

MEN WHO MAY SAY "I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH"

Whatever differences there may have been with respect to Mr. Bryan's position at the St. Louis convention, there was unanimity in the reception accorded his statement on that occasion to the effect "You may dispute whether I have fought a good fight; you may dispute whether I have finished my course; but you cannot deny that I have kept the faith."

Every man in that great convention, and every newspaper reader throughout the world who was interested in the proceedings of that convention knew that when Mr. Bryan said "I have kept the faith" he stated an incontrovertible fact.

In this great country of ours, there are many men who, as democrats, have kept the faith and while some of them may have been discouraged by repeated defeats, they have the consolation of knowing that now the stars are beginning to shine in the horizon of democracy and there are everywhere indications that democratic doctrines are growing in favor among the people. Men who, during the darkest days, remained faithful, now have the satisfaction of seeing a president move along lines laid down by the democratic party in three successive national campaigns.

And it is consoling, also, to observe that many of the men who charged democrats with being "dangerous radicals" because of the character of certain of their recommendations now embrace those same policies and count them as of the patriotic order since, without the dotting of an "i" or the crossing of a "t" they have received the sanction of the president elected as a republican. There is nothing in the present day situation to discourage those who have "kept the faith." Indeed, there is every indication that the fine devotion which, under the greatest possible discouragements, democrats have displayed for their principles is soon to be rewarded.

There is constant strife between truth and falsehood. The history of the world is full of instances where error has triumphed over truth for a period of time, and yet truth has finally prevailed; prevailed, it is true, only for error to once more seek the combat; prevailed only for the contest to be revived as it will again and again be revived so long as human selfishness and human ignorance exist.

When the patriots of the colonies declared their right to be free from the impositions of the British crown, they stood for truth. When the trucklers of the day, living on American soil, insisted that rebellion against the king was wicked, that revolution was unstatesmanlike, that

the effort to build a government dedicated, under God, to freedom, was an impossible effort and would be disastrous to business interests, they stood for falsehood. And after eight years of discouragement, after eight years of brave and faithful effort, after eight years in which the colonial forces were required to combat on the one hand the British soldiery and on the other the insidious influences of the tory element, truth prevailed and a new nation, baptized in the purest of blood, sprang into existence.

It is agreed today between the men of the south and the men of the north that when the abolitionists insisted that no man has a right to place chains upon the limbs of another man they stood for truth. When the other men of that day declared slavery to be a divine institution they stood for falsehood.

When Abraham Lincoln declared that this nation could not survive half slave and half free, he stood for truth. Truth triumphed, and the shackles fell from the limbs of more than four million of human beings.

But the men who fought by Washington's side and the men who fought in Lincoln's time and before Lincoln's time for liberty, were hindered and discouraged by many who did not recognize and by some who did not care for a great principle.

The strife of truth with falsehood is on today. In Ohio and in Pennsylvania where men, solely interested in the greatest good to the greatest number battled against powerful machines, it was a battle of ballots; but at this moment it is a conflict within the hearts of men, and, however, discouraging the situation may have seemed, it must be clear to democrats everywhere that the light is breaking and that sooner or later correct principles will prevail, sooner or later falsehood will meet defeat. One of the greatest truths was stated in succinct form when it was said "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." The people of a republic must be ever active for the protection of their own interests and for the perpetuation of popular government. All too often the people become neglectful of their own interests, and individuals take advantage of the people's indifference, but in our system of government there is the advantage that the people may correct every public evil and that the impositions to which they must submit are to be measured by their indifference to their duties as citizens. If it has sometimes seemed in recent years as it has seemed in other periods of the world's history that "Truth is forever on the scaffold and wrong forever on the throne," let

it be remembered that experience has demonstrated that "that scaffold sways the future," and that those who faithfully combat error are warranted in believing that "behind the dim, unknown standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own."

Those who have kept the faith may be helped by a word of encouragement. They must certainly find comfort in the unmistakable signs conveyed in some of the results of the recent election.

To those who have seemed indifferent to their duties as citizens and yet who, as all intelligent men must, today appreciate the enormity of the evils under which the American people suffer, we would ask? Where are you standing today? Is it on the side of truth or on falsehood's side?

Is your conscience the sovereign of your intellect or are you ruled by other and less worthy forces? Do you think for yourself, or are your conclusions regulated by other men who not only think for you, but who think according to their own selfish interests? You have sneered at the minority holding aloft the banner of democracy; but the time is not far off when you will be glad to give your aid to transform that minority into a majority; the time is not far distant when you will desert the forces of error to stand proudly among the supporters of truth.

But you will be a better man if you shall change your course at the command of your conscience and your intellect rather than by waiting to be dragged to the truth by the requirements of your stomach. You will be a better citizen if you refuse to longer blindly follow a party because of its name and in spite of its policy. You will be a better patriot if you desert falsehood in the hours of its triumph and reinforce truth in the days of its defeat.

A man may, without effort, stand up and be counted among a victorious throng, but it requires strength and courage to enable one to do battle for truth in the face of what seems to be overwhelming odds. "One on God's side is a majority," said Wendell Phillips, and that which is a majority in the sight of heaven it may be depended upon, will in time become a majority in the sight of men.

Then to side with Truth is noble when we share her wretched crust,

Ere her cause bring fame and profit, and 'tis prosperous to be just;

Then it is the brave man chooses while the coward stands aside,

Doubting in his abject spirit till his Lord is crucified.

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