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WILLIAM J. BRYAN, CHARLES W. BRYAN,
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THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.

The former kaiser is proving conclusively that he has none of the instincts of a real Democrat. He is making an awful lot of noise because Holland has levied a heavy income tax upon him.

If her set didn't fit any better than most of them, it might reasonably be that the Chicago woman from whom a burglar stole her false teeth while she was asleep looked upon the whole thing as a kindly deed.

An encouraging note of optimism, we are told, is sounded by eastern manufacturers. They sure must have been reading that list of Christmas presents that Congressman Fordney and the Republican party have included in their new tariff bill.

More than a million and a half dollars was expended by men and women who witnessed the world's championship fight between Dempsey and Carpentier. We see now where the hopeful prophets of good times coming get their inspiration.

The news items say that a fire has been burning in the Hocking valley coal fields for twenty-five years and that no means of putting it out have been successfully tried. The coal trust showed a lack of its usual diligence in not advertising this as one reason why it must have more money for the coal that is left.

The department of commerce reports that the exports of farm products in the last twelve months have been four times the prewar average. Somebody ought to take sufficient pains to get this information to Old Man Supply and Demand who is generally supposed to run the price-making machinery. With wheat less than half what it was a year ago he appears to have got his levers mixed.

The turnover tax is the latest device that Republicans have suggested as a means of raising the necessary four billions of annual revenue. It is a scheme by which a tax is collected every time a business man makes a turnover. There should be some means devised by which it can be distinguished from the effects of federal reserve bank deflation which caused so many men to make a turnover over of their property to the sheriff.

The grain dealers of the west whose profits and business are threatened by the great co-operative organization of farmers under the name of the United States Grain Growers, Inc., are seeking to bring to their aid in the fight to crush the farmers' movement all of the chambers of commerce and other business organizations that are susceptible to the back-scratching argument. The people should see to it that their representatives in office free these co-operative movements from every legal hobble. If this is done they will not need to fear the money of the grain gamblers.

The Human Side of Life

(Royal Dixon, in Houston, Texas, Chronicle.)

Last year at Estes Park, Colorado, I had the pleasure of appearing a number of times on the lecture platform with William Jennings Bryan. His great power and personality are undeniable. And although he has been running for the presidency since I was a very small boy, I marvel at his youth and personality.

Today in going through some books I find a remarkable lecture which he gave before numerous chautauqua and college gatherings on "The Value of an Ideal." It has since been published under this title by Funk & Wagnalls Company of New York. And no one can spend an hour in a more profitable way than by reading it.

"The ideal must be far above us," says Mr. Bryan, "to keep us looking upward to it all the time, and it must be far enough in advance to keep us struggling toward it to the end of life. It is a very poor ideal that one ever reaches, and it is a great misfortune for one to overtake his ideal, for, when he does, his progress ceases. I was once made an honorary member of a class and asked to suggest a motto. I suggested "Ever-Green" and some of the class did not like it. They did not like to admit that they had ever been green, not to speak of always being green. But it is a good class motto because the period of greenness is the period of growth. When we cease to be green and are entirely ripe we are ready for decay. I like to think of life as a continual progress toward higher and higher things—as continual unfolding. There is no better description of a really noble life than that given in holy writ where Solomon speaks of the path of the just as 'like the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.'

One often hears a man boasting of being self made. This type of a man is to be pitied. I always feel like saying what I heard a cheap politician say the other year in replying to such a man that is, "surely one could tell that God never made you!" We all owe much to our environment, and few are there among us who have ever paid our parents for what they have done for us. "We have received so much from the generations past," says Mr. Bryan, "and from those about us that, instead of boasting of what we have done we ought to learn humility and be content if at the end of life we can look back over the years and be assured that we have given to the world a service equal in value to that which we have received. There is abroad in the land a speculative spirit that is doing much harm. Instead of trying to earn a living, young men are bent on making a fortune. Not content with the slow accumulations of honest toil, they are seeking some short cut to riches, and not always scrupulous about the means employed. The "get-rich-quick schemes" that spring up and swindle the public until they are discovered and driven out, prey upon the speculative spirit and find all their victims among those who are trying to get something for nothing.

"What we need today is an ideal life that will make people as anxious to render full service as they are to draw full pay; an ideal that will make them measure life by what they bestow upon their fellows and not by what they receive. Not only must the individual have an ideal, but we must have ideals as groups of individuals and in every department of life. We have our domestic ideals. In business it is necessary to have an ideal. It is as impossible to build a business without an ideal as it is to build a house without a plan. Some think that competition is so sharp now that it is impossible to be strictly honest in business; some think that it is necessary to recommend a thing, not as it is, but as the customer wants it to be. There never was a time when it was more necessary than it is today that business should be built upon a foundation of absolute integrity."

Every profession has its ideals—those of law, medicine, the ministry and the arts. These vary greatly, and who can say that one profession has ideals better than another. I have known of thieving lawyers and also of thieving ministers, and I have always known of many wonderful men in each of these great professions. The combined ideals of our great mass of people determines the quality of our nation. The recent great war did not make us any worse possibly, but it opened our eyes to the low ideals that many people in our midst have, and to the

fact that we must change our ideals or our civilization is doomed.

Mr. Bryan says: "There is this difference between ideals and other things of value, namely, that an ideal can not be patented or copyrighted. We often see things that we can not hope to possess, but there is no ideal, however high, that can not be ours if we desire it. The highest ideal of human life that this world has ever known was that presented to mankind by the Man of Galilee, but it was an ideal within the comprehension of the fishermen of his day, and the Bible says of him that the common people heard him gladly." And so it should be with all of our ideals. They should be understood by all men and women, and that man who fights his battles with great ideals there is no disgrace nor dishonor in his defeat. Mr. Bryan said that while many had rejoiced over his defeats, that if his defeats prove good for this country—he also will rejoice over them. This only is one able to do who has a great ideal.

"IF YOU WERE HERE"

(From Hudson, N. J., Dispatch, June 7.)

When the casket that retains the body of Mrs. James F. Minturn, wife of Supreme Court Justice Minturn, was closed last Thursday, June 2, at the Minturn home in Hoboken, there was placed in it the manuscript of a poem written by the judge in 1917, the subject of which was the partner to whom he bade farewell the day of the funeral. It was composed while Justice Minturn was recovering from an illness at Belvidere. The poem—which it is in fullest sense—shows what fervorous sympathy existed between his wife and himself, and the strength of the bonds which united them even though distance separated them physically.

Only occasionally does the many-sidedness of public men come to general attention, and while the mass of the public look on the justices of the Supreme Court through the cold atmosphere of the court room, rare incidents bring to light the fact they too are human, like the others of us; have their sentiments of love and sympathy, are moved by the occurrences of nature and of the spirit. Without doubt, the spirit that united Mr. and Mrs. Minturn when the judge composed the poem has developed into a union of spirituality which still binds them.

From a copy of the poem, taken several years ago in recognition of the beauty of sentiment which pervades it, and the artistry of its form. The Hudson Dispatch, without the knowledge of the Justice, is able to present it, and does so—despite the delicacy of the occasion—in the belief that its spirit will instruct others toward the attainment of ideality in married life.

"IF YOU WERE HERE"

(To My Wife.)

"If you were here!" how happy I would be
To hear the merry laugh,
To greet the smile,
To grasp the loving hand, and see
The beaming face, and note the light
Of love shine forth;
And all the while
To see the rosy morn dispel the night—
If you were here!

If you were here, another moon would shine
And other stars would tell me you are mine;
Another world would whirl about in space;
Another heaven would beam from out thy
face;
The birds would sing with gladsome thrill,
The brooks, the woods, the rippling rill,
Would have a charm more rare, more dear—
If you were here! If you were here!

PRAISE FOR BRYAN

The Sentinel recently replied to an unjust aspersion upon the name and fame of William Jennings Bryan, and improved the occasion to recount some of his many achievements in behalf of good government and better conditions of life. The Lincoln Journal copies The Sentinel article in full and adds the following kindly words which we imagine were written by Bixby:

"Truly and nobly spoken, Frank. Mr. Bryan has been an asset to Lincoln and Nebraska, and the political and moral atmosphere is cleaner because of his life and influence hereabouts than it otherwise would have been. That Mr. Bryan has made a few wild political conjectures is only proof that he has been brave enough to prophesy when other politicians looked wise and waited. He has been outspoken, oftener in the right than in the wrong, and has the confidence and good will of his neighbors in his part of the world and their enduring well wishes."—Fairmont, Minn., Sentinel.