

A Remarkable New Book
by Woodrow Wilson

THE NEW FREEDOM

The publication on Monday, February 17, of a book by Woodrow Wilson, is the most important political event of the spring. It is one of the most striking events of the political history of the nation. Never before had a president-elect, on the eve of his inauguration, addressed to the country a profession of faith and a statement of his intentions.

Speaking of this remarkable book, the Mobile (Ala.) Item says: "The work is one of the most remarkable ever put in the field, both by reason of the bitterness of its arraignment of the present financial system and by its exploitation of a future presidential policy. No other chief executive of the United States since the declaration of independence has performed the feat of Mr. Wilson on the eve of taking office. He not only attacks the trusts and monopolies of the country, but makes it clear that he will do all in his power to legitimately restore trade competition and individual opportunity and to disentangle community centralization which, he says, has become dangerously co-ordinated."

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W. J. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb.

Faith Triumphant

The following address was given by Mr. Bryan in Washington, D. C., April 20, under the auspices of the District of Columbia Christian Endeavor Union:

I went to a little Sunday school to act as substitute for my wife one day and teach her class when she could not go herself. The subject that Sunday was Abraham, and in studying the lesson preparatory to teaching it Abraham's faith impressed me as it had not done before.

As a result of that Sunday-school lesson I found myself considering the influence of faith upon a life; and, as the subject was revolved in my mind, it grew upon me until I used it in speaking before college students.

If you will turn back to the story of Abraham, you will find that at the command of the Almighty he left his home and kindred, and journeyed into a far country. It would not seem far today with our modern modes of travel, but at that time it was a far country; and yet because of his faith in God he obeyed the call, and as a result of that man's faith we have a race, one of the greatest known to history; as a result of that man's faith some four hundred millions of human beings today are worshippers of God. And, as we contemplate the influence that Abraham's faith exercised not only upon his life, but through him upon succeeding generations, we come to understand what the Bible says when it declares that "without faith it is impossible to please God."

I think the statement might be made even stronger than that. I think we might even say that without faith it is impossible to do anything of importance.

Sometimes we hear a discussion as to which is the more important, faith or works. It is idle discussion, for without faith there would be no works. Faith comes first, works afterward.

You might as well discuss the relative importance of a plan and a house. There can be no house without a plan. It is only when people see things that they do them. Those who have faith attempt the seemingly impossible, and by attempting prove what man can do. Those who have no faith can not accomplish anything, because they will not attempt anything.

Let me illustrate what I mean by applying this subject in a few directions.

A man will not begin a great endeavor without faith in his power to accomplish. A man must have faith in his physical strength. A man who is really weak can not believe that he is strong; and therefore, if one would have faith in his physical strength, he must cultivate strength that can be the basis of his faith.

But it is not sufficient for one to have faith in his physical strength. He must have faith in his mental preparedness. That is one of the reasons why we send boys to school, that there may be a foundation of fact upon which a young man's faith can rest when he attempts something.

I know there are some people who have the idea that the college boy already has faith enough in himself. Well, don't find fault with him. I know some, who have not themselves been to college, perhaps, are apt to think that the college boy is egotistical, that he has too much faith in himself. Well, there are worse faults.

My father was once defending a man who was accused of egotism, and his defense was this. If a man has the "big head," you can whittle

it down; but, if he has the "little head," there is no hope for him. Egotism is offensive, but the very fact that it is offensive makes it less calamitous to the man who has it; the fact that it is offensive makes all his friends willing to help him reduce the swelling of his head. But if a man has the "little head," how are you going to help him?

A man must be prepared before he can really have faith in his preparedness, and the consciousness that he is prepared is a large part of his strength. You take a man who has never studied great things in engineering; take him to the side of a mountain, and tell him to build a railroad to the top, and see how helpless he feels. But show that task to a trained engineer, and before a spade is put into the ground he in his mind sees the railroad winding its way to the summit. It is the picture of that finished work before it is begun that makes him ready to undertake it. And in our daily walk with our fellow men we are constantly measuring ourselves against those with whom we have to compete, and just in proportion as we feel that we are prepared for a task we are strong to undertake it.

In China we see a very interesting kind of contest which they have there sometimes, between singing larks. You will find them carrying these larks out upon the street in cages to air them; and, when they have a contest, they bring a number of larks together, each in his cage, and they have a singing contest; and the beauty of it is that the larks decide it themselves.

They all begin to sing, but one after another discovers that it is out of its class; and then it gets down off the perch, and puts its head under its wing, and won't sing for weeks afterward; and this process of elimination goes on until finally only one bird is left singing, and it sings as if it were conscious of its victory in the contest.

Now, we do not sing; but we are all in contests, and contests in which we ourselves decide whether to continue the contest or not. The consciousness that we are not prepared is the thing that breaks our strength if we are not prepared, and the consciousness that we are prepared is the thing that gives us strength if we are prepared.

To illustrate: suppose some great subject is under discussion, it matters not whether it is a question confined to the city or the county or the state or the nation or the world, if you will bring a hundred men together in a room to discuss this question, fifty on a side, and they do not know one another, they will all expect to participate in the debate; but, as the debate proceeds, one after another will retire, and after a while there will be just two persons discussing it; and they will be the ones on each side best prepared to discuss it. And the others, if they have the best interest of the cause at heart, will withdraw to have their side better presented by another than not so well presented by themselves. This contest of persons, I repeat, is a very important factor in one's success; and therefore, in order to have a foundation for that faith to rest upon, one must have intellectual preparation.

But that is not all. The true element in this faith is of even more importance. In order to accomplish a great work, a man must not only have the strength physically, that he may have faith in his power of endurance; he must not only have intellectual strength, that he may be unafraid in the presence of those who go against him; but he must