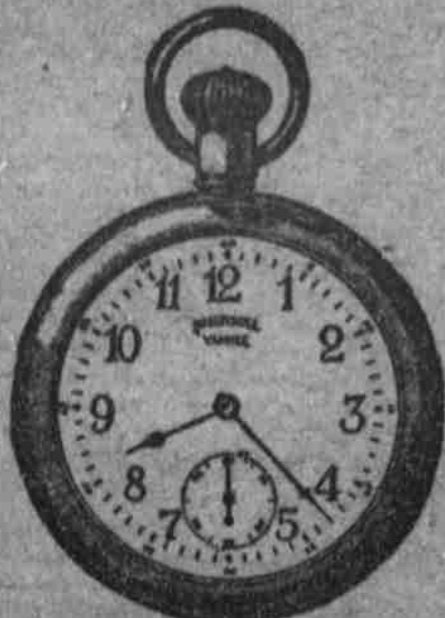


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A SAD STORY AND A LESSON

(By Helen Sidney, Boise, Idaho.)

Once upon a time there was an infidel professor of physics at a certain university in a certain state. The constitution of that state was so unorthodox that it contained a provision against all religious tests for teachers. And this is how the infidel professor got his job.

It is impossible for an infidel to conceal his views when lecturing on a scientific subject. The infidel knew a great deal about geology, and he could not help leaking out facts that contradicted the Bible story of the creation and the flood. He knew a great deal about natural history, and he could not help telling that the rabbit and the hare did not chew the cud, in spite of the fact that the blessed Bible says that they do. He knew a great deal about chemistry, and he could not help teaching that one element could not be changed into another element—that it was impossible to turn water into wine, because that would contradict a fact in nature.

One day this infidel professor was lecturing on the indestructibility of matter and the persistence of force; and he made this remark:

"It is one of the demonstrated facts of nature that matter cannot be created or destroyed—that its quantity is constant—that it cannot be increased or diminished. My belief in the uniformity of nature requires me to believe that this has always been true and always will be true."

He actually said this frightful thing. While what he said would meet the approval of most scientists, yet it was not the proper thing to say. This single remark destroyed an immortal soul, as will be shown by this story.

There was a young student in the class that day who had been brought up in an orthodox Christian home, and who had never entertained a doubt as to the truth of the Christian religion. This young student had also read Mr. Bryan's lecture on "The Prince of Peace" and Mr. Bryan's address before the constitutional convention of Nebraska, and was thoroughly imbued with Mr. Bryan's ideas on religion. Up to this time his soul was safe.

But this young student heard this frightful remark of the infidel professor, and went from the class room very sorrowful. He went to his room. He took down the well-worn Bible from the shelf. He turned to Mark's Gospel and opened it at the sixth chapter. He then read the story of feeding of five thousand hungry men with five loaves and two fishes, after which feast there remained twelve basketfuls of the fragments. He pondered over the text, and compared it with the remarks of his professor. His mind was in sore distress. He saw that there was a contradiction between the remarks of the professor and the story of the gospel.

All that night he tossed on his pillow. When the morning was come, he carried the Bible to the house of the professor. He showed him the sacred text. He then read from his class note book the remarks the professor had made the day before, which are quoted above. The professor said nothing, but he smiled. That smile destroyed a human soul. It proved to the poor student that the professor did not believe the gospel story. It sowed the seeds of doubt. The poor student dearly loved and admired the professor. He was much influenced by that smile.

That smile led the poor student to ask questions and to read scientific books. He learned that most of the eminent men of science had the same sort of smile for the gospel stories.

This investigation destroyed the Christian faith of the poor student. A short time afterwards, he took the Spanish Influenza and died. He is now in hell. He probably never will get out. He was smitten into hell by an infidel professor who could not conceal his views.

The moral of this sad story is this:

Let every state write into its constitution that no person who has the least doubt as to the truth of the Bible be permitted to teach in the public schools. Let every professor be required to take an oath that if he ever learns or discovers any fact that contradicts the Bible, he will disbelieve the fact and believe the Bible.

M'KINLEY'S FRONT PORCH CAMPAIGN

The ancient parable of the mountain that declined to come to Mahomet, who thereupon sent off to the mountain, was contradicted by events of 1896 when William McKinley quietly sat on his front porch rocker and let the presidency come to his steps.

In 1920 Harding is campaigning along lines suggested by the precedent. Ohio is a natural center for such a campaign. Neighborliness there is regarded as the greatest virtue and it is a dull day when a crowd is not easily available to warrant the remarks intended for the press correspondents.

The first front-porch campaign began quite spontaneously. While McKinley was being nominated at St. Louis a group of fifty neighbors assembled at the McKinley home on North Market street in Canton. A telegraphic instrument had been installed in the house. When the bulletin announced that McKinley had been nominated he hastened to kiss his wife and mother. Neighbors crowded about to extend congratulations. McKinley mounted a chair and delivered, impromptu, the first speech of the campaign.

Astute managers quickly realized the possibility of conducting a stay-at-home campaign, and delegation after delegation went to Canton to hear the nominee on the issues of the day, which were chiefly the tariff and the money question. "Good money never made times hard," was the central thought of his discourse.

In the democratic convention at Chicago in July William J. Bryan delivered the historic speech that brought him the nomination and made free silver the supreme issue of the campaign.

"We shall answer their demand for the gold standard," he cried, "by saying to them: 'You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns. You shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold.'"

Bryan, "the boy orator," in campaign parlance, conducted a whirlwind campaign, traveling about the country in a special train. The opposition press alleged that he "spread himself thin over a dozen states," that he was engaged in a "frantic journey of self-advertisement," and referred sarcastically to his "hundreds of thousands" of speeches.

McKinley won an electoral decision, 271 to 176, but Bryan made a reputation as a campaigner which will survive as a great tradition of American politics.—Harry W. Frantz, in New York Globe and Commercial.

EXECUTIVE ABILITY

Executive ability has been variously defined, but the following from an executive with a sense of humor seems to cover the whole subject. He said: "Executive ability is the ability to hire some one to do the work for which you will get the credit, and, if there is a slip-up, having some one at whose door to lay the blame."—New York Evening Post.

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