

THINGS THAT LIVE

New York Sun: As long as the world endures and has its memories the victims of the woeful disaster that befell the Titanic will be held in high honor.

St. Louis Republic: Five professional card sharps and swindlers are reported to have gone down on the Titanic. Yet these poor brutes, though they may have lived like muckers, died like gentlemen, too.

Washington Post: Newspaper men will ever cherish the thought that those precepts of fidelity and honor which Archie Butt so nobly followed in the army he first learned as a reporter.

Baltimore American: One redeeming feature of great disasters is the heroism which seems to be dormant in normal human nature until some unusual impulse calls it forth. "You have children; take my place," said a young girl on the sinking Titanic. "I am afraid there are not enough," said a steward when urged to secure a life-belt for himself. What could be added to such words at such a time?

Philadelphia Ledger: Charles Herbert Lightoller, second officer of the White Star liner Titanic, was in the icy water, aided by a life-belt, for one hour and a half when he was fortuitously saved. He stood by the ship until the last, working to get the passengers away, and when it appeared that he had made his last trip he went up high on the officers' quarters and made the best dive he knew how to make just as the ship plunged down to the depths.

Boston Transcript: It is difficult to choose between a thousand stories of heroism, but the people who knew and loved Henry B. Harris will like to recall his last words to his wife: "Don't worry, Rene, sweetheart. I'll get the next boat, and you know I'm a good swimmer." This was said with more of a laugh than a smile. It comforted and reassured the woman, as it was meant to do; but Mr. Harris was under no illusions, and, when he had persuaded her to safety, he turned to a fellow passenger and observed: "Nothing for us, eh, but to die like gentlemen?" Yet that was easy. It was the spirit in which a man who was never "theatrical" outside of his playhouses had always lived.

THE MONEY TRUST INVESTIGATION

Bloomington (Ill.) Daily Bulletin: Mr. Bryan wrote a letter to Congressman Henry strongly urging a special committee to make an investigation of the money trust instead of referring the matter to the regular house committee as desired by Mr. Underwood and favored by the Wall street magnates themselves. After hearing Mr. Bryan's letter, the house democratic caucus sustained Mr. Underwood's plan as against Bryan's by a vote of almost two to one.

It is probable that some democrats voted against Mr. Bryan on the ground that they believe he meddles too much. There was a similar situation with similar result in connection with the meeting of the national democratic committee when Mr. Bryan secured a proxy and attended for the sole purpose of an attempt to oust Guffey of Pennsylvania. His defeat in the national committee was fore-ordained and probably he saw defeat in the house caucus. Therefore some will ask why does he interfere and create discord when there should be harmony.

Mr. Bryan has a very good answer. Were it not for the fearless few who put duty above victory, interested leaders, with the aid of honest but weak members who take the line of least resistance in the interest of harmony, would put the democratic party where the interests want it, as a mere sham or decoy enemy of the republican party.

A considerable number of influential men both democrats and republicans seek to have the parties in accord on the vital things affecting special privilege, but fiercely wrangling over minor matters so as to take public attention.

Mr. Bryan has the courage to get himself disliked by the selfish and discredited by the thoughtless.

Roswell (New Mexico) Record: "The Bryan influence," judging by the newspapers of both parties, is a potent factor both in and out of congress.

Without doubt it was Bryan's letter to Congressman Henry of Texas, urging the appointment of a special committee to investigate the money trust that brought about the appointment of the four committee investigation.

And what is the secret of this influence? It is not the ascendancy of a man in high office who has patronage to distribute, or the ma-

chinery of government to wield against the disobedient; it is not a man who controls great wealth.

No, it is none of these things. William J. Bryan has neither wealth nor position; he has nothing to offer but the stamp of his approval; the only club—if you choose to call his power by that name—that he holds, is the club of justice, and this weapon is built from the faith that the rank and file of democracy have in his honesty, his wisdom, and his shrewdness in seeing into the plans of the enemy. And all of this influence is given to a man who has been defeated three times for the presidency. Two defeats, yes, one defeat, would have been the political death of a politician, a mere office seeker, but Bryan possesses that rare quality of statesmanship which puts the cause he represents before his personal advancement, makes the principle paramount to the man.

When he was defeated it was the defeat of the cause for which he stood, not the defeat of the man, for men clothed only in their own strength and their own personality do not rise from such a fall.

Principles do not die of wounds; just causes thrive on persecution. Right knows no defeat. And the proof that Bryan has from the beginning of his career been fighting for truth, justice and right principles is shown by the fact that defeat has left him unscathed, untouched, just as it has the principles for which he stood. His strength is now and always has been in the justice of the cause for which he fights.

The theories of government which Bryan has advocated are accepted today by both parties and, just as these theories grow in popularity, so grows the influence of William Jennings Bryan. Ralph Waldo Emerson must have had a prophetic vision of Bryan when he wrote:

This is he, who, felled by foes,
Sprung harmless up, refreshed by blows;
He to captivity was sold,
But him no prison bars would hold;
Though they sealed him in a rock,
Mountain chains he can unlock;
Thrown to lions for their meat,
The crouching lion kissed his feet;
Bound to the stake, no flames appalled,
But arched o'er him an honoring vault.
This is he men miscall Fate,
Threading dark ways, arriving late,
But ever coming in time to crown
The truth, and hurl wrong-doers down

MR. BRYAN IS FRIGHTENED

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: Tampa, Fla., April 26.—Declaring he believed the result of the Roosevelt-Taft fight would be the nomination for the presidency of a third man by the republicans, W. J. Bryan, in a speech here today, used the alleged words of each against the other.

"Indeed," said Mr. Bryan, "I am daily apprehending the suggestion that I be nominated as a compromise republican candidate on the declaration of Roosevelt that I am more progressive than Taft and of Taft that I am less dangerous than Roosevelt."

Mr. Bryan, in denouncing Underwood as the "candidate of Wall street," explained that he was not necessarily against a southern man but that if the nomination of a southern man was desired "why not a real southern democrat like Hoke Smith, Ollie James or Charles Culberson?"

He reiterated that he had no preference between progressives, but that the democratic party should not throw away this greatest of its opportunities by nominating a reactionary.

He added that if a progressive were nominated at Baltimore he would show the country that he could fight more effectively for another man than he had fought for himself.

The speaker left immediately after his address for other points on his Florida itinerary.

HARMON AND BRYAN

Philadelphia Public Ledger: Mr. Bryan and Governor Harmon have lately been having a little debate. Mr. Bryan has been invading Ohio in response to a sort of hate for Harmon which seems to be as inveterate as that cherished by Mr. Roosevelt for Mr. Taft. The colonel has been denouncing Harmon and declaring that he is the one particular person he will not support for the democratic nomination; and of course he has been twisting facts, making false charges and doing other things which only a very advanced progressive can do without a sense of shame.

Governor Harmon carried the war into Nebraska and not only declared that the one

specific "charge" was a rank falsehood, but proved it. Then he showed to amused audiences that the progressives of Ohio to whom Mr. Bryan was giving his moral support against Harmon were discredited politicians, office-brokers without any offices to handle, convicts and a most undesirable collection of citizens.

Anybody who has noted the habits of a real friend of the people of either party can shrewdly guess how a progressive like Mr. Bryan met the arguments of his opponent. Did he refute his statements or controvert his facts? He disdained such prosy and undramatic methods of debate; he made the crushing rejoinder that, anyhow, this man Harmon was a "reactionary," and added:

"I affirm that Harmon has not changed his sympathies since 1896 when he was with President Cleveland in opposing the democratic party."

At last Mr. Bryan is unwittingly doing Mr. Harmon some service and the country is gaining an exact and valuable knowledge of what much of the demagogic progressiveness actually means; to be "reactionary," in the mouths of the radicals, both republican and democratic, often means to be honest and sane. The charge against Mr. Harmon is that he is not a Bryanite and will not strike his colors to Bryan even for the sake of a nomination; all the others except Underwood have done so or pretended to do so. What a curious and depressing fact it is that after 16 years of so-called progress a leader like Bryan with his following should have the impudence to hold a candidate up to obloquy on the ground that he is STILL STANDING OUT obstinately against the movement which is "progressing" away from the courage and statesmanship of Cleveland and the gold democrats toward the ghostlike reappearance of Bryanism and folly!

MAYOR GAYNOR

William Jennings Bryan and Mayor William J. Gaynor talked to a large audience in the Grace M. E. church recently. Mr. Bryan delivered his lecture on "The Signs of the Times."

The Nebraskan was introduced by the mayor, who flooded him with compliments and called him "the greatest teacher in the world today."

"Mr. Bryan ran three times for the presidency but was not elected," said the mayor. "But that does not mean he was not successful, for the man who is elected is not always the successful one. I have known some who would have been more successful if they had been defeated. When you are elected your trouble begins."

"Bryan was not elected, but he was successful in helping the men of his generation more than any man I know of to take a few steps forward, and that is as successful as a man can be."

"Mr. Bryan has advocated reforms in politics, and though he has not come to office, these reforms have gone forward because they have had merit in them. In this way he has combined the great office of a statesman and that greater one of a teacher."

Mr. Bryan thanked the mayor for his expressions of good will and said he heartily reciprocated them.

Mr. Bryan referred to the mayor as having stood up for him often—as a man who was not afraid to be his friend when he needed one.

"In the office of judge as well as mayor Mr. Gaynor has had the courage to speak out for what he has thought right," Mr. Bryan went on. "This city is fortunate to have a man whose sympathies are on the side of the people. I've known the mayor for a great many years and I've always known that his heart was on the right side."

HOW OFTEN, OH, HOW OFTEN?

James E. Corey, a Crawford county, Ohio, reader of The Commoner asks: "Will you tell the readers of The Commoner how often, by message, Mr. Roosevelt, during his two terms as president of the United States, asked congress to provide for the election of United States senators by popular vote; to provide for a general primary election law, including candidates for president; to provide for the initiative and referendum, and for the better control of trusts. Is it possible that his sense of justice was so obtuse that he did not see the necessity for these reform measures until on the eve of a presidential campaign in which he hoped to be the recipient?"

Surely these are embarrassing questions for Mr. Roosevelt.