

Greatest Triumph in Mr. Bryan's Career

Joseph L. Bristow, republican United States senator from Kansas, sent to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the following report: Washington, July 4.—The nomination of Woodrow Wilson by the democratic convention is the greatest triumph that has come to William J. Bryan in his career, far greater than his first nomination, which was the result of his speech to the Chicago convention. Then the delegates were in condition to be moved by the spectacular demonstration of his oratorical powers. His fight for a progressive platform at St. Louis up to this time probably showed his greatest strength as a tenacious fighter. His nomination for the third time was not opposed seriously, because it was not believed that the democratic party had a chance for success.

But with flattering prospects this year that the nominee would be elected, the enemies of Mr. Bryan's theories of government have made every effort to guard against control of the convention, so that no one in accord with his views and purposes could be nominated. Indeed, it appeared that they had paved an easy way for the nomination of Speaker Clark, but they had not reckoned with the power of Bryan's personality as a delegate in the convention.

For a week I watched closely his masterful hand. Beaten on the first day for temporary chairman by a decisive vote, it clearly appeared that he did not control a majority of the delegates to the convention. His enemies, the reactionaries in the democratic party, were elated, but Bryan was calm in defeat and confident of ultimate success. He relied on that irresistible influence in American politics, which he termed the "folks at home," but which I shall style public opinion.

No convention or legislative body in this coun-

MOUNT WATTERSON IN ERUPTION

Mount Watterson is again in eruption. This time the hidden fires burst with more than usual fury. The burning lava, descending to the plain, has formed itself into characters that, as nearly as they can be read through the smoke, read as follows:

"The mask which in his unguarded fury Mr. Bryan has allowed to slip away from the sleek and smug visage that has so long deceived superficial observers into the belief that, though selfish and commonplace, he was still a sincere and amiable man, shows the world at last the very embodiment of prosperous hypocrisy and successful malice.

"The literature of every nation has its type of the unprincipled charlatan. He is depicted in various degrees and kinds of turpitude, but always as shallow and heartless. Of Tartuffe, we read with dismay; of Pecksniff and Chadband, with disgust.

"How shall we classify and what shall be the measure of detestation in which not only all good democrats but all good men must hereafter and forever hold the sardonic figure at Baltimore in his rage and spleen throwing off all disguise of prudence and showing himself in his true character of ingrate, traitor and Pharisee; the baffled demagogue spitting upon hands that had befriended him; the beaten mountebank, balked of his prey; the rattlesnake revealed, exuding poison that disease and death may follow in the wake of his tortuous course?

"It is most painful to write and to print this indictment of a man the Courier-Journal has tried to believe an honest though misguided man. The seven days' performance at Baltimore, with its horrible spectacle of rule or ruin, duplicating the equally horrible spectacle of Roosevelt at Chicago, leaves us no recourse."

"This is certainly a severe charge for one man to bring against another, but even violent language can lose its force by its repetition, and Mr. Watterson's fury has been hurled at Mr. Bryan so frequently that it is becoming each time more easy to withstand the shock.

Mr. Watterson's forked tongue—to change the figure—attempted to inject its venom into Mr. Bryan's political flesh as far back as 1896. "No compromise with dishonor," he hissed through the cable but he found on investigation that he had bitten the cash box of his paper instead of the democratic candidate. But, jubilant over the prospective defeat of the democratic party, he thus disposed of Mr. Bryan in an editorial printed after Mr. Bryan's Kentucky tour:

"Mr. William J. Bryan has come to Kentucky, and Kentuckians have taken his measure. He

try can stand a great while against concentrated public opinion. And while the reactionary democrats gnashed their teeth furiously at Bryan, sent forth their prize orators to denounce him, and vented their hatred and anger, insulting remarks and jeers, yet, he in the midst of all the rancorous turmoil, cool and self-possessed, continued with a masterful hand to wield his tremendous power over the convention. He relied with supreme confidence on the force of public opinion to bring the convention to his feet, and he succeeded, in my judgment, beyond his expectations.

Governor Wilson is under obligations to many friends who have worked for his nomination with an ardor that should be exceedingly gratifying to him, yet there is one man whose support and dominating force gave him the nomination, and today, towering above other party leaders in American politics, stands the gigantic figure of William J. Bryan. By this I do not mean to place Mr. Bryan, in point of ability or as an effective moral or political leader, ahead of Colonel Roosevelt. While he struggled at Baltimore against powerful forces, yet his battle was not nearly so difficult as that which confronted Mr. Roosevelt at Chicago.

Roosevelt had to dislodge a person who was in power, who had more than a hundred thousand officeholders whose political fortunes were welded to his success. These officeholders were in absolute command of one-third of the delegates to the convention. He had also against him the sentiment in favor of giving a president a second term and in addition to these powerful and controlling influences, he had the same organization working in Chicago against him that Mr. Bryan contended against at Baltimore.

is a boy orator. He is a dishonest dodger. He is a daring adventurer. He is a political fakir. He is not of the material of which the people of the United States have ever made a president, nor is he even of the material of which any party has ever before made a candidate."

His next chance for attack was when imperialism was the issue. Mr. Bryan was accused of being a moral philosopher instead of a statesman, and was warned that his idealism was not suited to this commercial age.

As the national platform, just adopted, without opposition, repeats FOR THE THIRD TIME the declaration against imperialism written by Mr. Bryan for the platform of 1900, it is hardly necessary for Mr. Bryan to defend his position.

In the spring of 1904 Mr. Watterson felt it his patriotic duty to denounce Mr. Bryan for opposing Mr. Parker. He even accused Mr. Bryan of supporting Mr. Hearst and he has never had the fairness to commend Mr. Bryan for refusing to second the nomination of Mr. Hearst—a refusal which explains Mr. Hearst's hatred ever since.

In 1908 Mr. Watterson led Wall street in its effort to defeat Mr. Bryan's third nomination and only desisted when friends convinced him that the logic of the situation required Mr. Bryan's nomination.

When the present campaign opened Mr. Watterson championed the cause of Mr. Wilson but repudiated him when Governor Wilson refused to accept a campaign contribution from Thomas F. Ryan, and admitted, on inquiry, that Mr. Harvey's support was a liability instead of an asset. After abandoning Mr. Wilson Mr. Watterson took up Mr. Clark, but gave him a tardy and luke-warm support. Now that Mr. Clark refused to take sides in the temporary chairmanship fight between Mr. Parker and Mr. Bryan, and more especially since he (Mr. Clark) can see no reason for "insulting the ninety delegates from New York," whom Mr. Murphy used to carry out the wishes of the plunderbund—NOW the furnace of Mr. Watterson's wrath is heated seven times hotter than before.

Well, Mr. Bryan confesses that he has not tried to please Mr. Watterson—that may account for any popularity Mr. Bryan enjoys. He confesses that he did not consult Mr. Watterson when he made his fight against Judge Parker for temporary chairman. He did not consult Mr. Watterson when he introduced the resolution against Morgan, Ryan and Belmont (wonder if Mr. Watterson feels slighted, like one of the financiers did, because he was not included) and Mr. Bryan did not consult Mr. Watterson when he declined to join with Mr. Murphy in nominating a candidate for presi-

dent. Mr. Bryan has pursued the course which seemed to him most calculated to advance the interests of the democratic party and through the democratic party the interests of the country. He has done most of his work, not only without Mr. Watterson's aid but in spite of his opposition. He has lived to see the things he has advocated become the accepted doctrines of a great nation and he awaits without fear the verdict of the people upon his work at Baltimore.

WHEN DESTINY KNOCKED

The following news item appeared in the Chicago Tribune on last Thursday morning. It was sent from Sea Girt, N. J., and tells a brief, but far-reaching story.

All minutes are of equal duration, measured on the limitless line of time, but the decisions made in them are not of equal importance. The item above referred to tells of Governor Wilson's decision, made in a moment, which won him the presidential nomination. The Tribune correspondent says:

"Governor Wilson did not stutter when William Jennings Bryan put up to him the question of a reactionary or a progressive temporary chairman of the Baltimore convention.

"Without hesitation and against the advice of his campaign managers, he chose the Nebraskan's course. This decision of the governor became known today through Joseph P. Tumulty, his secretary.

"Mr. Tumulty told of the telegram sent to Bryan in answer to the latter's message declaring against the selection of Alton B. Parker as temporary chairman.

"As soon as Mr. Bryan's message became public, even before it reached the governor," the secretary said, "the Wilson managers at Baltimore got the governor on the telephone.

"Don't answer the message until you hear from us," they begged. And the governor said he wouldn't.

"Down at Baltimore they rigged up a rough draft of a reply and sent it to the governor. He read it and handed it to me. It dodged the issue. The governor took it from my hands.

"It won't do, Joe," he said, as he tore it into bits. "The people expect more than this of me. It wouldn't be just to them or myself if I used this. We'll fix up another one."

"He took a pad and placed it across his knee and wrote his answer to Mr. Bryan without crossing out a single word he had put down."

The same opportunity came to Speaker Clark—Mr. Bryan sent identically the same telegram to both—but Mr. Clark listened to his advisors and destiny's knock was unanswered by him. One has only himself to blame if he allows such an opportunity to pass unimproved.

A LESSON IN MORALS

Mr. Bryan does not deserve (however pleasant the compliments may be) the credit he is receiving for what was done at Baltimore. His part was really a modest one; he simply turned the faucet and allowed a great moral force to flow in upon the convention. He did not CREATE the force, but he knew where the faucet was and estimated more accurately than some others did the height of the stand-pipe from which the force came. If he had had the foresight to hang over the platform the motto, "Remember the Folks at Home," illumined by electricity, he need not have spoken at all. He could, by turning on the light, have made really half the delegates hide under the chairs. The fear of the people is the beginning of wisdom, if one may be permitted to paraphrase a proverb, and no convention ever better illustrated this truth.

No one who looked upon the tumult caused by the anti-Morgan, Ryan, Belmont resolution will ever forget the scene. Such a seething mass of terror-stricken men has seldom been on exhibition except when, during a battle, a bursting shell has fallen, without warning, into a camp. And yet, in a few minutes reason returned and men who had been cursing the resolution fell over each other in their effort to change their votes to "aye." It was a great separating of the sheep from the goats—but some of the goats slipped in at the last moment.

Can a wax figure wax hot without danger to itself? This is the question which arose in the minds of the delegates when they saw Mr. Stanchfield of New York force out a few broken sentences in favor of one candidate, while his vote was being cast for another candidate.