

**"UNDER OTHER FLAGS"**

The echoes of Mr. Bryan's European trip did much to awaken American thought to a realization of his superior qualities as a public man. Until then there had been, it must be confessed, a wide-spread notion among us that he was a man of no parts, who had become notorious through a pretty peroration about a cross of gold with which he had closed a stirring speech upon a critical occasion. Through this bit of spellbinding, so it was urged, he had sprung into prominence. But men do not spring into the place Mr. Bryan has occupied in the public eye for nearly ten years, unless they are in fact men of very great parts. Only the superficial could have supposed that he achieved and held his position without great ability and only upon the echoes of a speech—especially an inferior speech, such as the "cross of gold" effort was said by his critics to be; but then the superficial are numerous. When, however, Europe sent us word that she could now understand, after having had Bryan with her for a visit, why he was a popular leader at home, simply because he was a great man, we all began to think better of him.

His own story of this European visit is told by Mr. Bryan in his recent book, "Under Other Flags." It is an extraordinarily good book of American

travel. Mr. Bryan is a shrewd observer and an excellent reporter. He saw Europe under favorable opportunities, looked at what he wished to see and with his own eyes, and has reported what he saw in his own way. The things which an intelligent American interested in common affairs most wants to know of Europe, these are what Mr. Bryan tells about.

His observations on Russia are particularly valuable just now, for he had interviews with the czar and also with Tolstoy. Admirers of Tolstoy will be interested to know from Mr. Bryan that this great Russian is "an admirer of Henry George and a believer in his theory in regard to the single tax."

In connection with the German trip, Mr. Bryan explains socialism and its progress in Germany; and, as with all the other explanations of the drift of public sentiment which he makes, this of socialism is concise and singularly accurate.

Supplementing the story of his trip, Mr. Bryan's book contains several of his important speeches. Among them is the famous Thanksgiving address before the American society of London, the cabled reports of which caused that part of the American public that had despised Mr. Bryan to open their minds and inquire what manner of man this could be whom they had held in contempt so long as a "jawsmith," but whom London welcomed as an orator of the first rank. Among the other speeches collected here are his lectures on the "Value of an Ideal" and a "Conquering Nation," and his dramatic speech at the St. Louis convention, in which he laid down his commission of party leadership with the memorable words: "You may dispute whether I have fought a good fight, you may dispute whether I have finished my course, but you cannot deny that I have kept the faith."—Chicago Public.

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