

ideals which now have been adopted for its platform. It was as fine as his Indianapolis speech in 1900 in which he outlined the principles for which our republic stood and struck the blow at imperialism which has fixed our policy in that respect. Defeated three times for the presidency, declared by many of his detractors as "down and out," no private citizen in all the world has such influence, and it is all for the greater glory and honor of our country and the good of mankind.

With Woodrow Wilson and Thomas Marshall as the candidate on the record of achievement they have made, and with the democratic promises guaranteed by such men as Wm. J. Bryan, we believe the democratic party will again win success because deserving again of such indorsement.—Chattanooga News.

BRYAN

The way in which Mr. Bryan "came back" at St. Louis is extremely gratifying to his friends, whom he counts by the millions.

This great American has long been the subject of abuse, which during the past year has been especially keen. Many democrats have gone so far as to question his party loyalty and have suspected on his part a personal feeling against the President which would even make him anxious to aid, directly or indirectly, in the election of a republican successor. He was so out of favor as to be defeated, by a close vote, in Nebraska for delegate-at-large to the national convention.

Speculation was rife as to what he would do at St. Louis. He was pictured far and wide as a marplot, who would bring discord into the convention and probable defeat to the ticket. At first it was alleged that he would oppose the renomination of President Wilson, then that he would seek to frustrate the President's wishes as to platform and try to force into it some declarations out of harmony with administration policies. Some even went so far as to talk about his heading a third or fourth ticket, in opposition to the President.

Well, what happened? Mr. Bryan went to St. Louis as a private citizen and newspaper man. He modestly took a seat in the press section, but every day he received an ovation. He did not oppose the President in a single wish, nor show the slightest sign of sulking. On the contrary, he joined enthusiastically with his fellow democrats in facilitating the work of the convention and in preparing for a successful campaign. From start to finish his interest and loyalty were manifest. He heartily applauded the telling points in the address of Governor Glynn as temporary chairman, and his support continued to the end. In obedience to the insistent wish of the convention he made a great speech, in which he unreservedly indorsed President Wilson for re-election. And since the completion of the work at St. Louis he has given hearty indorsement to the platform.

In our judgment, Mr. Bryan made a mistake in resigning from the cabinet, and we think he was seriously wrong in opposing the enlarged program of military and naval preparedness. Nor do we doubt that he has made other mistakes. But his sincerity and courage, his loyalty to ideals and his devotion to duty, command admiration. He is one of the greatest Americans. It is gratifying to note the hold which he still has upon the affections of his party, and to observe this new and emphatic demonstration of his patriotism and democracy. — Dover, Delaware, Delawarean.

BRYAN AT ST. LOUIS

All of the unction of the democratic oratory for the nonce fell leagues behind similar occasions and there was no spectacular outburst of Jackson political philosophy that raised the dome of the convention hall till old Bill Bryan's plain citizen's chautauqua was dropped in the dull and spiritless convention. The Big Boss at Washington had pulled the strings and everything went smooth as butter but there was no pep to the meeting. Bryan's friends prepared a little scenario. Bill wanted it distinctly understood he was no political pariah. Bill did show 'em. He canonized Woodrow all right, but his devanich eulogy of his recent pal of state wasn't a cipher to the real part of the speech on the "Power of Christ," which will go down in history as a classic. With a master touch he portrayed the Shepherd of shepherds before Pilate, the safety of whose political job made it imperative to surrender Jesus to jealous and hypercritical ecclesiasts who found the ignorant and bloody-thirsty mob a convenient way to annihilate the Prince of Peace whose presence on earth was a menace to their bigotry and ecclesi-

astical security. As for Pilate, he "washed his hands" of the wicked conspiracy and said "His blood be upon you." In Bryan's simple but beautiful word picture of that scene of scenes there is a grandeur of appeal and a noble and lofty sentiment for world peace and brotherhood of man, that can not fail to stir the depths of every soul that aches for the millions whose hopes are blighted and whose hearts are torn with the bitter sorrows of this accursed man-made war.

We were never crazy over Bryan's politics and his inexplicable attitude toward sheep husbandry in the United States. This our readers know full well. However, since we traveled in "the Valley of the Shadow" our heart has softened toward this great man, and if we can be half the Christian that he is, we are sure that it will be "well with our soul."—American Sheep Breeder.

OVIATION GIVEN BRYAN AT ST. LOUIS RECALLS SOME ALABAMA HISTORY

The great ovation given Mr. Bryan at St. Louis recalls some recent incidents in the Alabama campaign for delegates to the national convention.

The local option leaders and their newspapers assailed Mr. Bryan and his friends, declaring Mr. Bryan had formulated a plan to embarrass Mr. Wilson at St. Louis by the introduction by himself or through friends of the prohibition question in the convention, and also to oppose Mr. Wilson's plans of preparedness, thus threatening a breach in the party.

The Journal could not violate any confidence by quoting Mr. Bryan on the question of prohibition and preparedness, and on the question of allowing Mr. Wilson to frame his own platform, but it repeatedly said that Mr. Bryan would be opposed to bringing the prohibition question before the convention, was opposed to putting it in the platform and that he would insist on allowing Mr. Wilson to frame his own platform.

But his enemies in Alabama, as elsewhere, preferred to believe, or affected to believe, that Mr. Bryan would seek to thus embarrass Mr. Wilson and some of them even went as far as to say that he would lead a revolt against Mr. Wilson in the convention.

Mr. Bryan had confided to his friends in advance of the St. Louis convention that he wanted Mr. Wilson to frame his own platform, that he would positively make no objection to it, contending with much openness and sincerity that Mr. Wilson ought to be given that privilege as he was the one to be consulted and the one to run upon the platform; and in *The Commoner* and in many interviews in the press, friendly and unfriendly, Mr. Bryan stated that he would oppose any effort to put prohibition in the St. Louis platform, and it was evident to his friends and to those not blinded by a partisan hate and bitterness inexcusable, that Mr. Bryan's love for his party would cause him to subordinate any particular view he may have had about preparedness to the views of Mr. Wilson.

The ovation given Mr. Bryan at St. Louis, where a few men—one or two from Alabama—went to crucify him, not expecting, but hoping he would display a lack of loyalty to his party and not be true to his public avowals in advance of the convention, was the highest possible tribute to the Nebraskan, and shows that he not only still has a strong following within the party—the strongest of any leader save Mr. Wilson—but he has the love and confidence of the party that has thrice honored him with the presidential nomination.

The action of Mr. Bryan at St. Louis has not only justified the confidence of his friends, justified their faith in him, but it has made nonsense of the sneers and prophecies of his enemies.

He has attempted neither to rule nor ruin, but has borne himself in a manner to commend himself to the love, respect and esteem of the party regardless of differences of opinion.

He has by his speech and unselfish actions been able to render real service to his party and has notably contributed to that harmony so necessary and that means success in November.

His course at St. Louis, a course previously outlined in these columns, has cemented together in the interest of Mr. Wilson thousands of democrats who believe in him and trust his judgment and follow his leadership.

He did more at St. Louis to bring harmony and knit the disaffected elements firmly together than all the newspapers and all the Frank Glasses and Emmet O'Neals and Forney Johnstons, and their newspaper allies through-

out the country, which delight to assail him, and who have been united in an effort for twenty years to destroy him as a factor in the party.

It is possible that his enemies who can have no conception or appreciation of a conviction, independently formed and consciously maintained, can not understand Mr. Bryan; but the great mass of democrats understand him, and are proud of him, proud of his courage, his manhood, his honesty, his achievements in the party and in the great moral uplift of the masses.

He has never failed the party in its hour of need.

He has been a powerful and influential factor in the achievement of important party results in its conventions and in its campaigns.

All honor to Mr. Bryan, the man who though not a delegate to the convention, was paid a higher tribute and higher honors by that convention than to any one who may have worn the badge of a delegate.

And he will return home from the desk of the reporter in the convention, to which many had boasted they had thus consigned him to oblivion, with his fair political escutcheon untarnished, and with a character as a statesman and a patriot beyond dispute, and with that love, esteem and confidence of his party that might well be envied by his traducers.

Every loyal democrat, every democrat who sincerely desires the election of Mr. Wilson, must yield, however reluctantly, the distinction to Mr. Bryan of having a place in the hearts of his fellow democrats of the nation as none other, and that he is as described by Senator James who introduced Bryan to the convention, "as one of the leading citizens of the world and America's greatest democrat."—Montgomery, Alabama, Journal.

BRYAN AND WILSON

It was a fine thing for the democrats at St. Louis to invite Mr. Bryan to address them. Even finer was the manner and the method of his response. If in fact, loyalty and generosity his remarks left nothing to be desired, the favor with which they were received by the representatives of a great party was alike creditable to them.

Whatever may have been the motive of Mr. Bryan in retiring from the cabinet, there can now be no doubt of his sincerity. At that time his protestations of friendship for the President were openly questioned. On all sides there were critics who predicted rivalry if not open hostility on the former secretary's part. Only a week ago, in the progressive convention, a speaker referred to him as a possible successor of Mr. Roosevelt as the leader of a new radical movement.

Time may not have justified the fears which caused Mr. Bryan to abandon high office, but it has shown that he was honest, and assuming that he was mistaken, that he has the courage to admit his error. This year, as four years ago, he will be one of Mr. Wilson's most powerful individual supporters.—New York World.

BRYAN AT ST. LOUIS

They said he would rock the boat, but he pulled a steady oar.

They said he would demand a platform which would embarrass President Wilson, but his only platform request was that it contain nothing not approved by the President.

They said he would sulk in his reportorial seat, but his smile was the brightest in all the vast convention multitude, and the contagion of it encompassed every face when the great convention closed.

They said he would not speak approval of the platform and the nominees, even if he should get the chance, and some of them said he would never get a chance. But not a voice of protest was raised when Chairman Ollie James introduced Mr. Bryan as "America's greatest democrat." And under the spell of his matchless oratory the convention went wild with joy when the great commoner lauded the president as the world's best champion of honorable peace, and appealed to all democrats and progressive party men for earnest support of the convention nominees and its progressive platform.

The gods were good in giving a Bryan to the world. They were better still in giving him to the democracy of Nebraska. God bless and prosper him in his masterful efforts to humanize humanity, not only in his own loved commonwealth, not only in the dearest of nations, but in all the world where dreams of liberty visit the children of men!—Columbus (Neb.) Telegram.