

THE BENNETT FOUNTAIN

The following is a report of the speeches made at the dedication of the Bennett fountain at New Haven, Conn., November 29, 1907. The audience was estimated at ten thousand, and prominent citizens occupied seats upon the platform. Mayor Studley introduced Mr. Blake, chairman of the park board, who said:

Mr. Bryan:—The late Philo S. Bennett by his last will and testament, among numerous other philanthropic bequests gave "to the park commission of the city of New Haven the sum of \$10,000 to be expended by them in the erection of a drinking fountain at the southeast corner of New Haven green to be known as the Bennett Fountain." In April, 1905, you as his executor, paid over that bequest to the park commission increased by \$181.78 accrued interest, but diminished by \$800 legacy taxes in the states of New York and Connecticut; the sum actually paid being \$9,381.78.

The park commissioners believing that Mr. Bennett intended to have \$10,000 expended on the fountain invested the sum received in interest bearing securities until it should accumulate to that amount. One year ago that result was attained and the commissioners thereupon after considering several designs for the fountain which had been offered selected the one prepared by Prof. John F. Weir, an artist of distinction and head of the art school of Yale university, and contracted with him to erect the fountain at a cost equal to the amount of the fund. Since then Professor Weir has devoted himself to the work with extreme interest and assiduity and the result is the beautiful structure which you see before you.

The design is based on the celebrated monument to Lysicrates, which was erected in Athens about 335 B. C., and which still stands, regarded by all connoisseurs as one of the most tasteful and pleasing productions of ancient Greek art. Some changes from the original have been made by Professor Weir in order to adapt the structure to its use as a public fountain, but these have not impaired its classic grace and have distinctly enhanced its beauty.

The material is Vermont marble carefully selected with reference to its weather resisting qualities and massively combined for indefinite durability. The work has been to Professor Weir one of love and pride and public spirit, and it is due to him to add that he has so far exceeded the requirements of his contract that he has entirely sacrificed his own pecuniary compensation.

The duty imposed upon the New Haven park commissioners having now been accomplished it has only remained for them to make this report of their doings to you as Mr. Bennett's executor and now to place in your charge the completed structure to be disposed of according to his well known purpose.

May it stand as long as its Athenian prototype; a beautiful ornament to the city of New Haven; a blessing to countless millions, and an appropriate memorial to the overflowing beneficence of its donor.

MR. BRYAN'S SPEECH

Mr. Bryan, after formally turning over the fountain to the mayor, said:

I appreciate the honor done me by the mayor of the city and the park commission in inviting me to deliver the address at the dedication of the fountain presented to this city by the late Philo Sherman Bennett.

While my position as executor of his last will and testament makes it not inappropriate that I should participate on this occasion, intimate acquaintance enables me to draw some lesson from his career.

He was a typical business man; I may say even more, he was an ideal business man. His life work represented not only what is necessary to business success, but what is best in a business life.

The adornment of a city is a work in which the public spirited citizens can play a large part. The city by taxation paves its streets, erects its public buildings and provides for those things that are a necessary part of the city's life, but there is a zone outside of the necessary things in which may be placed the things that are desirable and the furnishing of things desirable—things that will beautify the city and add to the comfort and convenience of the people—affords to the individual an opportunity to give endur-

ing form to his taste and to express his good will.

Public gifts imply in the giver the ability to give and the disposition to give, and Philo Sherman Bennett combined these two essentials.

Beginning life a poor boy he journeyed slowly but surely toward financial independence, exemplifying those traits of character and those habits which are not only necessary to success, but which can scarcely fail to win success.

He was of distinguished ancestry, a descendant of Governor Eaton and related by blood to the great family which has given its name to your university. In his veins ran the blood of the Shermans and the Bennetts and yet so modest was he that I doubt if his most intimate friends ever heard him speak of the illustrious names connected with his family tree.

He recognized that ancestral greatness could not supply him with the necessities of life or relieve him from the duty of being himself one of the world's toilers.

Yes, he began life a poor boy, but poverty is not always a disadvantage, if, in fact, it is a disadvantage at all. A few years ago a group of prominent business men were relating their experiences, and one after another told how he had commenced with a few dollars and made a fortune by his own efforts. Finally it came the turn of the last of the group and he said: "I have had a harder time than any of you. I was born rich and in spite of that fact I have made a success in life," and there was truth in the remark.

My father once expressed to me a similar opinion when he said that there were two ends to the horn and that if one commenced at the small end he might come out at the large end, but that if he commenced at the large end he was quite likely to come out at the small end.

Poverty furnishes a discipline which can scarcely be found in any other condition—not a poverty which makes one destitute, but a poverty which furnishes a stimulant and spur, to endeavor.

Mr. Bennett was industrious. "Seeth thou a man diligent in business? He shall stand before kings," said Solomon and the years that have passed since he spoke have not altered the rule.

No one can hope to make progress in any sphere of activity who does not apply himself patiently, persistently and laboriously to his work.

Mr. Bennett learned integrity when he was young and throughout his life his sense of honor and his honesty were conspicuous in all his acts.

Mr. Bennett possessed another virtue—self-denial. He was able to sacrifice the indulgence of today that he might enjoy the amount saved and the accumulated interest at a future day. Without self-denial accumulation is impossible. No one can make more than he can spend. He can only lay up for the future, by resolving to spend less than he makes no matter how small his income, and this self-denial was not for himself alone, but for others also.

Only those can expect security in old age, who place a limit upon their expenditures in earlier years, and only those can hope to give to others who are willing to deny themselves.

Thus advancing from office boy and errand boy to salesman, and then to proprietorship, he secured for himself an independent fortune, for while \$300,000 may seem a mere pittance to those who gamble on the stock exchange, it was sufficient for all his needs and might well be sufficient to satisfy the desires of anyone.

Invested in two per cent government bonds his fortune would have given him \$6,000 income, more than senators and congressmen received until recently and more than most of our governors now receive. Invested at five per cent it would have brought him \$15,000—more than cabinet officers and supreme court judges receive.

It was enough for him and all that he wanted. Society is interested in the independence of the citizen—society can afford to encourage that economy which is necessary to place the individual beyond the possibility of want for the man who saves not only relieves the state from a possible tax for his support, but furnishes an example that is useful to the young.

But Mr. Bennett had more than the ability to give, he had the disposition to be generous. Many have made larger fortunes and at the end found their hearts shrivelled rather than enlarged by their possession. We have had some notable examples of those who have spent upon

themselves far more than Mr. Bennett ever made and others who have lived in the midst of crying needs and yet been deaf to all entreaty.

The fact that Mr. Bennett desired to share his fortune with others was due to three causes. First, he led a simple life; second, he recognized his obligation to society; third, his sympathies were broad enough to take in all mankind.

His tastes were not expensive. He did not weaken his body with high priced foods; he did not waste his wealth on costly apparel and he did not find it necessary to spend all his time in aimless travel to vary the dull monotony of a selfish life.

He and his wife traveled the road together, enlarging their expenditures as their means increased, but never indulging in the habits or dissipations that are sometimes found among the well-to-do. He was fortunate in choosing in his youth a helpmate who assisted him in his plans and who shared his ideas of life.

He was conscious that while he was a self-made man in the sense in which that term is generally used he was indebted to others even more than himself. From his parents he inherited physical strength and mental endowment, from the environment of his youth, and his asso-

(Continued on Page 12)

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

The republican national committee met in Washington during the first week of December. The committee selected Chicago, June 16, as the time and place for holding the republican national convention for 1908. Washington dispatches say that the contest for the place was between Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and Denver. The Washington correspondent for the New York World makes these interesting statements:

Immediately after the call of the committee is issued district conventions for choosing delegates will begin in all states. A few will be held in December, but most of them in February and March. The assembling of congress on December 2 started active political work in behalf of various candidates. The situation today, as outlined for the World by a foremost active manager of national politics, is as follows:

President Roosevelt—The uncertain quantity and still dominant figure on whom all others must depend, but beginning to lose some of the overwhelming confidence of the people which he possessed. It is noticed that the president no longer is reiterating to all callers at the White House his statement of last election night that he will not be a candidate again.

Vice President Fairbanks—Suffering from ridicule of the cocktail story, but always kept in consideration by politicians because there is only one life between him and the presidency during the next year, and that life is recklessly exposed in hunting, jumping fences on horseback and tempting inclement weather. If accident should make Fairbanks president before the convention he would become thereby the strongest individual candidate for the nomination.

Secretary Taft—Handicapped by the dominance of Roosevelt, being unable to speak for himself or stand independently. Considered by politicians to have less strength today than six months ago. He inherits all of Roosevelt's enemies and none of the president's personal popularity.

Governor Hughes—Conceded by all the politicians to be assured of a solid delegation from New York state and growing in popularity throughout the country without seeking the support of any man. His independent position and absolute refusal to discuss or take any action in politics make him the most uncertain figure in all reckonings. His stock has had the greatest percentage of increase during the past month of all candidates.

Speaker Cannon—His boom will be sprung with the meeting of congress. Larger numbers of congressmen are expected to announce their support of him, particularly those antagonistic to the president. The session, they anticipate, will prove a continuous promotion of his interests.

Senator Knox—Silent and in the background, assured of the Pennsylvania delegation, and biding his time for a reaction against present agitations.

Secretary Cortelyou—The dark horse, who will not seek a single delegate nor announce himself as a candidate, keeping clear of all other booms and alliances. Will remain loyal to Roosevelt, but hopes to be nominated as Garfield was in 1880.

Every plan now made is subject to two uncertainties—the action of President Roosevelt and the financial condition of the country during the next six months.