

Immortality

Eulogy delivered July 14, 1894, on a colleague, in congress.

Mr. Bryan said:

Mr. Speaker, George W. Houk was my friend, and while no words of mine can add peace to his ashes or sweetness to his sleep, I beg to place on record my tribute of affection and esteem. He was one of the first members of the Fifty-second congress whom I met after my own election, and the acquaintance which we formed while crossing Lake Superior together in the summer of 1891, ripened into an attachment which I enjoyed during his life, and which I cherish in memory now.

He was a well-rounded man—one of the most complete men I ever knew. Some are specialists and excel in a particular line of work, or become famous because of some faculty abnormally developed. Not so with Mr. Houk. He was not a one-sided man, nor a man with but one idea or one virtue. He so blended graces and good qualities, so combined the traits and characteristics which distinguish men as to be worthy of Antony's compliment to Brutus:

His life was gentle, and the elements So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up And say to all the world, "This was a man!"

He found his inspiration at his fireside, and approached the ideal in his domestic life. He and his faithful wife, who was both his helpmeet and companion, inhabited as tenants in common that sacred spot called home and needed no court to define their relative rights and duties. The invisible walls which shut in that home and shut out all else had their foundations upon the earth and their battlements in the skies. No force could break them down, no poisoned arrows could cross their top, and at the gates thereof love and confidence stood ever upon guard.

In such a home the devoted parents reared a loving and dutiful family, and lived to see each son and daughter settled in life. And fortune had so smiled upon the children that the father was as far removed from anxious care concerning them as his beautiful estate, Runnymede, overlooking the Miami valley, was removed from the noise and turmoil of the busy city with whose history his achievements were entwined. He did not leave to his children that doubtful blessing, a large fortune, but he left that priceless heritage which money can not buy—a name without a stain, a reputation without a blemish.

He was a man of surpassing geniality, and his cheerful face shed its radiance on all around him. It was my good fortune to sit by him during both terms of congress, and I learned to look for the friendly salutation with which he greeted me every morning. He was a boon companion, and allowed no humor to escape him. He abounded in wise proverbs, in stories and in fables, and in all the affairs of life mingled with an artist's skill the lively colors with the grave.

With him citizenship was a sacred trust as well as a privilege, and in the discharge of its responsibilities he exercised the most conscientious care. He was a politician in the sense that he was a student of the science of government, and a successful legislator in that he wrought into effective law the principles in which he believed. He possessed all the characteristics of the statesman. He reasoned out each proposition that came before him with a singleness of purpose and a desire to know the right.

He was honest, both with himself and with others. Not only was he incorruptible so far as pecuniary influences go, but he was true to his own convictions. His fidelity to others was insured by strict adherence to the injunction—

To thine own self be true:

And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man.

He was a brave man, and dared to follow his own judgment, even when it led him into disagreement with his party associates. His moral courage was developed to a high degree, and he was willing to assume responsibility for his every act, conscious of the rectitude of his purpose. His ability was recognized by his associates in congress, and his opinions, based upon extensive research and wide experience, illuminated and ornamented by quotations from history, fiction and poetry were sought after more and more as men knew him better.

His life was one long journey upward, without a halt or backward step. His success was

START THE 1912 FIGHT NOW BY GETTING GOOD DEMOCRATIC LITERATURE INTO THE HANDS OF THE VOTERS

One of the most important tasks confronting the democratic party in the coming campaign is the work of placing its position squarely before the people by a thorough CAMPAIGN OF EDUCATION.

The time to start this work is NOW—not after the country is deluged with tons of misleading campaign literature. NOW is the time when the voters are in a receptive mood and have the time to weigh questions carefully. NOW is the time when the most effective work can be done.

Victory in 1912 is a POSSIBILITY—not a CERTAINTY. Success will depend on whether the democratic party is alive to its opportunities in this campaign. Much will depend on placing good literature into the hands of the voters, old and young alike. The American people can be trusted to settle questions right, but they want the facts, figures, arguments and reasons from authoritative sources.

How can this be done to the best advantage? Through the medium of reliable democratic newspapers. It is an admitted fact that good newspapers have a greater influence with all classes of voters than any kind of campaign literature that can be circulated. A newspaper

—paid for by the reader—has a far more definite value and influence than any publication sent out for free distribution. Every campaign manager recognizes this fact. Hence the importance of assisting in the work of getting good democratic papers into the hands of the voters.

Many democratic papers will make special campaign rates—rates so low that it will be an easy matter to get these papers into the hands of a large number of new and doubtful voters. Democratic workers could do nothing better to strengthen their party than help circulate democratic newspapers in their own precincts. To aid in this work The Commoner also makes a special campaign rate of 35c on new subscriptions—from now until the close of the campaign—or THREE NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS for \$1.00.

Are you willing to do your part in this work? Will you do your part to help place in the hands of new and doubtful voters a medium that will keep them posted on the democratic position clear through the campaign? If you are, get up a club of THREE NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR \$1.00, and send in at once. It is the surest way to win votes in your precinct and add to the strength of the party. Every democrat can form at least one CLUB OF THREE in his precinct. It will be only a matter of a few minutes work to secure ONE club—many will send in a number. Ask your neighbors and friends to join a CLUB OF THREE; invite the new or doubtful voters to join a club. Use the coupon below:

THREE FOR \$1.00 CLUB

THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb:

Gentlemen—Enclosed find \$1.00 for which please send The Commoner to the following new subscribers under your special campaign offer—THREE FOR \$1.00.

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Name P. O.

Name P. O.

not meteoric; he won his way step by step, and pitched his tent on higher ground at the end of each day's travel. For more than sixty-five years his home was at Dayton, Ohio. There he attended school, taught school, read law, and practiced at the bar. There he spent the days of his boyhood and manhood, and there, after he had almost completed his three-score years and ten, he rests from his labors. The sorrowing multitudes who attended his funeral testified, as no language can, to the character of the man. Their expressions of tenderness and affection, and their gentle ministrations fitly crowned the career which they had watched with pride and love. Truly, "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

I shall not believe that even now his light is extinguished. If the Father deigns to touch with divine power the cold and pulseless heart of the buried acorn, and make it burst forth from its prison walls, will He leave neglected in the earth the soul of man, who was made in the image of his Creator? If He stoops to give to the rosebush, whose withered blossoms float upon the breeze, the sweet assurance of another spring time, will He withhold the words of hope from the sons of men when the frosts of winter come? If Matter, mute and inanimate, though changed by the forces of Nature into a multitude of forms, can never die, will the imperial spirit of man suffer annihilation after it has paid a brief visit, like a royal guest, to this tenement of clay?

Rather let us believe that He who, in his apparent prodigality, wastes not the raindrop, the

blade of grass, or the evening's sighing zephyr, but makes them all to carry out His eternal plans, has given immortality to the mortal, and gathered to Himself the generous spirit of our friend.

Instead of mourning, let us look up and address him in the words of the poet:

Thy day has come, not gone;
Thy sun has risen, not set;
Thy life is now beyond
The reach of death or change,
Not ended—but begun.
O, noble soul! O, gentle heart! Hall, and farewell.

DEMOCRATIC DATES

Democratic primaries or conventions will be held as follows:

- April 12—New York democratic state convention.
- April 13—Primaries for Pennsylvania.
- April 17—Illinois congressional district conventions.
- April 19—Primaries for Nebraska.
- April 19—Primaries for Oregon.
- April 27—Primaries for Tennessee.
- April 29—Colorado democratic state convention.
- April 30—Primaries for Florida.
- May 1—Connecticut state convention.
- May 9—Iowa state convention.
- May 14—California primaries.
- May 16—Iowa state convention.
- May 21—Ohio primaries.
- May 28—Primaries for New Jersey.
- June 4—Primaries for South Dakota.