Christianity. Christ said—no, it was one of the disciples, but the authority is pretty good still. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now."

"The time has come when it is perceived that religion is a concern that has to do with the family. The stime and of the state of

Character of the

"Nothing whatever. It does not de-serve a moment's consideration. The American people would never be willing to surrender important interests, with which they are perfectly competent to deal themselves, into the hands of a commission. Not for a moment."

Mr. Bryan undoubtedly would have

given reason for his prompt reprobation of the idea, but his mind was just then on the higher and more general subject of the national conscience.

The fact is that Mr. Bryan is essen-

### Essentially a Preacher.

There The fact is that and on of tially a preacher—a high-class exhorter. a glorified circuit rider. Righteousroaccept and act on the principle of brotherhood.

The trend of the times should get acquainted with the impressive popularity of brotherhoods of men being organized in support of religion. It is something new. And then the fraternities are doing a good deal to advance the idea of brotherhood and common interest. I mean associations like the Modern Woodmen, to which I have belonged for years; the Knights of Pythias, and the rest. Probably they play a less part here than they do throughout the west. Do not underestimate their usefuliness for the fact that they are now agencies of propaganda for the idea of human solidarity, brotherhood, against unjust privilege, legalized wrong, against the taking out of the common store more than is contributed toward the common good. Have you heard anything of the Patriotic League of Christian Endeavor?

Public Conscience Is Wide Awake.

"Today the public conscience is senness is his constant theme; the conto righteousness! He traveled 18,000 miles during his first campaign. Since then he has carried his gospel distances probably equal to several times the circuit of the globe. He has spoken face to face beyond all question to more hearers than has any other man in the world's history. His zeal is that of the untiring missionary

This is not to say that the Democratic idol is not a politician, not an popular faith in his statesmanship. For half dozens that credit the wisdom of the particular measures he advocates hundreds are drawn to him by confi-dence in his integrity and sincerity. Personally he does not give the impression of particular political sagacity. He does not strike you as a profound thinker. You do not detect the accent thinker. You do not detect the accent of the thorough historian or the in-formed scientist. The locution of the bookish man, the technical phrase of the subject, does not escape him. He the subject, does not escape him. He does not betrav by a longing side glance down some lane of thought frequented by poets or philosophers that he knows the human mind has explored it. He keeps to the highway. His theology is apparently that of popular literal orthodoxy. His mind is not curious. The problems of the universe do not knock for solution at his door. He is a man of simple convictions, and the force of his character lies in the devotion with which he holds these and yearns to perwhich he holds these and yearns to per-

White House is occupied by a political adversary, yet I inspire and control the political ideals of that famous mansion. Those were the extravagant words of friendship. The fact is, of course, that the events, the forces, the atmosphere, the spirit of the day has been acting upon the president, as they acted upon me and have been acting upon citizens everywhere, and have to those moral principles which have come to their hour of victory—come to reign over the conduct of righteous men in business and in society.

Those principles were not long ago obscure to many men. They have become ciear to multitudes. They were, a while ago, easily put aside as academic and negligible. Now they have a control of the provision and the provision of the tariff."

Really, that was not what I wanted to wanted to wanted to wante I wanted to know. But it gave me a chance to push in a suggestion—originated by a thoughtful observer of conditions and to a few friends the day before—to this effect:

The interstate commerce laws of the country are in great confusion. The provisions regulating business, such as transportation, are scattered among thundreds of different, statutes, tucked appropriations, and they are in some cases confired to their effect. The Sherman demic and negligible. Now they have because the provision of the highest order, if it were not instinct, that suggests to the pulpit. We are a moral, even a propriations, and they are in some cases confired to be in need of revision.

Mr. Bryan's character if you put him down as a great preacher. You err if whom a suggestion—originated by a thoughtful observer of conditions and conditions and consistency or if you attribute Mr. Bryan's wide influence to any cause other than the force of the moral appeal which he influence to any cause other than the force of the moral appeal which he influence to any consistency or if you attribute Mr. Bryan's wide influence to any consistency or if you attribute Mr. Bryan's wide influence to any consistency or if you attribute Mr. Bryan's ch Mr. Bryan's character if you put him

no mere mental conviction of wisdom or advantage can find.

Mr. Brysn will be the Democratic nominee for the presidency. Behind his well-worn joke that no man was ever defeated three times for that office Hes undoubedly his now firm belief that at last the temper of the country answers to his own; that, aside from Mr. Roosevelt, no one is prepared to dispute with him the leadership of what he conceives to be a moral revival.

WHY EAT BREAD?—Some Questions and Answers

By Annel Elizar, P. D.

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