

now disposed to investigate the ethics of money-making.

"The time will surely come when the men of influence and authority in our churches will no longer sell respectability to great criminals by helping them spend their ill-gotten gains."

"Here the audience broke into applause and cheers, which interrupted the address at frequent intervals.

"It will be a great step in advance, and will have a tremendous influence in stopping crime, when we can say to them: 'Your money has blood upon it. Keep it, and learn how lonely a man can be without peace, without conscience, and without friends.'"

"It was after 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon when Mr. Bryan returned from Burlington where he had been entertained by James H. Birch, an old friend, and he was taken in an automobile from the ferry to the theatre, where hundreds of men were fighting for admission.

"America" was sung by the great audience as an opener, and after a Scripture lesson, read by the Rev. Dr. G. H. Bickley, and prayer by the Rev. Dr. Charles Wood, Bishop Mackay-Smith introduced Mr. Bryan.

"Every man arose to his feet in salutation as the Nebraskan stepped to the center of the stage and prefaced his address by saying that he has been a Y. M. C. A. member for twenty-five years.

"Hardly had the Rev. A. Pohlman pronounced the benediction after Mr. Bryan concluded, when the crowd began clambering on the stage. Caught in the press there was no escape, and an informal levee was held."

Leigh Mitchell Hodges, political correspondent for the Philadelphia North American (rep.) prints in his paper the following:

"William Jennings Bryan of Lincoln, Neb., may never be president of the United States, and, again, he may be. Time alone can tell, and we can't make time give advance information. But whether or not he is ever president, or fills office of any sort, he is our most remarkable private citizen, and his political record is without parallel in the history of our nation. Aside from its partisan features and its public significance, it has a moral meaning which should be deep-planted in the mind of his fellow-countrymen, young and old, so that the number of his kind may be increased.

"William Jennings Bryan is a shining exemplar of the success that lies in defeat. From the time he used to debate with the other students at Illinois college to the present day he has known every form of public defeat, from the smallest to the greatest, and as if to doubly test him, he was twice subjected to the greatest. When he went out to Lincoln as a young lawyer, he didn't get much practice in his profession. So, whenever committees from county fairs or 'grand picnics' came to the city for oratory and applied for the same at some lawyer's office they were referred to Bryan. And Bryan usually accepted and thundered at them just what he thought, whether they thought that way or not, and pretty soon he ran for congress in a republican district—ran because no other democrat wanted to be defeated!—and was elected! And the busy lawyers who referred committees to him are still as little known as busy lawyers in thousands of little cities, while he is known the world around as no other lawyer, busy or otherwise, in any city, big or little.

"His congressional successes were just exceptions to prove his rule of defeat. But every time he went down he came up fresher and stronger, until now he has a greater hold on the masses than he ever had. And he's a bigger man than he ever was, for the simple reason that he has known how to use defeat. In the first place, he was never defeated because of any faults of character. So there was no reason why he should despair, and he didn't. In the second place, he never went ahead until he felt sure he was right, so he accepted his defeats as mainly a difference of opinion between himself and the majority of voters, and no man need be discouraged because he honestly disagrees with the masses. This usually means that he is right, and in the case of Bryan it has been so proven. For many of his 'revolutionary radicalisms' of a dozen years ago are now being advocated by the very ones who then stood aghast at their mere mention!

"But back of all his defeats and buffets is a man who believes in himself, which is the first requisite for any sort of success. And back of this belief in self is a character that will stand the most searching rays of calcium carbide. And when you reinforce self-confidence with character you can defy defeat, for there is no defeating this combination. To you, young man

or old man, I say this—study William Jennings Bryan. It doesn't matter whether you're a democrat or a republican, a prohibitionist or a socialist. There is something far more important to you than politics and parties. It is manhood. And Bryan is a man, of whom it may be said he has never known defeat, although he has met it often, for his sort of manhood can't be defeated. And it's the sort we need right now."



MR. BRYAN IN WASHINGTON

The Washington Star prints the following editorial:

"Let no man in future declare Mr. Bryan deficient in humor. He seems to have the liveliest sense of that article. Who could have treated the story about a movement to force him out of the presidential field with a keener appreciation of its absurdity? Who, with the possible exception of Mark Twain, could have inquired about the committee of notification in droller terms? He has, indeed, treated the matter delightfully and given just the proper space to it.

"The author of that yarn should have a medal. He succeeded in making something out of nothing. He started quite a little talk on what a moment's reflection on anybody's part should have punctured. It was not difficult to believe that one of Pierpont Morgan's 'confidential men' might be found with cheek enough to advise Mr. Bryan to quit the race, but who could suppose that anybody else would? What authority was there to imagine that any democratic politician of position and influence would do such a thing, or, if so, that his suggestion would be met with other than contemptuous silence?

"This is not to say that there are no democrats of influence of the feeling that Mr. Bryan should retire. In the east there are many such, and here and there in the south, where New York capital is invested, men of the same stamp may be found. But between feeling this way and seeking Mr. Bryan for a personal interview and 'saying it to his face' is a difference—a wide difference. Considerable importance hedges Mr. Bryan about. The man who has dominated his party for years and is still dreaming of the presidency is not to be advised or lectured after the blunt fashion of the everyday.

"Moreover, the whole business is simply a matter of opinion. Wall street says that Mr. Bryan can not be elected, but how does Wall Street know? It says that any one of a dozen men it names can be elected, but how does it know? Opposed to these opinions are the opinions of Mr. Bryan and his friends, who declare that Mr. Bryan can be elected; that this is a democratic year, and because of his long service to the party as its leader he is entitled to his reward. In the battle of opinions, whose should prevail? Those of the men who slaughtered Mr. Bryan in 1896 and 1900, or those who carried the flag in those two campaigns. Mr. Bryan refuses to take orders from Wall Street, and so Wall Street will have to take orders from Mr. Bryan. That is to say, after the Denver convention it can take him or leave him, as it pleases."



Washington Letter

Washington, D. C., Feb. 10.—These are great days for democratic principles. What effect the president's message and Governor Hughes' recent speech will have on the result of the next election, as far as party candidates are concerned, is problematical. That their statements are great concessions to the position maintained by the democratic party for a dozen years is clear. Moreover, whoever the next president may be, these utterances will tend to aid, rather than delay, the onward march of democratic principles. The day of laissez faire attitude to American national problems is over.

The message has perceptibly lengthened what is known as the Roosevelt road. It is now up to Governor Hughes to say whether he will still follow where the president has led. It is evident that the great mass of republicans in congress will not. A prominent republican said to me today: "Roosevelt has gone too far. He has destroyed the republican party." This is not the opinion of republicans alone, but of democrats who now see clearly the impossibility of the republican party getting together harmoni-

ously on national questions in their next convention. Champ Clark expressed it when he said: "The republicans are more disorganized than we were in 1896. Any democrat can be elected president in 1908." Whether these statements are true or not, one fact remains and is universally attested by the press—namely, that the president's message was received with wildest enthusiasm by democrats in both house and senate, while republicans sat sullen and silent until taunted into faint praise by democratic colleagues.

The best evidence of the varying reception with which the message was received can be found in the statements of three men. The reactionaries, conservatives and standpatters find voice in the words of Chancellor Day—"It reads like the ravings of a disordered mind." The great majority of republicans in congress would endorse Day's opinion if they dared. The progressive republicans, who are few, find expression of their views in the statement of Senator LaFollette: "I thoroughly endorse all the president says." The democratic attitude is best expressed by Mr. Bryan: "The president has issued a call to arms. His warnings are entirely in harmony with the warnings which democrats have been uttering for more than a decade, and I hope the democrats in congress will promptly challenge the republicans to meet the issues presented. There ought to be enough Roosevelt republicans in the two houses to join with the democrats and insure some remedial legislation at this session. If there is not, the public ought to know it, so that when the next republican national convention endorses the present administration, the hypocrisy of the endorsement will be understood."

Monday was a field day in the house of representatives. Any who sat in any of the galleries with knowledge of the men on the floor below, and of their political affiliations could not fail to be impressed by the fact that the democrats were animated by a spirit of perfect unity and a purpose of attack upon their political enemies. The house had seldom been so crowded as it was when Bourke Cockran commented upon the president's message and challenged the republicans in no uncertain phrase to say whether they stood for what Roosevelt preached, or for what their party had practiced. Mr. Cockran's speech rose at times to the highest flights of oratory, but in the main it was devoted to pointing out the fact, and to emphasizing it, that the men on the republican side of the house whom he addressed would not, and dared not, accept the Roosevelt principles as those of their party. What he had to say about the necessity of breaking down the oligarchy of wealth, or destroying the combination between over-capitalized railroads and traction lines, gambling shops in Wall Street and the great financial institutions which gathered in the savings of the people in order to furnish the money for the traction lines and for the gambling shops, met with riotous applause, even cheers on the democratic side of the house, but cold silence on the republican side. Yet with the single exception, and this a most important one, of pointing out that a republican congress and senate was discarding the Roosevelt theories, Representative Cockran did nothing more than to applaud in the main the Roosevelt message. To the observer his speech, and the rather futile reply of Mr. Hepburn which followed it, indicated this, the democratic party in the coming campaign will have to fight the republican party as a party, because the republicans as represented in house and senate give only grudging acquiescence to the democratic policies which Mr. Roosevelt has enunciated, and will give to him or any candidate he may name only a perfunctory support.

WILLIS J. ABBOT.

FOR EVERY WEST VIRGINIA HOME

Here's a valuable suggestion from West Virginia:

"Williamson, W. Va., January 31, 1908.—Editor Commoner: Please find enclosed New York exchange for \$63.60 in settlement for 101 new subscriptions and five renewals as per certificates enclosed. We heartily endorse Mr. Bryan's policies and believe that with him as our leader victory is sure. We hope, before the campaign is over, to see The Commoner in every home especially in West Virginia. Will send you more certificates next week.

"Yours truly,
"W. A. HURST,
"HI WILLIAMSON."