

MR. BRYAN'S RECEPTION IN INDIA

Indian newspapers received recently show that in India as elsewhere on his travels Mr. Bryan received cordial reception. The Indian Mirror, published at Calcutta, in its issue of March 9 prints a long editorial paying high compliment to Mr. Bryan, and congratulates the people of India upon the fact that Mr. Bryan is making observations in their country, the publication of which can not but be of advantage to the observed.

"The Advocate of India," published at Bombay, in its issue of March 24, pays a high tribute to Mr. Bryan and reminds the people of Bombay that they should not miss the opportunity of making his acquaintance, saying: "The points of view from which Mr. Bryan may be admired are various and many."

In its issue of March 27 "The Times of Bombay" prints the following editorial:

MR. BRYAN'S VISIT

"The arrival in Bombay yesterday of Mr. William Jennings Bryan, the leader of the great democratic party of the United States, is an event of singular interest. Mr. Bryan needs no introduction to the citizens of Bombay. His fame is already world-wide. He has twice been nominated as candidate for the presidency of the United States; and though he was not successful, he enjoys the complete confidence of millions of his fellow-countrymen, and he is young enough to try again. The issues of American politics are no direct concern of Bombay; it is enough for this city to know that Mr. Bryan is one of the greatest of living Americans, to make it glad to have him in its midst. It welcomes him because his visit typifies and represents that intense interest in India and its people which is so characteristic of modern America. That interest is all the more appreciated because it proceeds from no other motive than a deep and sympathetic regard for the natives of India, and from a desire to know them better, and to study the system of administration under which they live. It is a fact that during the last year or two the number of American travelers visiting India has probably exceeded those of any nationality other than British; and this fact is only one indication of that eager inclination to learn more of India which is at once discovered by any visitor to the United States from this country. Mr. Bryan is understood to look with some misgivings upon the policy of expansion in the Pacific on which his mighty nation has now entered; but whatever may be the principles to which he adheres, we trust that in the vast machinery which represents British rule in the India of today, he will find some features which may invite his approval.

"Mr. Bryan is not only a great American, he is also, by common consent, the greatest living orator in a nation of orators. He has conferred upon Bombay a welcome privilege in consenting to deliver his famous address, 'The Prince of Peace,' in the town hall this afternoon at 6 o'clock. The address has for its theme reflec-

tions suggested by a visit to the tomb of Napoleon. Admission is free, and the only trouble we fear is that even the town hall will not suffice to hold those who are eager to avail themselves of Mr. Bryan's graceful acquiescence in the widely-expressed wish that he should deliver a public address in Bombay. As a speaker, his powers are unique. Whatever views his hearers may begin by holding, he so grips them by his magnetic personality and the intensity of his convictions, that they invariably end by acknowledging the power of his magic gift of silvery speech. If he could gather the whole population of the United States into one vast hall he would be elected president by acclamation. None could say him nay—whatever they might think the next morning. The man who can exercise this wonderful gift is a man worth hearing, and in welcoming Mr. Bryan among them, the citizens of Bombay are grateful for the kindly feeling which has led him to consent to address them."

In its issue of March 28, the Times, of India, prints an account of Mr. Bryan's reception in Bombay. This account follows:

"Bombay, Town Hall, in the course of its history extending now for a period of three-quarters of a century, has been the scene of many historic and eventful gatherings, but it is doubtful whether any have been of a more interesting or unique character than the one which took place last evening, when the spacious hall was densely packed with citizens of Bombay, eager to see and hear the great American democratic leader, Mr. William Jennings Bryan. The audience was cosmopolitan in the extreme. Americans, of course, turned up in large numbers, and while Englishmen were well to the fore, there were also representatives from other European countries. By far the large majority, however, was composed of natives of India. The gathering was a striking testimony to the world-wide usage of the English language, for those present were English speaking people, and had assembled together to hear one of the greatest masters of oratory deliver an address in that language. The personality of the man, no doubt, attracted many, but the chief and predominating reason for the attendance was the desire to listen to America's foremost orator. At the outset it is safe to say that those who had the good fortune to be present received an intellectual treat.

"Long before the time for the meeting to commence—6 o'clock—the Town Hall was packed. It is estimated that with those standing by the windows and doors, there were quite three thousand persons present, and of these only a small proportion were seated, the sides and back of the hall being filled with people perfectly willing to put up with the discomfort of standing. The hall was tastefully decorated with flags, prominent by the organ being the stars and stripes, the union jack, and the Japanese national emblem. At five minutes to six the Hon. Mr. Fulton, Sir Lawrence Jenkins and Dr. Mackichan

arrived and were warmly welcomed, and a minute later Sir P. M. Mehta's entrance was the signal for a great ovation. Only a minute was wanted for the hour when the American consul, Mr. W. T. Fee, escorted the distinguished visitor on to the platform, the audience according him a splendid reception. Mr. Bryan was seated between Dr. Mackichan and Sir Lawrence Jenkins. In a few happily expressed sentences Dr. Mackichan, who presided, introduced Mr. W. J. Bryan, who then delivered his address on "The Prince of Peace." Mr. Bryan spoke for exactly one hour, and throughout the whole of his oration he had the undivided attention of his audience. Those who are best calculated to know, affirm that the company last night was the largest ever gathered within the Town Hall, and it consisted of divers races and creeds. It consequently speaks much for the magnetic influence of the man when it is remembered that for one hour Mr. Bryan held this varied gathering under the spell of his eloquence, while he discoursed on a subject in which at least two-thirds of those present could have but little, if any, sympathy. All listened with the closest interest, and there was certainly much in which all could agree. The happy epigrams, and choice phrases in which Mr. Bryan gave voice to those principles of morality which are for the advancement of the brotherhood of man were warmly applauded by all sections of the audience. Mr. Bryan possesses a clear and silvery voice and every word was to be distinctly heard in the uttermost corners of the hall. At first he is slow and quiet, but as he warms into his subject and becomes engaged in argument, he grows more vehement in manner and ends in a perfect torrent of words, well chosen and beautifully expressed. His style never loses its deeply impressive character, and one feels that the man is giving vent to feelings right from the heart. For once the audience really sees a man in earnest, and the words carry conviction. A religious address is, however, very different to a political one, when men's passions are easily aroused, and denunciation and invective of an opposite policy command rounds of applause. Mr. Bryan had a difficult task to fulfill. Following his custom when outside America he decided to leave politics severely alone, and he confined himself to an essentially religious topic. Many of those present were of a totally different way of thinking to the great statesman, and that he succeeded in keeping all more than interested to the end can not but be classed as a remarkable oratorical feat. It was a brilliant speech, and freely acknowledged by all so to be. At the conclusion the Hon. Mr. Fulton suitably voiced the thanks of those present to Mr. Bryan and the proceedings terminated. Mr. Bryan will carry away from these shores many pleasant memories of his present tour through India, but one can confidently assert that the remembrance of the wonderful gathering in the Bombay Town Hall will long be treasured as one of the happiest events of a memorable tour by America's great democrat."

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