

MR. BRYAN'S RECEPTION IN INDIA

In its issue of March 28 "The Times of India" giving an account of Mr. Bryan's reception in Bombay prints the following report:

"Dr. Machichan, in opening the proceedings, said the distinguished gentleman who was about to address them needed no introduction to a Bombay audience or to any audience. (Hear, hear.) This was the first journey which he had made around the world and the first visit he had paid to their city, but his reputation and fame had made their world-wide journey before him, and he came among them as one whom many in all nations regarded with admiration and esteem. (Applause.) Whatever might be their political sympathies they all admired the heroic contest in which he was engaged some years ago and those qualities which evoked so much enthusiasm in the American nation, and they had that night shown by the unprecedented numbers in which they had assembled how gladly they welcomed amongst them this distinguished American citizen and how deeply honored they felt by his visit. (Applause.) But it was no political platform on which they met that night. It was a broader platform of those things which appealed to the heart of all humanity and the Hon. Mr. Bryan was to speak to them not of politics, or political contests but of the great problems which concerned all of them assembled there. He thought they might take it that one of the lessons of the lecture would be a lesson of the lecturer's own life that no political reputation could be enduring or beneficial that was not based upon a deep sense of moral responsibility and that did not spring from the highest spirit of self-sacrifice. It was those qualities in Mr. Bryan which formed the foundation of his enormous influence, and he thought it no small honor to the city that it had had the opportunity of listening to such a great man. (Hear, hear.) He might say that mingled with a desire to honor Mr. Bryan, it was also their desire to show their respect to the great nation which he represented. (Applause.) India was not unmindful of the many services which through many generations America had rendered to this country. In times of prosperity and in times of adversity India had owed much

to the country from which Mr. Bryan had come and they welcomed him as a distinguished man and as a distinguished representative of a great country. (Applause.) But he would not stand longer between them and their expectations, and would call upon the Hon. Mr. Bryan to address them. (Applause.)

Here follows a report of Mr. Bryan's address on "The Brotherhood of Man." The Times report concludes as follows:

"The Hon. Mr. Fulton said the vote that he had to propose was one which he felt sure they would receive with acclamation, and that was a most hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bryan for the great lecture that he had delivered to them that evening. (Applause.) At the commencement of his address Mr. Bryan spoke with modest depreciation of the expectations which had been formed, but now they found that those expectations had been fully realized. (Hear, hear.) They felt that they were founded upon a true instinct, and as he spoke of the good effect of a kindly act, he (the speaker) could not help thinking that it was he that night who was putting into practice his own ideas—(hear, hear)—because if a man in his position who had been able to sway vast audiences in a great nation of the world were to come there to address them, who were all strangers to him, in the manner that he had done, it was an act of kindness for which they could not be too grateful. (Applause.) He thought that hereafter when they saw his name in the papers they would think of this kindly act that he had done that evening—(applause)—and if hereafter he was called to the highest position in the great republic they would all remember with pride and pleasure that they had the opportunity of meeting him that evening. (Applause.) He would not detain them any longer but would move a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bryan.

"The vote was carried with acclamation.

"The chairman said he would now in a brief word convey to the Hon. Mr. Bryan the vote which by such hearty acclamation had been passed that night. He felt sure that they would all remember this occasion and they would remember especially this fact in the history of the great statesman, who was with them that night, that

his life had been based upon those principles which he had expounded with such eloquence and which had drawn out to him that enthusiasm which had gathered around him in the political life which he had spent in his own land. (Applause.) In conclusion he wished to say that this was a time of special privilege for Bombay, because during the next week they would have the honor of listening to two Japanese orators, who were visiting Bombay and who were coming to India to speak to the Indian people of the great up-lifting of the national life of their country.

"The proceedings then terminated."

In its issue of March 28, the Advocate of India, prints an extended report of the Bombay reception, saying that the great audience "was worthy of the man," also, "it was, perhaps, the most graceful act of courtesy that Bombay could pay to its distinguished visitor that he was received with unstinted enthusiasm by an assembly, the greater part of which belonged to a separate race and followed other faiths. By 6 o'clock every available inch of space was occupied, the entire hall being filled from the organ loft to the balcony in the rear of the building. Mr. Bryan's appearance on the platform was a signal for a wonderful demonstration of enthusiasm."

The Advocate of India concludes as follows: "There can be only one conclusion regarding the meeting. Mr. Bryan discharged his great and difficult task with complete success. Considering the nature and the diversity of his audience, he handled his theme with consummate skill and tact, and he sat down, leaving the fame of his name as an orator undiminished. It was hardly an address to which we listened. It was still less a sermon. It was not a piece of declamation or rhetoric. It was something of them all. With the true instinct of the orator, Mr. Bryan can adapt himself to the mental condition of his audience. He did that last night with remarkable success. There was nothing doctrinaire or dogmatic about him, and hardly anything didactic. And yet he spoke with the might which thrills with deeply cherished convictions and beliefs."

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