

MR. BRYAN ON THE ISSUES OF THE DAY

The following address was delivered by Mr. Bryan at Joplin, Missouri, and reported in full by the Joplin Daily Globe:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: I first came to Joplin something like eleven years ago and it has been a pleasure to return from time to time and note the progress that your city has made.

Each time I see new evidences of growth and extension of trade. You have passed from the age of frame houses to the brick and stone and this time when I came I found the steel beams rising for one of the modern structures such as ornament the greater cities of the country.

Your people have faith in the destiny of the future of Joplin, for when men build substantially and invest great sums in permanent structures it shows that they have faith in the city's future and after all we must have faith if we would accomplish anything.

I have sometimes thought of preparing a speech on faith as a subject, for the older I grow the more I appreciate the influence of faith on one's conduct. Not only in the church is faith essential, but faith is necessary everywhere.

I travel at night, speeding over the country, and I sleep as well upon the train as I sleep in my Nebraska home. Why? Because I have faith in the integrity and in the watchfulness of the men who are on the engine and who guide the train.

In business faith is necessary; it is necessary to the farmer. He would not put in his crop in the spring if he had no faith in the autumn harvests. And so in politics, faith is necessary. A man wouldn't labor if he had no faith in the triumph of his cause.

I have had faith in Democratic ideas from the time I was a young man. My father left me a lesson before he was taken from us. He left me a lesson, although he died before I had reached manhood's estate, and that lesson has been worth infinitely more to me than the small fortune that he left to each child. Yes, worth far more than about \$3,000 that I received, and the lesson was this:

That I could afford to be in the minority, but that I could not afford to be in the wrong, for he said if I was in the minority and right I was apt some day to be in the majority, while if I was in the majority and wrong I would some day find myself in the minority.

It has been worth a great deal to me. I have had faith in the omnipotence of truth and today I believe more firmly than ever in the final triumph of every righteous cause.

It doesn't discourage me if defeat comes, for I know it takes time to bring success to anything that is good. The mushroom grows in the night and dies in the day, but the oak grows for years and decades and even centuries and its decay is as slow as its growth.

When I left this country twelve months ago in order to visit foreign lands I went with faith in Democracy. I knew that I belonged to a party that was one hundred years old and I come back to tell you that I belong to a party not only one hundred years old, but twenty-five thousand miles wide; for the democratic party girdles the globe.

There is not a nation through which we passed, and we went through every important nation on earth, where I didn't find a Democratic party.

Jefferson said a century ago that there were naturally two parties in every country, and that wherever speech was free these parties would manifest themselves. He said the two parties naturally necessary to be found in every country were a Democratic party and an Aristocratic party.

I took it on faith then, because I have faith in Jefferson, but now I can testify for my eyes have seen it and it is true. In every country you find two parties. One Democratic in its tendencies, the other aristocratic, and everywhere the Democratic party is trying to bring the government nearer to the people, and everywhere the Aristocratic party is trying to obstruct every step toward popular government. And every-

where the same arguments are used. The Democrats say "let the people have what they want," and the Aristocrat says "don't let the people hurt themselves; we will look after the people and do better for them than they can do for themselves."

I see before me a great many young men. Some of them will cast their votes for the first time this year. Some of them have been reared in Democratic families and lean toward the Democratic party. Others have been reared in Republican families and lean toward the Republican party. We are largely creatures of environment and it is natural that we should lean toward the party with which our parents were brought up, and toward the party with which they were connected, and yet, my friends, we should respect the opinions of those near to us upon whose wisdom we have relied.

It is also necessary that each person shall be prepared to give a reason for his own faith and defend his own position, and parties sometimes change. Aye, the Republican party has changed immensely in the last forty years.

When the Republican party came into existence its speakers took the name of Jefferson and appealed to those who believed in his principles, and today you don't hear the name of Jefferson invoked in behalf of Republican ideas.

It is necessary that each young man should have a reason for his position, and I have never asked a young man to vote the Democratic ticket unless he was convinced that in doing so he could better serve his country than in voting any other ticket. And so when I speak to a young Republican I ask him to vote our ticket only when he is convinced that our party offers him the best means there are to protect his rights and his interest, and advance the welfare of the country, and I want to remind these young men that there is an irresistible tendency in this world toward Democracy, and after I have shown him this tendency in other countries I want to call his attention to the same tendency in this country.

Go into Japan, that nation which has astonished the world with its progress, and what do you find? A half-century ago they had an unlimited monarchy and today they have a constitution and a parliament, and this advance toward Democratic ideas has been followed by universal education until today 90 per cent of their people can read and write.

Go, if you will, into Korea, and I found a Y. M. C. A. in the capital of Korea and they tell me that of the five thousand members of that Y. M. C. A., only one hundred Koreans were members of the church and four hundred had joined the Y. M. C. A. that they might learn more of American institutions.

I went into China and I found reformers there and within a year the dowager empress has sent commissioners to the various nations of the world that they might bring back information in regard to constitution, for she contemplates giving her people a constitution before she dies.

Go into India and you will find there a native congress that has for years demanded a voice in the government of the people. Go into Egypt and you will find that even those Arabs and Egyptians are now talking of a constitution.

Going into Turkey you find the reformer there speaking of the benefits of a government deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed. Go into Russia and there you find a despotism that is being rapidly converted into a constitutional monarchy. Within a year they have established a duma and if you want to know how Democracy is growing in Russia where, until recently, a man could be sent into exile without complaint or warrant, or trial, if you want to know how Democracy is growing there let me remind you when the election took place in the city of St. Petersburg, notwithstanding the influences of the capital of the country, only 2,000 votes were cast for the czar's ticket and 58,000 votes for the Democratic ticket.

When the czar sent 300 men from the palace to the polls in court carriages eighty of them voted for the czar and 220 voted the Democratic ticket. Do you see how Democracy is growing there?

Let me remind you in every country in Europe Democracy is also growing. It is growing

in Italy, in the south and growing up in the north, and it is growing in the center and England. Great Britain gave us the latest Democratic victory when a government came into power by a majority of something like 200 and to show you the difference between democracy and aristocracy in England now, the democrats have 200 majority in the popular branch while the aristocrats have 12 to 1 in the house of lords.

Do you see the growth of democracy? Well, after seeing its growth and rejoicing in it as we follow the sun in its course around the globe you may imagine my delight when on my return to America I heard of the rapid growth of the democratic idea in the United States.

But, my friends, I got an initiation of it even before I crossed the Atlantic, for when I reached Europe I met from America some democrats, some republicans, but all of them, without exception, told me of the growth of democratic ideas. Is there not reason to be encouraged? If I had faith before I have confidence now in the triumph of these ideas for which we have contended.

Now a word to the young men who may not have had a chance to inform themselves on the early history of our country. It has pained me when I have gone from city to city and spoken before high schools to find how many young men have dropped out of school, even before they finished the high school course, and it has led me to believe that we ought to bring into these schools at an earlier period the study of a science of government and of history as it relates to our own governmental development, but for fear some of these young men left school before they acquainted themselves with the early history of this country, I want to show them that there are two parties in this country and that one of them is nearer to the people than the other party.

What Jefferson said was true in all countries, and also true in this. We have a democratic party and I am a member of it because it is nearer to the people than any other party in this country. Because it believes more firmly in the people than any other party, and of all the parties the republican party is the closest to the aristocratic idea in this country. Now, some of you doubt it, but I will not leave you in doubt long, for I started out to convince you and they are going to give me time enough to make a thorough job of it. Now, if you ask a man whether he sympathizes with the people or his sympathies are against the people he will always tell you that he sympathizes with the people.

I have met a great many men and I have yet to meet the first man in this country, or in any other country, who ever acknowledged that he didn't sympathize with the people, and if you ask the men now in this country whether they have faith in the people they will nearly all tell you that they have.

Now, how are you going to find out who has faith and who has not? Well, I will give you two tests. If you go to a republican banquet you will find that there is one name mentioned above other names. It is the name of Alexander Hamilton. Go to a democratic banquet and you find one name mentioned above all other names, and it is Thomas Jefferson.

Now, if you want to find out what a man really thinks, find out who he admires and then find out what the man admired thinks and you can get some idea of what his admirer thinks. So, now, I am prepared to convict the republican with testimony that is sufficient. I take your republican leaders who admired Hamilton and I take your democratic leaders who admired Jefferson, and then I can tell you what kind of men these are and what they think by showing you the difference between Hamilton and Jefferson.

What did Jefferson believe? He believed that the people not only had a right to self-government, but were capable of self-government. He said, "Let the people have their way."

What did Hamilton think? Well, he didn't have faith in the people. He did not trust the people, but thought that people were divided into two classes, the well born and the not so well born, and that the well born were born to rule and the not so well born were born to be ruled.

Now I would like to ask you republicans