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## Mr. Bryan in the Philippines

The Manila Times quotes from "Libertas" as follows:

We read in Libertas: "A friend of ours, a native of the province of Catalonia and already advanced in years, was determined to acquire the English language, if not with the elegance and correct pronunciation of a native of London, at least with the comparative fluency which a foreigner of his educational qualifications may well attain. He has studied for many years, used all his spare moments reading English, but in spite of his ardent enthusiasm he despaired at times before the magnitude of the undertaking, and reviewing his little success, exclaimed: 'A person of my age can never become thoroughly familiar with this language.'

"This remark of our anglophile friend was recalled to our mind when we read the speech of Mr. Bryan at Malolos, and we may well say that it seems impossible to attain the command of language and the oratory of this clever politician. It is impossible to catch this bird by any scheme of waylaying at crossroads; the skillful pilot always manages to extricate himself from the tortuous labyrinth. By a lucid phrase he surmounts the greatest difficulties, leaving everyone content and not compromising himself in any way whatsoever. He proved this ability by his Malolos toast. He is received with vociferous

acclamations at all the stations along the road, and hailed as the saviour and defender of the liberties of the Filipino people, he is greeted by the strains of the American national anthem as though he were the chief executive of his nation; a single word of his, satisfactory to the crowd which surrounded and entertained him, would have sufficed to cause delirium and the rabble would have proclaimed itself king. But in the midst of all this tumult and maddening atmosphere, which would have proved too much for minds of less gravity than his, and less accustomed to these popular demonstrations, he remained calm. And in spite of the many efforts of Sandiko, not a single compromising word nor a single phrase of comfort to the element of the agitators, escaped his lips. It might be said that he maintained even greater reserve than his political friend Bourke Cochran, and his attitude was that of statesman more than of a politician, of an American rather than of a democrat. He courteously thanked the Filipinos for their appreciation of his political campaigns in America, but all the rest of his speech was governmental. Mr. Wright would see his way clear to subscribe to the sentiments expressed in this speech. The prudent counsels with which the speech is embellished are in perfect accord with the moderation prevalent in our government circles.

"The speech made a good impression upon the advanced Filipinos who accompanied the leader of democracy, and we have no doubt but that it favorably impressed the government and the entire American element. The speech evinces the ability of a great orator as well as reveals the resources of the consummate politician. Mr. Taft has repeatedly attained similar triumphs. The toast at Malolos will not be the only one which Mr. Bryan will have to offer during his stay in the Philippines. There are elements interested in wresting from him political declarations with reference to this country; but we are confident that whatever the circumstances or surroundings may be, Mr. Bryan will avoid compromising himself and only saying what subserves the interests of his party, subordinating them, as is natural, to the supreme interests of his country. In America there are republicans and democrats, bimetallists and monometallists, but in the Philippines there are only Americans. To hope that a democrat of prestige will publicly inveigh against the policy of the republican party in the colonies, and against the resolutions of congress, would be to expect the impossible. A Mr. Prautsch and others of his calibre would be capable of going to this extreme, but a Bryan, never."

### THE GREAT QUESTION

The honest voters of this and other states should keep their eyes open to the way their senators and representatives vote and work for subsidy and railroad rate legislation. The question the voters of the United States must decide when congressmen and legislatures, that elect senators, are voted for next fall, is, shall the government be administered in the interest of the people? No compromise should satisfy the voters. If the present congress does not enact legislation to protect the people from railroad domination and plundering the only alternative is to elect a democratic congress, for that party has shown its willingness to vote for the necessary law to regulate rates, both by the votes of the members of the party in congress and by its national, state and local platforms has pledged the democracy for all reasonable legislation on the subject.—Mansfield (O.) Shield.

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