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short. But when we think of orators, of Burke, Pitt, Sheridan, of Webster, Clay, Calhoun, we think naturally of parliamentary eloquence, of the great debates of legislative assemblies. From this company and this arena we shall have to eliminate Mr. Bryan. We cannot finally say it is because his eloquence was not adapted to that forum, that parliamentary eloquence must be addressed to the understanding and not to the heart. Probably that is not wholly true. The spectators who fainted under the spell of Sheridan's oratory in the Hastings impeachment proceedings were not moved by eloquence addressed to their understanding. But in America at least there is another form of assemblage that we must take into consideration in estimating the effectiveness of oratory. It differs in make-up from almost every assemblage which orators have wrought upon in other countries in the great periods of the past. Senates, courts, the mob have been moved by varied kinds of eloquence, from the stately periods of a Chatham to the wild, rude bursts of a Camille Desmoulins, but probably there has been nothing quite comparable to the form of eloquence an orator must have who hopes to sway an American political convention.

It is that assemblage before which we believe Mr. Bryan's eloquence is most effective, but we do not believe Mr. Bryan himself would say that in the moments when he has stirred such assemblages his eloquence has come from the heart or gone to the heart. We mean in the sense of a purely emotional appeal. The heart must be engaged, of course, to the extent that the speaker must have sincerity and conviction, which Mr. Bryan always has. But when he mounted the platform at the Baltimore convention of 1912, no person who saw his face or heard the defiance he hurled would say he had set himself to play upon the softer sensibilities of his hearers. This was not a winning but a conquering figure, if the distinction conveys a right meaning. He did not plead, he struck. This was not a Clay seeking by gentle arts to win a compromise, but a roused Mirabeau, with what Carlyle has called the brood of a Mirabeau, charging angered and impassioned into the skinking front of his adversaries. What was it Mirabeau said to the king's trembling messenger come to warn him of the royal order closing the session? "Yes, Monsieur, we have heard the order, and it is not for you who have no right or voice here to remind us of it. Go, Monsieur, and say to those who sent you that we are here by the suffrage of the French people, whose representatives we are, and that nought but the force of arms shall send us hence!" That was the Bryan who stood in that cave of the winds at Baltimore and raised a voice that compelled a silence in which his every syllable fell like the clear stroke of a vibrating bell over moonlit waters. An angry sea surged beneath, but its highest crest did not reach nor drown that dominant note. The convention seemed on the point of nominating Champ Clark. The Nebraska delegation was instructed for Clark. Mr. Bryan, after the Missourian had received more than a majority of all the votes cast on many successive ballots, rose to change his vote and that of a number of his fellow delegates, to Woodrow Wilson. What he said to and of the Ryans, Belmonts, and Murphys who sat in the convention, and whom he charged with be-

ing in a deal to deliver the Democratic party, with their chosen candidate, to privileged interests, constitutes one of the great climaxes in American political convention history. Like that other figure in the French states-general, here stood one with pointing finger and in a voice that rose like the swell of an organ bade these conspirators go and report to their masters that a Democratic convention never would nominate a man who must owe his election to their support.

We believe Mr. Bryan never has revealed greater powers, either to oratory or of personality—though indeed they are one—than on that day. He defeated for the nomination for President the only man who ever has been defeated in a Democratic convention after receiving a majority of the votes. But we must add, if only to get back where we started, that it was not a revelation of eloquence coming from the heart and going to the heart. It was the compulsion of a tense passion re-enforced

by a powerful personality operating on passions as tense and overpowering them.—Kansas City Star.

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