

## Mr. Bryan in New England

The distinguished visitor within Hartford's gates today did not bring his welcome along, and he did not have to; it was here all the while—ready and hearty—waiting for him. If he enjoys being here half as well as Hartford enjoys seeing him here, he'll have a happy day. That's what we all want him to have.

When he was here eleven years ago, it was a political visit; and he called Hartford a stronghold, or citadel, or something like that, of money; and perhaps we Hartforders were pleased rather than otherwise. Certainly nobody was offended. There's a lot more money in Hartford now that there was in 1896; there is also a much juster appreciation of William Jennings Bryan. He did not convert us to his economic beliefs then, and he isn't

going to try to now. But we have all come to a recognition of the fine traits of his character, the amiability of his manners, and the singular charm of his eloquence.

Come right in, Mr. Bryan, and make yourself at home. This is your city today, sir.—Hartford Daily Courant.

### IN 1896 AND TODAY

When William J. Bryan came to New Haven in 1896 and tried to speak on the green he was hissed by hundreds and the Yale boys made it impossible for him to finish his speech.

If any republican had then suggested that Mr. Bryan be welcomed by a republican governor and formally invited to address a republican legislature in "general assembly convened," that republican might have escaped a tailor-made coat of tar and feathers,

but he wouldn't have any longer been known as a republican.

But 1896 was eleven years ago.

Bryan was called a "radical" then and men "viewed" him with curiosity, locking their strong boxes first and hanging onto their pockets as they looked.

Today some people call Mr. Bryan a "conservative" and nobody is afraid of him.

Governor Woodruff sent him a cordial letter of invitation to visit the state capitol and every republican of the house and senate voted for a resolution asking him to address the general assembly in "joint session convened."

Is the Bryan of today the same Bryan the students hooted, republicans shunned and thousands of democrats deserted in 1896?

Has something happened to Mr. Bryan?

Or has something happened to a lot of other people?

Has republican sentiment and democratic sentiment changed, or has the Hon. Archibald McNeil of Bridgeport hypnotized Governor Woodruff, the senate, the house and the "whole blooming business," as George M. Clark of Haddam would say?

Mr. Bryan was received with honor, Mr. Gunn of Milford, who took the stump against him eleven years ago, acted as a ticket seller for the Bryan banquet, and Governor Woodruff gave the conquering "Prince of Peace" his rooms in the Garde hotel.

Perhaps Mr. Bryan, all alone in his own room, didn't snicker today.

If he didn't he must have supreme control over his feelings.—New Haven Leader.

Tired but cheery, Mr. Bryan was human and humorous throughout his too short visit to Hartford yesterday, and that made his presence thoroughly delightful for all those who met him. Even in the printed word, where the sole charm is in what he said, and not in the genial skill with which he said it, we think that those who peruse his Garde hotel speech will find their full reward. Mr. Bryan has ripened wonderfully; and the attitude of an observant citizen of the world, with underlying political tendencies, which he took here, has become wholly natural to him, and is wholly charming in any case. We hope that Hartford pleased him as much as he pleased Hartford.—Hartford Courant.

### THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Connecticut political conditions are not the same this morning they were yesterday morning. Something of very serious import—with far-reaching consequences in it—has occurred in Connecticut. An honest governor, thwarted and mocked in his unselfish efforts for the people's good, has done what Hughes of New York said he would do in like case; he has turned, directly and fearlessly, to the people. Such a speech as Rollin S. Woodruff made at New Haven last night is an absolutely new thing in the state's experience, but when was there ever before such occasion and provocation for it? The governor was far too much in earnest last night to smooth and soften his words; they have a sledgehammer bluntness and impact.

He tells the people of Connecticut plainly that the present general assembly—with, as he believes, a majority of honest, well-meaning men in it—is controlled by the "leaders" and the lobby and the forces of graft and private profit in the background, issuing orders to both. He tells them that the session so far has been a juggling with legislation. He tells them that he despairs of the enactment at this time of a single law in their interest. "What a deplorable spectacle is presented to our view," he exclaims, "of the lawmaking power of this commonwealth paralyzed by the grip of lob-

byists! How long will Connecticut stand for this?"

Such words from the lips of a chief magistrate whom the people respect, have not dropped void and inert to the ground. Governor Woodruff thinks they will be remembered when the delegates to the republican state convention are chosen, and we hope he is right. Everybody concerned may be entirely sure that Connecticut's electorate will remember them on election day. Long before that the speech made at New Haven last evening will have been read by every intelligent voter in the eight counties. "The time is coming," said Mr. Bryan at the capitol yesterday, "when an indignant people will say that politics must be honest." Coming it is, to a certainty; in Connecticut it is now almost at the door.

We have just quoted an eloquent American of these years; the date at the top of the page recalls a very eloquent, very noble American of other years, and his words may well go to the freemen of Connecticut with Governor Woodruff's words and Mr. Bryan's. "Wherever party spirit shall strain the ancient guarantees of freedom," said George William Curtis on an earlier April 19; "or bigotry and ignorance shall lay their fatal hands upon education; or the arrogance of caste shall strike at equal rights; or corruption shall poison the very springs of national life—there, minute-men of liberty, are your Lexington Green and Concord Bridge; and, as you love your country and your kind, and would have your children rise up and call you blessed, spare not the enemy!"—Hartford Courant.

### MR. BRYAN'S SERMON

There will be no dissent among those who listened to Mr. Bryan's talk in Court Square theatre yesterday—and none were for a moment inattentive—from the statement that he is a preacher of remarkable power and helpfulness. The essentials of life and conduct—those things that make for individual peace, usefulness and honor, for helpfulness in the personal contact, in the community and state and national relationships, as in all these things we are bound together as citizens—these were his theme. He touched upon the great drama of life

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