

but God was not in the fire; and after the fire, a still, small voice, and it was the voice of God. And so, today, throughout the world an increasing number, standing upon the heights, are coming to believe that God is not in the ironclads that sweep the ocean with their guns, that God is not in the armies that shake the earth with their tread, or in the fire of musketry, but in the still, small voice of justice that issues from tribunals like that instituted at The Hague, or in the spirit that marked the concluding hours of the conference at Portsmouth.

THE BENNETT ESTATE SETTLED

Now that the Bennett estate is finally settled Mr. Bryan submits the following statement to the readers of The Commoner:

In the spring of 1900 Mr. Philo S. Bennett, living at New Haven, Conn., and engaged in the mercantile business in the city of New York, visited Nebraska and asked Mr. Bryan to assist him in preparing certain paragraphs of his will (all the other provisions being copied from a former will.) The paragraphs referred to were: First, for a library at Salem, Ill. (It provided for a bequest of \$1,500 to which Mr. Bryan was to add \$1,500.) Second, \$10,000 to establish a fund at twenty-five colleges, to be selected by Mr. Bryan, the annual proceeds to be used for a prize to encourage a study of the principles of free government. Third, \$10,000 to be distributed among colleges, to be selected by Mr. Bryan, the annual income to be used to aid poor boys to obtain an education. Fourth, \$10,000 to be distributed among colleges, to be selected by Mrs. Bryan, the annual income to be used to assist poor girls to obtain an education. Fifth, \$50,000 to Mrs. Bennett, in trust for a purpose set forth in a sealed letter deposited with the will. This sealed letter directed Mrs. Bennett to pay the amount to Mr. Bryan (Mr. Bennett proposed it as a direct bequest but at the request of Mr. Bryan it was given to Mrs. Bennett in trust, because its acceptance was conditional.) The sealed letter directed Mr. Bryan to distribute the \$50,000 among educational and charitable institutions in case he refused to accept it for himself and family. The residuary legatees contested the three \$10,000 items and the \$50,000 item. The court confirmed the \$10,000 items but on technical grounds held that the \$50,000 bequest was inoperative.

The readers of The Commoner have already been informed of the main facts, namely, that the widow and other relatives were bountifully provided for; that the testator's intention was never questioned and that the charge of undue influence was withdrawn; and that Mr. Bryan announced in the beginning that he would not accept the bequest without the consent of the widow, but that he felt in honor bound to insist upon the distribution of the \$50,000 as directed by Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Bryan was thus drawn into a contest in which he had but a remote and contingent pecuniary interest, if in fact he had any at all, but which he could not in conscience abandon. The contest cost him a little more than fifteen hundred dollars for attorney's fees and court costs, besides travelling expenses and loss of time.

In submitting his report as executor he claimed the customary fee, \$2,500, explaining that the amount would not be used by him for himself, but would be spent in completing the plans made by Mr. Bennett. The fee was allowed by the probate court and was used as follows:

Fourteen hundred and eighty-nine dollars and forty-three cents was used to pay that part of the inheritance tax which was not covered by interest, so that the \$1,500 library fund, and the three \$10,000 funds might be used in full. Three hundred and fifty dollars was given to the city of Salem as an endowment for the library (Mr. Bryan besides giving \$1,500 to the Salem library gives the site, worth considerably more than \$350.) Two hundred dollars has been deposited with Mr. Sloan, Mr. Bennett's surviving partner, to pay for a bust of Mr. Bennett for the Salem library. The balance, \$460.57 less the cost of filing reports, will be paid to Rev. Alexander Irvine, Mr. Bennett's pastor, to be used by him in the education of his sons.

The three \$10,000 funds have been distributed as follows:

BENNETT PRIZE FUND

Delaware College, Newark, Del.....	\$400
Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me.....	400
A. and M. College of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky..	400
Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.....	400
Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H.....	400

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn....	400
St. John's College, Annapolis, Md.....	400
University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.....	400
University of Montana, Missoula, Mont.....	400
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah.....	400
University of Washington, Seattle, Wash....	400
University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S. D..	400
University of California, Berkeley, Cal.....	400
Nevada State University, Reno, Nev.....	400
University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.....	400
South Carolina College, Columbia, S. C.....	400
Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.....	400
University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo.....	400
University of Vermont, Burlington, Vt.....	400
University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore.....	400
Yale University, New Haven, Conn.....	400
Brown University, Providence, R. I.....	400
University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, N. D.	400
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa....	400
Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.....	400

Each college is to invest the amount received and use the annual income for a prize for the best essay discussing the principles of free government. Mr. Bryan had already established similar prizes in nineteen states and the twenty-five colleges selected for the Bennett prize were selected from other states so that every state but one now contains a college giving such a prize.

MR. BRYAN'S FUND FOR BOYS

The fund for the aid of poor boys desiring a college education was distributed by Mr. Bryan as follows:

Illinois College, Jacksonville, Ill.....	\$1000
Park College, Parkville, Mo.....	750
College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Va..	750
Doane College, Crete, Neb.....	500
Howard College, East Lake, (Near Birmingham, Ala.)	500
Hendrix College, Conway, Ark.....	500
Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.....	500
Kenyon College, Gambier, O.....	500
Muskingum College, New Concord, O.....	500
St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.....	500
Hillsdale College, Conway, Ark.....	500
University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn....	500
Trinity University, Waxahachie, Tex.....	500
Ripon College, Ripon, Wis.....	500
Nazareth College, Muskogee, I. T.....	500
Hope College, Holland, Mich.....	500
Butler College, Indianapolis, Ind.....	500
Sutherland College, Sutherland, Fla.....	500

MRS BRYAN'S FUND FOR GIRLS

The fund for the aid of poor girls desiring to obtain a college education was distributed by Mrs. Bryan as follows:

Georgia Normal and Industrial College, Mill- edgeville, Ga.....	\$500
Eureka College, Eureka, Ill.....	500
Hastings College, Hastings, Neb.....	500
Wesleyan University, Buchannon, W. Va....	500
Henry Kendall College, Muskogee, I. T.....	500
Williamsburg Institute, Williamsburg, Ky....	500
Wesleyan University, University Place, Neb..	500
Baylor University, Waco, Tex.....	500
Iowa College, Grinnell, Ia.....	500
Tulane University of Louisiana, New Orleans, La.....	500
State Normal and Industrial College, Greensboro, N. C.....	500
Hiram College, Hiram, O.....	500
Kingfisher College, Kingfisher, O. T.....	500
Academy of the Visitation, Dubuque, Ia.....	500
Williams Industrial College, Little Rock, Ark.	500
Ewing College, Ewing, Ill.....	500
Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kan.....	500
University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.....	500
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N. M.	500
The Mississippi Industrial Institute and College, Columbus, Miss.....	500

As the boys who are helped by the fund are to return the money to the college as soon after leaving college as they can conveniently do so and as the money when so returned is to be advanced to others the aid extended will constantly increase. The girls aided are asked to do the same but it is not required of them.

In distributing the prize fund preference was given to state universities except where the state contained some college of greater importance.

In distributing the funds for the aid of poor boys and girls preference was generally given to the smaller colleges—the same amount of money going farther among these colleges.

All the principal denominations were recognized in the distribution—a little partiality being shown the Congregational colleges because Mr. Bennett attended the Congregational church.

Two colored schools were included and one of the other colleges has a considerable number of Indians enrolled among its students. The various funds were so distributed that in at least

one college in every state and territory between the two oceans a permanent Bennett fund will perpetuate the name and recall the generosity of Philo Sherman Bennett.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan, of course, received no compensation for distributing these funds but they are richly rewarded for the little they have been able to do by the consciousness that they have aided a friend to make a valuable contribution to his own and subsequent generations. The Bennett case has given Mr. Bryan a great deal of annoyance and some of the republican papers have maliciously misrepresented the facts but it is over and the money secured for educational purposes will prove a continuing blessing to thousands of boys and girls, while the annoyance will soon be forgotten.

ANOTHER DOCTRINE APPROPRIATED

In contributing so largely to the promotion of peace between Russia and Japan our nation is taking a step toward the realization of the ideal presented by Mr. Bryan in his speech at Indianapolis accepting the second nomination. He said: "I can conceive of a national destiny surpassing the glories of the present and the past—a destiny which meets the responsibilities of today and measures up to the possibilities of the future. Behold a republic, resting securely upon the foundation stones quarried by revolutionary patriots from the mountain of eternal truth—a republic applying in practice and proclaiming to the world the self-evident proposition that all men are created equal; that they are endowed with inalienable rights; that governments are instituted among men to secure these rights and that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. Behold a republic in which civil and religious liberty stimulate all to earnest endeavor and in which the law restrains every hand uplifted for a neighbor's injury—a republic in which every citizen is a sovereign, but in which no one cares to wear a crown. Behold a republic standing erect while empires all around are bowed beneath the weight of their own armaments—a republic whose flag is loved while other flags are only feared. Behold a republic increasing in population, in wealth, in strength and in influence, solving the problems of civilization and hastening the coming of an universal brotherhood—a republic which shakes thrones and dissolves aristocracies by its silent example and gives light and inspiration to those who sit in darkness. Behold a republic gradually but surely becoming a supreme moral factor in the world's progress and the accepted arbiter of the world's disputes—a republic whose history, like the path of the just, is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

SOUNDS LIKE 1896

"The Railway World" published at Philadelphia, in its issue of August 4, printed an interesting editorial entitled "Gold Production and Business Prosperity." Mr. John M. Garman of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., who called The Commoner's attention to this editorial says, "The statements sound a little like democratic campaign literature of 1896." The Railway World's editorial follows:

"After a sleep of nine years the money question has again begun to attract general attention. This time, however, it presents a phase which is entirely new.

"From 1873 to 1896 the world was perplexed over a threatened scarcity of the standard metal. Year after year, with hardly an interruption, prices declined. The demand for money constantly exceeded the supply and in the process of readjustment, business in every civilized country suffered under the burden of falling prices. In recent years the movement of prices and gold production has been reversed. Beginning in 1896 in Europe, and 1898 in the United States, prices have advanced until even allowing for the slight depression of 1902 and 1903, about half the decline from 1873 to 1896 has been regained. The cause of this advance was not generally understood. It was regarded as a temporary phenomenon, and the accompanying revival of business, extraordinary and unprecedented though it has been, was interpreted as the consequence of a temporary expansion of credit, similar to that which lifted the country out of the depression of 1873-9.

"Not until commodity prices failed to decline in response to the severe liquidation in the security markets during 1902 and 1903, was the attention of financiers and economists directed to the real cause of the sustained prosperity—the enor-