

HIGHEST TYPE OF CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN

Churchmen Who Know Judge Taft Render 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. The layman, paying due respect to the cloth of his opponent, was trying to convince him that he should not support Mr. Taft for the presidency, and instead should vote for his Democratic opponent. The churchman defended the principles of the Republican party, and, as indicated, defended the man for whom he said he expected to vote, from his personal standpoint of a churchman, "because he is the highest type of a Christian gentleman."

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. I believe that in acting upon this view, as an American citizen, I am in harmony with the spirit and purpose of the founders of our republic, who put into the constitution that there should be no religious test as to qualifications for any office or public trust under the United States. My conviction is that the future safety of the nation depends very largely upon our people heeding that constitutional prohibition. Our nation owes much in moral character, statesmanship, literature, art and religion to those who have not been in strict harmony with some of the dogmas of the church. The days of the Inquisition are past."

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 affiliation. When I made the inquiry here I was answered through the columns of the Northwestern Christian Advocate, the great Methodist publication, just as it had given answer to hundreds of inquiries from its Methodist subscribers. It said:

Man of Broad Sympathies.
"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. Secretary Taft spends his vacation at Murray Bay, Canada, where there is a Union Church, attended by the summer colonists of all denominations. The Secretary of War is one of the trustees of this summer colony church, where people of many faiths gather for worship."

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."

Opinion of Negro Clergyman.
On the same afternoon, when Bishop Hartzell called, Rev. James G. Robinson, pastor of the Eaker 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. As he left Mr. Taft's office I asked him for his view of the candidate, both from his standpoint as a churchman and as a leader of his race.

"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 destructive to all men, without regard to

GETTING IT DOWN TO A RUBBER STAMP BASIS.



A LABOR SAVING SUGGESTION TO MR. BRYAN.
—From the Denver Republican.

color, be treated fairly before the courts."

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

"I can aver, 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 Adamases and Abraham Lincoln."

Taft's Idea of Character.
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."

What an Old Friend Says.
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."

Sound National Policy.
Instead of making a panic, the national policy of ending the lawlessness of corporations in interstate commerce, and of taking away their power of issuing, without supervision, stocks and bonds, will produce a change in their management and remove one fruitful cause for loss of public confidence.—Hon. Wm. H. Taft, to Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, Boston, Mass.

BRYAN'S INCONSISTENCIES.

Democratic Candidate's Shifting Ideas About How the People Shall Rule.
(From the Boston speech of Senator Borah.)

"Shall the people rule?" Mr. Bryan has stated time and again that the most effective way by which the people could rule would be under the principle of initiative and referendum—but he has abandoned it. He has said that either the people or the railroads must rule, and that the only way the people could rule was by owning the railroads—but he has abandoned this proposition.

"He has said that the people must have the power to make the courts more amenable to popular demand, and that, in order that the people might rule, they must elect their judges—but he has abandoned the proposition. The tribune of the people has left the forum, gone from the presence of those whom he had taught certain doctrines, and taught that these doctrines were essential to their liberties and to their welfare. He has submitted to be bound not to recur to his old teachings."

"Is it all a question of expediency or is it a confession, astounding confession, of an inability to grasp the great questions and to deal with the great problems which in deed and in truth do involve the prosperity and the liberty of a free people? Are stability of mind, safe and sound statesmanship essential qualities for a President? And am I unfair and unjust to Mr. Bryan when I say that his positions so quickly taken, so earnestly urged, so openly abandoned, so confessedly wrong, are discouraging to every one as to his usefulness in the future?"

DRUMMERS TO AID TAFT.

Commercial Travelers' Sound Money League Gets Into the Campaign.

After four years of inactivity in the work for which it was organized, the Commercial Travelers' Sound Money League is about to begin a campaign "for the election of Taft and Sherman and the continuance of prosperity."

The vice presidential nominee, James S. Sherman, has written to the committee that it will afford him great pleasure to accept their invitation to speak at the first meeting of the league in the 1908 campaign.

Col. John L. Shepherd, chairman of the executive committee of the Jewelers' Association, is president of the league. Other prominent members are: Gen. Joseph W. Congdon, president of the Central Dry Goods Association; George F. Victor, one of the largest importers and exporters in America; William E. Webb of the firm of James H. Dunham & Co.; Walter Scott of the firm of Butler Brothers & Co.; and I. A. Hall, Jonas Langfeld is vice president of the league.

The league was the first society of its kind to inaugurate the system of noon-day meetings, which it did in New York City in 1896. It claims upward of 200,000 members, about 75,000 of whom come from New York houses.

Labor, the bone of contention in the present campaign, is not to be shocked either by the leaders of the political parties, nor by the command of the President of the United States and delivered into any particular party. Neither is it to be stood up and counted by President Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor. It is to be left free to act and exercise its rights of citizenship as men and not as chattels. Building Trades, Chicago (Union Labor organ).

Nobody Stood Up.

"Mr. Bryan has dictated four platforms, and if there is any man here who says he wishes either of these platforms had been successful, for him rise and I will give him \$10 for his photograph."—From Leslie M. Shaw's speech at Louisville.

DISCARDED ISSUES—FREE SILVER.

If Bryan Was Mistaken on Silver Are His Conclusions Any Safer Now?

Of all the medicines Mr. Bryan has offered the country, the free and unlimited coinage of silver was the most widely and effectively advertised. The people were told that there could be no return of prosperity without it. In spite of its doctrine of repudiation, it was offered as the only means of relief against perpetual hard times. In the contest of 1896 Mr. Bryan staked his political fortunes on this issue, and lost; in 1900 he insisted on a reaffirmation of the issue, and lost again. This year free silver has been omitted from the Democratic platform, because in the meantime the country has had its period of greatest prosperity. Time and events have refuted all Mr. Bryan's arguments in favor of free coinage, and free silverism is dead and buried, and long grass waves over its resting place.

Mr. Bryan has said that a man worthy to lead a great cause should be willing to die for it. In 1900 Mr. Bryan said that if anyone said he had changed his mind about free silver he was a falsifier. Yet Mr. Bryan made the platform of this year, and that platform has omitted mention of free silver; and Mr. Bryan says that a candidate is bound by what the platform omits as well as by what it contains. Therefore, Mr. Bryan has either discarded free silver as a belief, or he has omitted it this year as a matter of political expediency, still believing in the doctrine. If he still believes in free silver, it is obvious that he no longer thinks it necessary to die for it. If he does not believe in it, then he has been convinced that he made stupendous mistakes in 1896 and 1900, when he forced the issue on his party.

A leader may be stronger than his party; he may offer a better standard of government than the party platform on which he is running; but no leader can disentangle himself from the wreckage of issues which he has temporarily glorified as vote-getting expedients.—Kansas City Star.

NOTES AND NOTIONS.

BY JOSH WINK.

Bryan's Tour.
Bill Bryan's step is on thy shore,
Maryland, my Maryland!
He's knocking loudly at thy door,
Maryland, my Maryland!
He's tried to capture Baltimore
With arguments none gained of yore,
Whose repetitions only bore
Maryland, my Maryland!

Thou art no easy captured State,
Maryland, my Maryland!
To gain thee, one must have some weight,
Maryland, my Maryland!
No demagogue tales to date,
Will in her ardor keen create,
And lead her off from prosperous fate,
Maryland, my Maryland!

One cannot win her with mere craft,
Maryland, my Maryland!
At such endeavor she has laughed,
Maryland, my Maryland!
Though she has had of pleas a raft
To vote for Bryan, she's not daft,
Her sober thought is all for Taft,
Maryland, my Maryland!

Let Bryan then do what he can,
Maryland, my Maryland!
Do what he may all else to ban,
Maryland, my Maryland!
In States where Taft far leading ran,
Where voters weighed it, man to man,
Thou wilt be found to lead the van,
Maryland, my Maryland!
—Baltimore American.

The fact that Judge Gray handed down the opinion in the "commodities clause" case may cause some Democratic typewriters to balk in their criticisms of the decision.—Sioux City Tribune.

OUR RURAL FREE MAIL DELIVERY

How the Democratic Party Sought to Throttle It in Its Infancy.

Originated by Republicans, the Democrats Saw in It a Bugaboo of Extravagance and Tried to Kill It.

The organization of Rural Free Delivery in the United States was beset with many difficulties. In its infancy it was pounced upon by the Democratic party, a party that has an unbroken history of never missing an opportunity to try to throttle the life of every infant industry that may be so unfortunate as to meet it upon the great highway of progress. Postmaster General Wanamaker, under a Republican administration in 1892, first recommended the establishment of a rural free delivery service. During the three or four years of Democratic administration following, small appropriations were made, but not expended, and the system was never given a fair trial until President McKinley came into office.

Opposed by Democratic Officials.

The Postoffice Department headed by a Democratic Postmaster General, during Cleveland's last term, opposed rural delivery, and refused and neglected to make any experiment, or to institute any free delivery routes. As an excuse for this failure and neglect to obey the mandates of the law, the Assistant Postmaster General under Cleveland, in his report transmitted to Congress in December, 1893, expressed strong views against rural free delivery and the postmaster general of this same Democratic administration, approved these views, and in his report to this same Congress, spoke of rural free delivery in a slighting and somewhat contemptuous manner. In conclusion he stated:

"I therefore adopt the opinion of the first Assistant Postmaster General that the department would not be warranted in burdening the people with such expense when it can more properly, adequately and economically meet the requirements of postal extension by widening its scope along reasonable and conservative lines and by establishing additional post offices wherever the communities are justified in asking for them." He thus ignored the reasonable and just demands of 40,000,000 of our people, the very bone and sinew of our republic, and cast their interests aside, by a wave of the hand.

Too Many Obstacles in the Way.

Not only was the Democratic administration thoroughly against rural free delivery, but the Democratic opposition included the other Democratic branches of our national government. The House of Representatives was also Democratic at that time and on February 27, 1894, the committee on post-offices and post roads, in reporting to the House the annual postoffice appropriation bill, used the following language in reference to rural free delivery:

"It has been found impossible by reason of the pressure of more important questions, for the officers having that subject in charge, to give the subject the study and consideration that it demands, much less to establish such rural free delivery."

No Constructive Statesmanship.

Thus again, the party which has gone into partnership with calamity, saw "a lion in the way," at the very inception of constructive statesmanship, and did not exhibit the energy and initiative to take up the work for which experimental appropriations had already been made. In the report of Cleveland's Postmaster General, Wm. L. Wilson, referring to the appropriation which had been made and which had not been used, we find the following:

"Should Congress see fit to make it available for the current year, I will make the experiment ordered, by the best tests I can devise; but the difficulties in the way of such experiments and the reasons for viewing the whole plan as impracticable, are fully set forth in the report of the House Committee on the Postoffice Appropriation bill of the second session of the Fifty Third Congress."

Democracy Was Against Rural Delivery.

It will thus be seen that Cleveland's Postmaster General, after two years of study and reflection upon the subject, after having absolutely refused to use the money which Congress placed at his disposal for this purpose, gave it as his opinion that the whole plan was impracticable again, and should be abandoned. In the message of President Cleveland sent to Congress Dec. 4, 1893, referring to the matter of rural free delivery, he himself said:

"I am decidedly of the opinion that the provisions of the present law permit as general an introduction of this feature of mail service as is now NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE, and that it ought NOT to be extended to smaller communities than are now designated." Again in a single sentence, from the annual message of Cleveland the following year he dismisses the matter in these words: "The estimated cost of rural free delivery generally is so very large that it OUGHT NOT TO BE CONSIDERED, in the present condition of affairs."

Thus, the only Democratic President for more than forty years rid himself

of the measure which has come to be one of importance with American people, second only to independence itself. Cleveland said that rural free delivery was an impracticable scheme by reason of the vast expense that would be involved. Thus a Democratic Postmaster General, a Democratic chairman of the Committee on the Postoffice and Post Roads, and a Democratic President all united in agreeing that the establishment of rural free delivery was an impracticable proposition and absolutely beyond them, in its capacity for future usefulness to the majority of the American people.

Blessings of Rural Delivery.

The existence and growth of rural free delivery are the best evidences in recent years, that this is a government of the people and for the people. Some near-statesman of the Democratic party has called the service a luxury. It is more than a luxury. It is now a necessity. So eagerly has it been sought after in all portions of this country, and so thoroughly appreciated wherever it has been bestowed, that it has come to be regarded as a necessity by the millions who enjoy it.

Forty years ago every one went or sent to the postoffice for his mail, and the farmer in the busy season when his horses and teams were working in the field, could only receive mail for himself and family possibly once a week—on Saturday afternoon. Now it is not only delivered several times each day at the homes and places of business of the residents of more than a thousand cities, but those millions of sturdy farmers, ranchmen and agriculturists who form the backbone of the republic receive their mails almost daily.

Increases Value of Land.

Increased facilities always bring increased use and enjoyment. More letters are written and received; more papers and magazines subscribed for. Testimony from all over the country shows that by reason of rural free delivery the actual value of our farm lands has been increased. Many farmers state that they would not dispense with the service for \$100 per annum. It has been estimated that the value of farm lands has risen by this means as much as five dollars per acre in several States. A moderate estimate of the increased value of lands throughout the country on account of the adoption of rural free delivery would be from \$1 to \$3 per acre.

BRYAN IN 1924.

A Minneapolis Humorist's Idea of Future Political Events.

When Mr. Bryan was notified in 1916 he made his paramount issue the regulation of department stores; in 1920 he demanded the defeat of the Republicans because of the miserable way in which they had enforced the smoke ordinance. But in 1924, when a great "concourse had gathered in front of Fairview, Mr. Bryan tottered out upon the porch and said: "Fellow citizens, the paramount issue this year is 'me.' I am getting to be an old man. I should be putting aside millions for my family faster than I am. I cannot afford to take the time from my lecture engagements to run for President. The phonographic business, which I unfortunately started in 1908, has proved a mistake. The people have been so familiarized with my voice they won't cross the street to hear me at a dollar a throw. I have had to cut rates for the first time in my lecturing career. It is up to you, neighbors and fellow citizens, to elect me this time. I hereby renew my pledges of 1900, 1908, 1912, 1916 and 1920 not to be a candidate for a second term." With a mighty cheer for the Peerless One the meeting broke up.

Note—At the election in November, 1924, Kermit Roosevelt was elected over Mr. Bryan by an old time Roosevelt majority.—Minneapolis Journal.

CAREFUL ABOUT PROMISES.

Taft Weighs His Words While Bryan Is Careless.

One of the most important things to be emphasized at this stage of the campaign has been admirably phrased in Mr. Roosevelt's letter to Conrad Kohrs. Mr. Taft is careful to promise only what he is confident upon reasonable grounds that he can accomplish.

Perhaps this is the chief reason why Mr. Taft is dubbed a poor politician and is a poor politician from every standpoint save that of courageous, self-forgetting public service.

But it is well for Mr. Roosevelt to emphasize this truth, since some men are likely thoughtlessly to interpret Mr. Taft's scrupulous care in statement and his honorable care for the relation of promise and possible performance as want of zeal for reform.

It is especially necessary in this campaign against a man whose emotions, however creditable they may be in themselves, and whose innate tendency to rhetorical emphasis are constantly driving him into broad and easy and over-liberal promises.

Mr. Bryan is above all things a campaigner, and his public utterances never have been characterized by statesmanly caution. He has been a great promiser.

Pity that Bryan's speeches, in support of his fads, fallacies and fooleries, which were delivered when he was a candidate in 1896, and again in 1900, could not have been "canned," for repetition now. What tunes they would grind out!—Portland Oregonian.

Mr. Bryan will have to make out a better case for his claim under the will of the people than he did for his claim under the will of Philo S. Bennett.—New York Tribune.