

in which not only all good democrats, but all good men, must hereafter hold the sardonic figure at Baltimore in his rage and spleen, throwing off disguise of prudence and showing himself in his true color 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?"

This rumbling diatribe will not hurt Mr. Bryan any more than the schoolmaster label marred the chances of Woodrow Wilson. To those who looked on at the remarkable convention, Mr. Bryan seemed the most smiling and cheerful person on the floor. His rage and spleen were manifested only against measures. His charity and toleration toward his opponents as fellowmen

was manifest every moment. His disagreement with their opinions, he declared, did not offset his esteem for them as persons. His opponents and even some of those who agreed with him, characterized his sway over the convention in the language of Gen. Pierre Bosquet concerning the charge of the light brigade at Balaklava, "It is magnificent, but it is not war."

The final result might have provoked from the reactionaries the historic exclamation of Gen. Chamberlaine when the imperial guard broke in disorderly panic at Waterloo. Mr. Bryan in spite of the anathemas of the reactionaries may be characterized as one who "can smile at Satan's rage and face a frowning world."

Thomas B. Mills of Superior, Wis., has been elected exalted ruler of the Elks.

Fighting the Belmont-Ryan Control

The New York Times, in its issue of June 30, printed the following Baltimore dispatch, referring to Mr. Bryan's announcement that the country would not submit to such control:

Bryan's intention to make this announcement had been noised about for hours before the convention met, and certain delegates had determined to stop him from getting a hearing. They failed, solely because Bryan is not the sort of man who can be stopped. When he found out what the game was, he left his place in the Nebraska delegation, went up on the platform and stood there, and it was so evident that nothing could prevent him from being heard that Murphy sent orders to Congressman William Sulzer, who was temporarily presiding, to give in and let Bryan speak.

He did speak, and he never spoke better in his life, though there were none of the old cross of gold oratorical tricks in what he said. It was a business-like warning that he would not take part in the nomination of any candidate whose nomination was obtained through the vote of the state of New York.

That change in his manner of speaking which has been noticeable ever since he came under the strongly exemplified as in his attacks by name on Ryan, Belmont, Parker, and Murphy. The opposition made the mistake of trying to interrupt him with questions about whether he would bolt or not, and Bryan dominated them and hurled them aside with ease. He did not at any time answer the questions categorically, but he did answer them so definitely that his position was not in doubt, and yet he still preserved his standing as a member of the convention.

Bryan could not say "Yes, I will bolt," for if he had the question of his right to participate further in the proceedings would have been raised immediately. At the same time he wanted his position made clear. Therefore, when the delegates who were against him arose in their places, shouting the question at him, Bryan replied that he would answer no hypothetical questions, and that he did not expect a Ryan-Belmont candidate to be named. Some of his hearers described this as an attempt to dodge the issue, but it was nothing of the kind. It was the clearest and most definite and decisive intimation that he would not support a Ryan-Belmont nominee, and it was made in that form solely for the reason that to make it in any other form would be to deprive himself of his right to sit in the convention and vote.

Bryan-Roosevelt Deal

It was expected then that the convention would vote the resolution down, and that this would give Bryan his excuse for bolting. But Murphy, advised by ex-Judge Alton B. Parker and Justice Coahalan, had the wisdom to order the Ryan-Belmont-Hearst delegates to vote for and not against the resolution. This done, and the resolution carried by a vote of nine-tenths of the convention, Bryan's attempt to create a situation calling for a bolt had failed. To bring about such a thing again it was necessary to find a new scheme, and he did. He found one which presented a situation never paralleled in any convention of either party, state or national.

He had not taken any trouble to prevent his intentions from becoming public, and Murphy was aware of them, and very much disturbed. He realized that this convention had resolved itself into a fight between

Bryan and Murphy, and he felt himself outclassed. He had coped fairly well with the situation presented when Bryan moved his Ryan-Belmont resolution, but he could not figure out a way to meet the one which he knew Bryan would present today. Roger Sullivan, Tom Taggart, Thomas F. Ryan, August Belmont and all his other advisers were unable to suggest any better scheme than to put up to Bryan the question of whether he would bolt or not, with the idea of getting him to answer affirmatively, and then moving to put him out of the convention. But Bryan foiled them.

Bryan's announcement was made when he switched his vote from Clark to Wilson, as he had a perfect right to do under the decision reached by the convention on the unit rule question. He had voted for Clark under his instructions for thirteen ballots. He had done this in spite of the fact that Clark and Hearst, Clark's manager, had made a deal with Murphy and Belmont whereby the Clark votes were swung against Bryan on every proposal brought before the convention. He had played fair and had even leaned over backward. Nobody could blame him for switching now to the man who had stood by him on all those votes whereon Clark had deserted him.

He made his sensational announcement on the pretext of explaining his change of vote. Nothing more absurd had ever been seen than the attempt of Murphy's men to deny Bryan a hearing, for even their friends wanted to know what Bryan was going to say.

The fuss began on the fourteenth ballot, when Nebraska asked to be passed. Everybody knew what was going to happen, and when the roll was reached and the clerk called that state again there was a wild uproar. Congressman Sulzer was temporarily in the chair. Chairman James, expecting trouble when the announcement was made, had asked Sulzer to assist him in presiding, and had intended that they should do it jointly, but he had not expected the trouble to come so soon, and so he was out of the hall. Messengers were sent for him, and when he got there he and Sulzer presided together, but his absence gave Sulzer the opportunity at the beginning of presiding over the start of the most astonishing scene ever witnessed in a convention.

James was perfectly right in getting an assistant. It is the first convention that ever had two chairmen presiding at the same time, but in view of what was likely to start the moment Bryan made his threat of a bolt James's moderation in having only one fellow-chairman was remarkable. James and Sulzer together could hardly control the situation, and it was nothing to their discredit. If they could have impressed Jack Johnson and Jim Jeffries into service as co-chairmen, they would have been justified in doing it.

"I want to explain my vote," Bryan said, as he arose in his place in the Nebraska delegation, which is just before the platform. Then the uproar broke. It started with a tempestuous roar of "no," and passed into yells of derision and angry shrieks of protest. Not a cheer broke the monotony of this organized snarl. The Bryan and Wilson men let the other crowd have the floor.

After a while Sulzer could be heard, and in accordance with the orders Murphy had sent him through Charlie White, he refused permission to Bryan to speak. The scream of rage that the Bryan men let out as soon as Sulzer made this decision

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