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#### COUNT HIM NOT POOR

Count him not poor;  
Altho' he counts  
No thousands by the score;  
If he has e'er  
An open door  
Thro' which the summer sun may shine,  
And fall upon the floor,  
And bring the hope back to his heart  
It brought in days of yore.

Count him not poor;  
Altho' he counts  
No acres by the score,  
If when he sees  
Beside the door,  
The red rose bloom as once it bloomed  
In June long gone before,  
He dreams the dreams he used to dream  
In those June days of yore.

Count him not poor,  
Altho' he counts  
No houses by the score,  
If when he hears  
Above the door  
The morning song of soaring bird  
Rise to the Maker's door,  
He feels high yearnings swell his soul,  
High yearnings as of yore.  
—Mabel Wilfong Brewer.

#### KIND WORDS

Editorial in Kansas City Times (ind.): The older Mr. William J. Bryan becomes—and his birthday recently marks him still a comparatively young man—the more he stamps himself upon the country as a remarkable personage. An accident might give a man temporary prominence. But for one to hold the conspicuous place Mr. Bryan has held is not accidental.

Mr. Bryan's place in politics is the more notable since he has not held office in twenty years and in that time has been three times defeated for the presidency. To be still the most potent figure in his party and one of the most potent political leaders in the country is proof that he possesses qualities which the people instinctively like.

That Mr. Bryan is the most powerful democrat in America today is attested by such incidents as his receiving the highest vote cast for a democrat in the Weekly Star's presidential poll—the next highest vote to that given Mr. Roosevelt. Like Mr. Roosevelt, he received this vote while not a candidate. And there were two avowed candidates for the democratic nomination right here in the Star's immediate territory.

Aside from Mr. Bryan's ability as a speaker, his fearlessness as a fighter probably commends him most to his followers. Even those who do not accept his doctrine admit the courage with which he declares his conviction on any question.

Indirectly and directly he has had a big influence in the progressive tendency of this period. Few men in the political history of the United States have had a larger and more loyal following than Mr. Bryan has had and has now.

## The Commoner.

# Mr. Bryan and Harmon Instructions

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Editorial in Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat: Apparently Senator Hitchcock's newspaper, the Omaha World-Herald, is willing to put Mr. Bryan in a false position before the country. It is endeavoring with all its might and with all its undoubted art to picture him as a boss and as determined to rule or ruin. Referring to Mr. Bryan's statement that if he is elected a delegate to the Baltimore convention and is instructed for Harmon he will resign his commission and go to the convention as a private citizen to oppose the nomination of the Ohio governor, the World-Herald says:

"It is difficult to believe that it is Mr. Bryan who says this. He has always pleaded for and demanded the rule by the people. He has favored the primary system as against the convention system, because under the primary system the people are the bosses and under the convention system the leaders are the bosses. He has pointed out that the weakness in representative government lies in the refusal of the people's chosen representatives to carry out their instructions.

"Is Mr. Bryan now ready to declare that he will not help the people to rule unless they rule as he instructs them to rule? That he will refuse to represent the democracy of Nebraska in the national convention unless they instruct him as he instructs them to instruct him?"

This is utterly unfair to Mr. Bryan. There would be an embezzlement of power on the part of Mr. Bryan were he to go to Baltimore as a delegate instructed for Harmon only to be found working in violation of the instructions. He declares that he is bound by his conscience to oppose the Ohio governor. He believes Mr. Harmon is tied up with Wall street interests and that his nomination would be fatal to democratic prospects. He may not be right in this estimate of Governor Harmon. The Ohio man may be as progressive and as free from dubious alliances as any democrat who has been mentioned. But this is not the point. The point is that Mr. Bryan honestly holds a certain view of the Buckeye governor which binds him by every dictate of conscience to oppose his nomination. And he is fair enough with his constituents to warn them in advance that should they wish to send delegates to Baltimore in the interest of Governor Harmon, they should choose men known to be conscientiously attached to the fortunes of that candidate.

Mr. Bryan would be false to himself and false to his party were he to take any other stand than the one he has assumed. It is open and frank. It is utterly unequivocal and it is consistent with a similar stand which he took in 1900 at the Kansas City convention. "You have the right, gentlemen," he told the committee sent to wait upon him, "to adopt any sort of platform you choose. I can not dictate your platform. But if you propose to nominate me, you must give me a platform upon which I can stand without discrediting me in the eyes of my countrymen."

Mr. Bryan tells the democrats of Nebraska where he is to be found. He is guilty of no false pretense. They are at perfect liberty to instruct for Governor Harmon. But he insists that they shall in that case choose delegates who can accept such instructions without self-stultification. He declines in advance to receive instructions which he could follow only by violating his own conscience and by publishing himself to the world as a moral pervert. For that man is a moral pervert who will undertake to do under instructions what he would not do if he were left free.

Possibly the position of Mr. Bryan is somewhat different from that of the ordinary man who seeks delegate honors. It may matter very little one way or the other to John Smith what instructions he may be given. No one knows much about John Smith. He may have few if any scruples regarding this or that. Were he instructed one way or the other would make little difference. It would mean nothing more than that John Smith had received certain instructions. No one would ever think again of the matter save in the event that John should violate his instructions in the convention. But in the case of Mr. Bryan the situation is vastly different. He is the most conspicuous member of his party. He is still the acknowledged and the beloved leader of millions of men. He is therefore in a position where he can not act for himself alone without reference to those millions who look to him for light and leading. He can no more sink himself and abdicate his leader-

ship than the president of the United States can do so; and he is bound by the highest obligations to act in every emergency, not as a mere private citizen, not simply as a single individual democrat living near the capital of Nebraska, but as the head of a great army marching toward a clear objective, moved by a common purpose, animated by the same spirit, upheld by the same lofty determination.

In our judgment Mr. Bryan is absolutely right in this matter and Senator Hitchcock singularly wrong. Mr. Bryan is not questioning the right of the people to rule. He is not trying to dictate what they shall or shall not do. He is not seeking to impose his will upon them. He is simply standing out as a big and honest man who is also a leader of men with a plain definition of his own position and with a clear warning that if the people want certain things done they must choose some other servant than himself to do it.

#### RIGHTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Editorial in Lincoln (Neb.) Journal: An interesting question is raised by the attack on Mr. Bryan for his refusal to go to the national convention as a Harmon delegate. The people of his party are to dictate to the delegates whom they shall support at the convention. Mr. Bryan is a candidate for delegate. Governor Harmon is a candidate for president. Mr. Bryan says that if he is elected delegate, and his party instructs for Harmon, he will resign and go to Baltimore in a private capacity to oppose the candidate who would, in that case, have the indorsement of his party in his own state. Is such conduct, as Mr. Bryan's enemies declare, contrary to the principle of people's rule?

The simple way to get an answer is to ask whether this attitude of Mr. Bryan's will keep the people of his state from having their verdict registered at Baltimore. The people instruct for Harmon. Mr. Bryan then refuses to act as a delegate. Somebody else, willing to go, is then substituted. He will, of course, cast his vote for the popular choice. Harmon gets the vote. The people have ruled. Mr. Bryan's conduct has not interfered with the support by Nebraska's delegation of the people's choice. In truth, such action facilitates the rule of the majority. Mr. Bryan, feeling as he does about Harmon, could not be a whole hearted representative of the people's will. In resigning he makes way for one in a mood more effectively to carry out his instructions.

What Mr. Bryan proposes to do represents, in fact, the ideal attitude of the popular representative. It is now hardly disputed that a representative should reflect the wishes of his constituents. We do not employ representatives to rule us, but to rule for us. At the same time, we do not want mere rubber stamp representatives. We want representatives of such ability and character that they will not only represent, but will also lead. Now when such a representative finds his constituents favoring a policy he feels to be wrong, what is he to do? He has no right to act against their wishes. He has no right to violate his own convictions. His only course is to make an effort to bring his constituents to his way of thinking, and failing in this, to give up his place to a representative in harmony with their views. The people still rule. He saves his own self respect.

This is what actually happens in parliament governed countries such as Great Britain. A party majority rules till there are certain evidences that it is no longer in harmony with the country. The cabinet resigns. Parliament is dissolved. An election is held. The representatives remain or retire according to the popular verdict. Given the machinery for really popular elections, such a system furnishes probably the most perfect working of representative popular government.

#### OPPOSITION TO HARMON

Editorial in Cincinnati Enquirer: The Enquirer does not believe any candidate should be nominated at the Baltimore convention who does not represent the principles supported by the majority of the voters of the democratic party.

It sees no hope for the election of any candidate whose allegiance to their principles is dis-trusted by the rank and file of the party.

There are certain influences which the masses of the people of the United States believe to be inimical to their interests. This belief is so strong and so powerful that any candidate sug-