

Mr. Bryan to Indiana Editors

Secretary Bryan was a guest at the banquet of the Indiana Democratic Editorial association, at the Denison hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana, on Thursday evening, February 4, 1915. He was introduced by Mrs. Mindwell Crampton-Wilson, of Delphi, Indiana, who spoke as follows:

"In looking over the history of the Indiana Democratic Editorial association, I find that its real birthday was on January 5, 1881. The first meeting of editors was called, so the records tell us, for the purpose of bringing into closer relation these moulders of public opinion and for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the party. The Indiana Democratic Editorial association, from its birth to this time, has stood steadfastly with the people, by the people, and for the people, maintaining that exact justice is the heritage of all and special privileges are vouchsafed to none. The democracy of Indiana has, in the past, met many defeats, but invariably it has come up smiling. Perseverance, you know, is one of the main characteristics of the average Indianian. This was demonstrated early in President Wilson's administration, when a wiseacre of our state, refusing to be disinherited, wrote to him as follows: 'My dear Mr. President: I understand you are going to take a month off to destroy the great monument of letters asking you for jobs. If everything else is gone, I would like the job of destroying those letters.'

"Year after year at these banquets, we have sat enrapt, listening to the words and addresses of senators, national committeemen and legislators, but it remained for the association in 1915 to succeed in bringing to Indiana the great star of the international firmament, who socially lives in the cause of the oppressed and downtrodden. As a diplomat, he is a Talleyrand; as an orator, he is a Gladstone, with the firm determination of a Bismarck; as a statesman, he is a Jefferson; as an editor, a Greeley; as an evangelist, a Paul, and yet withal one who has the sweet simplicity and loving kindness of a Lincoln. My friends, it gives me great pleasure tonight to introduce to you a soldier, statesman, editor and diplomat, and your own advocate of 'Peace on earth, good will to man,' and one who in purity of purpose and honesty of conviction is ever a democrat, the Hon. William Jennings Bryan."

MR. BRYAN'S ADDRESS

"Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Fellow Journalists, or Editors, or Newspaper Men and Women,—whatever title is most pleasing to you, for I am in a mood to address you by that which you like best:

"It is certainly a great pleasure to be here. I can not say that I came from necessity, for it seems to me that if there is any one state in which it is not necessary that one should come from the outside to speak to you on democracy, it is the state of Indiana; you are so well supplied with those who can interpret to you democracy as it is written today.

"Down in Washington, we have a very high opinion of Indiana democracy, for you know we have an Indiana democrat who presides with great ability,—and to the satisfaction of that body,—over the United States senate. A man who as a candidate for vice-president, added great strength to the ticket; I am sure that we can look back over the past and say that we have seldom had a candidate for vice-president who was able to contribute more upon the stump than our vice-president did to the success of the campaign, and I am sure that we have not had one in recent years who measured up more fully to the requirements of that great office. We are proud of Marshall. And then, you know, the leader of the majority in the senate,—that is when the majority sticks together,—the leader of the majority in the senate is an Indiana man. I need not tell you that as far as I can give expression to democratic sentiment, he is a very satisfactory leader. We are proud of Kern, also. He is representing not merely the democracy of Indiana, but the democracy of the whole nation in the support he is giving to the president.

"And then last fall you re-elected his colleague in the senate, and I have occasion to know of Shively, too, because he is second upon the committee with which I have most to deal, the committee on foreign relations. I have always found him a very earnest supporter of the important

policies that have been submitted to that committee for its consideration.

So, with Marshall, and Kern, and Shively there, we have a high opinion of the democracy of Indiana, and I would be ashamed to come here under the pretense that you needed me. But I am glad to come, because I am selfish enough to want to enjoy myself. And I enjoy being here. I have already commenced to enjoy myself, and from the number of speeches they are allowing me to make I know I am going to have a good time.

"I arrived here just in time to see your governor helping to put the lobbyist where he belongs. I read his defense of that bill and I am satisfied that the bill is right. I believed in it even before I read the defense, but I can probably give a better reason than I could have given had I not read it, for it states the reason very strongly. With those democrats whom you have loaned to the national government and the democrats you keep with you here to tell you what democracy is, I am afraid my speech will be surplusage; my only hope is that my remarks may be what lawyers describe as 'surplusage that does not vitiate.'

"I am very glad that the women are here with the men. I share my wife's views on this subject. She never has understood why men should want to attend banquets from which the women are excluded, and I can not see, either. I am very sorry she could not come with me. I can see very readily why women are not excluded here. I think I can say of these women here what I can say of women in public life in Washington. We had some foreigners visiting in Washington a year ago and a luncheon was given in their honor. As they were all men, the wives of all the leading public men in Washington were invited to the luncheon, and there were about enough wives there to furnish table companions for the foreigners. Of course the foreigners were surprised at the beauty and intelligence of the ladies, and as I am connected with the department which deals with foreigners, I revealed a state secret and told them why it is that the wives of our public men are such remarkable women. I explained that it is because when we pick out public men, we pick out the women and then take the husbands who happen to be attached to them.

"It is a very safe plan. It is a very safe plan, why? Because woman's intelligence is at the maximum when she selects a husband. And, therefore, the modest, the beautiful and the intelligent women naturally select the men who are best fitted for public life, and then the men have the advantage of all the training that these wives can give them before the public takes them up.

"From what I have seen here tonight I might judge that the editors of this state, instead of going into the business upon their own volition, have been selected because of their wives. And certainly you have an illustration of what women can do in the song that we heard from a woman (referring to Mrs. Hazel Simmons Bowles, who sang a solo) who can even vote without being spoiled.

"And the speech with which I was presented to you,—I wish I had heard that speech when I first began running for president. If I could have sent my eloquent friend and sponsor around to tell the people about me and then stayed at home so that they would not have found me out, I might have been elected. But, my friends, next to being great I know of nothing more delightful than to have friends so generous as to think you great; I have found generous friends everywhere, and nowhere have I found friends more generous than in the state of Indiana. And, I tell you truly that I would rather have gone down to defeat with the friends who supported me than to have been elected to the highest office in the gift of the people in the world by those who were against us in these campaigns, and it is my highest ambition to retain the friendship that I have won from those with whom I have co-labored for now some twenty years.

"What shall I speak of tonight? There is one thing that I must speak of: it is the responsibility that rests upon the editor, and that responsibility today,—the responsibility that rests upon the editors of our weeklies,—is greater than it ever was before, for today we have little but the

weekly press to support the democratic party. We have comparatively few great dailies on our side, and it is not likely that we shall have any more. The conditions are such that they do not favor large democratic papers at present. What are those conditions? Let me name them. In the first place, the great daily is a big business enterprise; it costs a great deal of money to run a city daily, and the men with a great deal of money are not, as a rule, the men who take the deepest interest in the welfare of the common people. The men who own the great dailies are not associated with the people among whom democratic principles are most admired, and even if a good democrat with lots of money goes into the newspaper field and purchases a daily paper, there are certain influences that operate upon him.

"In nearly all of our large cities there are local issues affecting municipal franchises; a large amount of money is centralized in the hands of a few people. They are constantly desiring something from the city government, and it is so valuable to them to have the newspapers on their side that in every great contest between the plain people of the city and a favor-seeking corporation, the big newspapers are generally secured by the favor-seeking corporation. It is difficult, therefore, for these papers to be democratic in the true sense of the word, and as long as these natural monopolies are controlled by franchise-holding corporations you may expect to see these tremendous pecuniary influences exerted against the interests of the people, and the big papers will generally be with the corporations. We have to rely, therefore, largely upon our weekly papers, for a weekly paper does not cost so much but that the man who owns it can edit it. As a rule, the man who has money enough to own a great city paper has not sense enough to edit it. Of course, I do not use this word in an offensive sense. They have sense enough, financial sense; they have business sense, but they have not the editorial talent. As a rule, these large papers are owned by men who never write, and the men who write for them can not own them. Thus you have a condition that is not ideal. I insist that no man can do his best writing when he has to ask somebody else what he can say.

The weekly paper can be owned and edited by the same man. When you read an editorial in one of the big daily papers you do not know who wrote it; but when you read an editorial in a country weekly, there is a personality back of the editorial page, and the fact that such a paper has a personality puts the responsibility upon its owner and editor; the value of his paper will be measured by the standing of the man.

"The first thing, therefore, that I ask you to remember is the responsibility of the editor of the weekly paper. If the editor of the weekly paper is a man of character and conscience, if he is a man whose word is accepted by the people of his community as the word of a disinterested and patriotic man, he can exert a powerful influence not only in his community but in moulding the thought of his state.

"Now, my friends, I have but a short time to speak to you and I must make that short time pay. We won in the campaign two years ago, but not because we had a majority, but because of division in the republican party. It was fortunate for the country, for if there ever was a time when we needed in the white house a democrat like Woodrow Wilson, we need him now.

"He has more than made good. He has not only been true to the promises that we made; he has not only stood steadfast by the positions that were taken, but he has helped every democrat in the United States by answering for them the taunts and jeers that democrats used to have to hear. There were lots of good people in all the northern states who seemed to have an idea that a democrat belonged to the lower order of animals. That a democrat, somehow, was inferior in intelligence, in morals, in character, and in standing, to the republican.

"The republicans had held the offices; they had drawn the salaries and they had used them to make an impressive showing. When they had campaigns they could advertise speakers with big titles, governors, ex-governors, secretaries, ex-secretaries, ambassadors, former ambassadors, etc. They could use these distinguished titles to impress the people, but when we introduced a public speaker, we had to introduce him as Mr. so-and-so, who was once a candidate for something. The young people were naturally impressed with the dignity and prominence, and therefore, the intelligence and the standing of great republicans. But it will be a long while before