

Somebody finally brought forward a chair and he was able to rise from his knees to a more comfortable position. He signed more than 1,500 cards before his wrist became too tired to do anything more. Then Mrs. Bryan, who accompanied him to this city, insisted that he desist.

"When the crowds found where Mrs. Bryan sat, hundreds pressed upon her to countersign their cards. She was able to put her signature on a few, until the police cleared a way through the press and drove the multitudes back.

"This was the dramatic conclusion of what was probably the largest and most enthusiastic temperance rally ever held in this country and probably in the world—the inaugural gathering of the newly-formed National Total Abstinence Union—an organization formed by the Federal Council of Churches in America—non-sectarian, non-political and purely personal. This organization will attack the temperance problem in the old way by getting people to sign the pledge and will not take any action in legislative matters, holding to the doctrine that by decreasing the demand the liquor business will be gradually killed without governmental action.

**Shed Packed to Its Limits**

"Secretary Bryan was selected to give the movement its start, because of his long and consistent record as an opponent of rum drinking. Philadelphia was chosen as the place to start the nation-wide movement, because this city is just concluding the most remarkable religious revival of its history—the Billy Sunday campaign. The Sunday Tabernacle was designated as the meeting place because it can seat 18,000 persons and supply standing room for 2,000 more, and also because of its associations.

"The results last night justified all three selections. The size of the crowd was astounding. Fully 35,000 persons tried to get into the building, but only 20,000 could be packed inside. It had been arranged to hold overflow meetings on the side, but the crowds evidently wanted to hear Bryan or nobody, as the disappointed ones went away when refused admission.

"It was distinctly a Billy Sunday crowd, every mention of the evangelist's name bringing forth tumultuous applause, Billy's hymns were sung by his own choir, but Billy was not there. In the last minute he sent a personal note to Secretary Bryan, saying he was too tired to attend.

**Ma Sunday Speaks**

"Ma Sunday was there, however, and she spoke a few words to the crowd, telling them that she might have gotten Billy there if she had insisted. Hundreds in the audience called upon her to go home and get him, but she smilingly refused.

"Secretary Bryan was the only speaker who talked at length. Several other addresses were made, but they were brief and the whole crowd was waiting to hear him. He delivered a stirring sermon on the cost of alcoholic drink in physical and moral strength and in money, begging and pleading with the audience to forsake the habit.

"A striking feature of the meeting was the cheering. In various parts of the hall were stationed delegations from various colleges and high schools, each of whom gave their yells from time to time. Boys from the Central high school, seated directly in front of the platform, took the palm for cheering. They also had a song which ran:

"William, William Jennings Bryan,  
"We'll take to grape juice yet.

"This caught the secretary's fancy and he had them sing it over for his

benefit. 'The Brewer's Big Horses' also was never sung with more fire and noise than last night.

**Ovation for Secretary**

"The time for the meeting last night was seven o'clock, but by 6.15 the tabernacle was jammed to the doors and they were beginning to turn away the crowds. To keep the crowd busy until the meeting started, H. C. Lincoln, the choir leader, started everybody singing the Billy Sunday hymns. This was kept up for a half hour.

"Then suddenly Secretary Bryan appeared at the back of the platform, accompanied by Mrs. Bryan and ex-Congressman Logue. This was a signal for a mighty outburst of applause which lasted for fully five minutes. One after another the colleges gave their yells—Penn, Swarthmore, Haverford, Jeff, Medico-Chi, Hahnemann and the Central high school."

**THE MORAL NOTE IN POLITICS**

That picture at Philadelphia of Mr. Bryan—on his knees at a "Billy" Sunday meeting, autographing total abstinence pledges as fast as he could for the signers who thronged forward—may strike some people as rather below the dignity of the secretary of state.

But the picture is significant. In it we catch the easy clew to Mr. Bryan's influence over a large section of American voters. In all his political campaigns he has managed to sound the moral note. No matter how remote the issue might seem from ordinary ethics, he sounded it. And that is the note to which the public most readily responds.

We catch there the clew not only to Mr. Bryan's influence, but also to Mr. Roosevelt's. No matter how much technical politics there might have been in it in essence, the progressive movement was for the rank and file essentially a moral revolt. It was the note of moral indignation that roused and led it on. And when that indignation subsided, no political issues availed to hold the rank and file's allegiance.

Much the same thing may be said of President Wilson. His experience, his abilities, his steadfastness in pursuit of objects clearly perceived—these are natural elements of his strength. But the greatest element, as far as the public is concerned, is the moral note which recurs from time to time in all his utterances.

From now on the moral note promises to grow more and more important in our politics. The old idea of public affairs as a cold business transaction is rapidly being tempered with newer ideas of public responsibility and wide humanity. The human element is coming into its own. The tendency is to answer more and more emphatically the age-long question: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

This does not mean that politics will become sermonesque. It does not mean that what one side assumes to be the exclusively moral view of any question will necessarily triumph over views no less sincerely held by thousands of other citizens. It does not mean that the morality of an issue always will be absolutely clear. There still will remain division on moral questions more or less responsive to temperamental or acquired differences of people.

But it does mean that the day of the mere politician—of the national leader who bases his claim to leadership on his skill as a strategist and his opportunism as a statesman—is about ended. Henceforth the man who expects to impress himself on the great American public must ground his appeal on wide sympathy, on lofty aims and moral earnestness. — New York World.

**THE PRESS AND THE RIGHT**

The press is the greatest moral force in the United States.

Yet, when Secretary of State William J. Bryan declined to serve booze to his official guests, what had the press to say, knowing what it knows?

Has it mentioned him with honor as a high exemplar of a great moral purpose?

Far from it.

He has been ridiculed, cartooned, lambasted and pursued with the small malice of cheap wit. The average reader might naturally suppose that sobriety was a disgraceful thing in this country. He would think that the only one admired by the nation was a bottle-slinger, anxious to fill himself, as well as his friends, with alcohol to the neck.

One looks in vain almost to find a single word of approval of Bryan's course. He says he is immune to ridicule. Perhaps so, but more likely he suffers in silence as do many other victims of injustice.

To judge by the attitude of the newspapers, Bryan's example offers little encouragement to others who have the courage of their convictions and are willing to stand up and be counted when their principles are at stake.

The press usually pioneers every big movement. Does it intend to be laggard in expressing tolerance, sympathy, truth and sobriety? — South Denver (Colo.) Eye and Bulletin.

**TO HIS CREDIT**

Secretary of State Bryan took a night off last Monday and went to Philadelphia, only a short run from Washington, to make a total abstinence speech in the big auditorium just vacated by Billy Sunday. For this he has been ridiculed by those who can see nothing good in what he does, and try to induce the people to believe that he is little short of a mountebank.

But Mr. Bryan's work in Philadelphia was worthy any honorable gentleman. It is related that at the close of his address—and he can make one—nearly 12,000 men came forward to sign the pledge. He himself toiled for hours indorsing with his personal signature the written promises presented to him.

Is that kind of service a subject for merry quips? If even a tenth part of the pledgers keep their pledges for a year, they and society will have benefited in no insignificant degree. This little crusade was to Mr. Bryan's everlasting credit.—Boston Post.

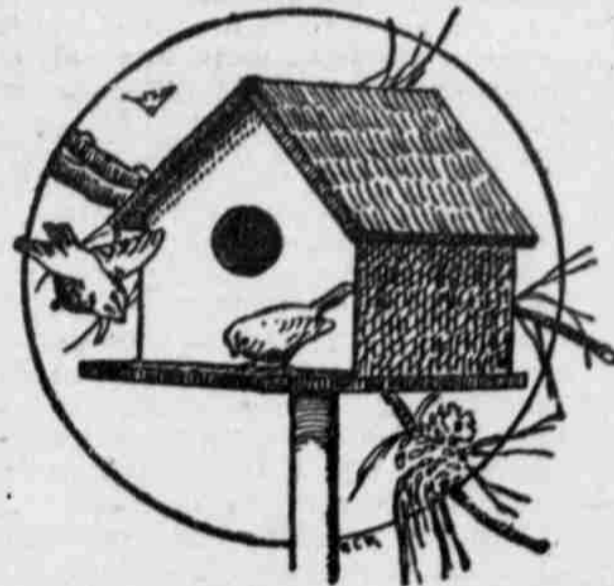
**A GREAT MORAL EXAMPLE**

As the best evidence of a great moral example, the newspapers record the fact that following a recent prohibition speech made by Secretary of State William J. Bryan in Philadelphia, 10,000 men of all ages signed a total abstinence pledge.

We need more Bryans. — South Denver (Colo.) Eye and Bulletin.

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