

FRIENDS AND FRIENDS

There are friends and friends—several kinds of them, and the man in public life has a sample of each.

There is the personal friend—the friend who loves you, not because of what you stand for or oppose but because of what you are. His affection does not wax or wane with the rise and fall of issues. He is steadfast because his heart is knit to yours. What would life be without such friends?

Second—There is the business friend who has joint interests with you and who finds it to his advantage to preserve amicable relations. Such friends are useful.

Then there is the political friend, who is attached to you for political reasons, and of these political friends there are two classes—the one class embracing those who agree with you on some principle of government or upon some governmental policy, and the other class including those who belong to the same party. Issues furnish ties. In fact, ties that bind together those of like sympathies and like ideas are stronger than ties of blood. These friends are a source of strength to the reformer; they encourage him when the day seems dark and when "clouds conceal the shining sun;" they bid him hope when the coming of the dawn can only be seen through the eye of faith. Such friends—God bless them—prove that man does bear the image of his Creator.

The organization friend is a numerous factor in the political world and must be counted in every conflict. Many, if not a majority, of every party go with the organization, support any platform that may be adopted and ask no questions about the candidates. They shout for you when the organization is for you and oppose you when the organization is against you.

These organization friends must not be confused, however, with fair weather friends. The fair weather friend may be found in society and in business as well as in politics; he smiles upon you when he thinks that a smile will bring him personal gain, and he turns the cold shoulder to you if there seems to be more money in doing that. He can not claim the virtues of the organization friend because the friendship of the fair weather friend is mercenary or at least selfish, while the organization friend puts his loyalty to his party above his personal views or interests.

But there is another friend—or so-called friend—who, lacking the courage to be an open enemy or because he thinks covert attack more effective, uses the sacred name of friend to do you injury. He professes to be solicitous about your welfare and is always worrying about your mistakes. Instead of advising you privately, he uses the public prints to assure you that he loves you in spite of your faults and weaknesses; he loves you so much that he sometimes intimates that your death or disappearance would be fortunate for you and that the party and the country might bear the calamity for your sake. He retails all the slanders that he can find, and when he can not find enough, he manufactures some and introduces them with "they say." He rolls as a "sweet morsel under his tongue" each unkind word which he can gather or invent, and in so doing expresses his regret that such injustice or at least questionable charges should be made against one to whom he is so attached. He is sure that these charges will do you harm if he does not publish them, enlarge upon them and express his hope that they are exaggerated. He quotes misrepresentations of your utterances and expresses his doubt whether you really used the language attributed to you.

His criticism coming as it does from "a friend," is given a more prominent place in the opposition press than it could secure if it came from an avowed enemy and thus does more harm. Every man who interests himself in politics has such professed friends to encounter as soon as he has influence enough to make it worth while for anyone to betray him.

The Bible furnishes us with an illustration of this kind of friendship: "And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him, and Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand; so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib." This experience has been repeated many times, but the wounds inflicted by Joab have not always been fatal.

MR. RYAN

In view of the various reports which have been published, it may not be improper for Mr. Bryan to say that he never discussed with

Colonel Harvey or with anyone else the possible candidacy of Mr. Ryan for the United States senate, for the presidency or for any other position, and that no one ever suggested to him (Mr. Bryan) Mr. Ryan's candidacy for any office. Neither has Mr. Bryan ever discussed with anyone the possibility or probability of Mr. Ryan's making a contribution to any campaign fund for any purpose. This much is due to Colonel Harvey and to Mr. Ryan as well as to Mr. Bryan.

THE OHIO SITUATION MIXED

Last week it looked as if an offensive and defensive alliance had been made between Secretary Taft and Senator Foraker whereby the former was to receive the republican endorsement for president and the latter was to be returned to the United States senate, but later dispatches indicate that the arrangement is not a harmonious one. All parties denied at the time that it was a trade or a tie-up, but if it had gone through as proposed, it could have been nothing else. There are indications that a rumbling has been heard among the voters of the party and that they are not willing to be tied and so the harmony meeting has been called off and explanations have been given out.

Secretary Taft denies that he has promised to support Senator Foraker, and Senator Foraker explains that he only agreed to support Secretary Taft in the interest of harmony. Of course a trade is a secret matter, and its existence is to be proven not by interviews but by the conduct of the parties. Time will prove whether there is an agreement or not. If the friends of Secretary Taft cease their opposition to Senator Foraker and the friends of Senator Foraker advocate the endorsement of Secretary Taft, the tie-up can fairly be assumed, for under no other condition would harmony prevail.

Senator Foraker represents the worst that there is in the republican party—the ultra-corporate influence, while Secretary Taft is being urged, not because of any record he has made as a reformer, but because he is supposed to be the choice of the president. If the friends of Mr. Foraker support Mr. Taft, it will weaken Mr. Taft's influence as a reform candidate. If the president's friends support Mr. Foraker, who will believe them reformers? Now let the play proceed.

SPECIAL OFFER

P. S. Brubaker, 808 Seventh St., N., Fargo, N. D.—I hand you draft for \$12 paying for twenty subscribers for The Commoner for one year. I collected from each one only 60 cents and pay for the Y. M. C. A. Have a few good republicans on the list. Every democrat should do a little missionary work for The Commoner in getting subscribers.

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