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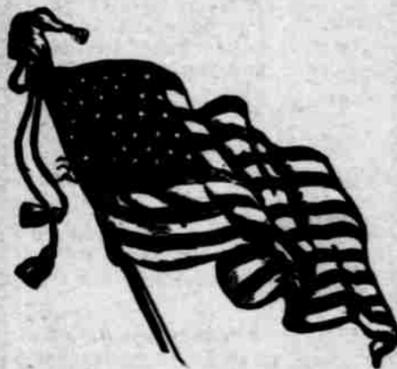
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OBSERVATIONS

Lincoln continues to be advertised. Mr. and Mrs. Bryan are becoming as well known as Carter's Little Liver Pills, and the town that has emitted two such conspicuous personages must, of necessity, become celebrated. Mr. and Mrs. Bryan have gone hand in hand all the way from Lincoln to Chicago and New York and up the Hudson, and the devotion of this young couple has occasioned wide comment. Mrs. Bryan has been in training in her present experience for several years. Sorosis has not exerted its intellectual and reforming influence in vain. Woman's clubs have not afforded a vision of woman's sphere for nothing. Mrs. Bryan is of an eminently practical turn of mind. Ideas accumulated through the years of preparation, are not to be thrown away the moment the opportunity to test those ideas presents itself. The nomination of Mr. Bryan made it possible for Mrs. Bryan to emerge from the chrysalis state of new womanhood into the full blown, blooming brilliance of twentieth century feminine development, and our townswomen, realizing that there is a tide in the affairs of women which, taken at its flood, leads on to

fame, did not let the chance escape her. With enterprise that does credit to Lincoln push, she rose to the occasion, and we salute her.

We do not know whether Mrs. Bryan, ever said as did Ruth. "Intreat me not to leave me, or to return from following after thee; for whither thou goest I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God." But she has the real spirit of Ruth, and wives who let their husbands go roaming around the country alone, receiving nominations for the presidency, and notifications and such things, have an example in Mrs. Bryan that should incite them to emulation. Mrs. Bryan, in reducing her ideas to practice, has exhibited a bravery that compels admiration. It is a pleasure to testify to her remarkable achievements. Having once made up her mind she has pressed steadily forward, and though she ran up against United States senators, a chairman of the national popocratic committee, whole committees, established precedent and grim determination, she never stopped. Obstructions were brushed aside, and she blazed her way to triumph, while the people of the country looked on in amazement. The city of Washington cocked its head at Mrs. Bryan, but it soon knocked under. Gotham sought to awe her by its imperial arrogance, but she laughed a short, silvery laugh at the metropolis' presumption. She put both cities under her feet and placed the crown of her royal favor on Chicago.

The Honorable Arthur Pue Gorman no doubt thought he was something of a factor in matters political until he met Mrs. Bryan on the field of battle. He has comforted himself with the idea that he defeated James G. Blaine for president. He has exulted in his bombardment of the presidential duck shooter. He has sung "Mary land, my Maryland," happily and proudly these many years, and this summer he started out to warble "My country 'tis of Me," when Mrs. Bryan loomed on the horizon. She approached. The engagement was short, sharp and decisive. The Honorable Arthur Pue Gorman took to the woods. Then Senator Arkansaw Jones girded himself for combat and took his position in front of the fair lady from Lincoln. Senator Arkansaw Jones didn't last as long as the Honorable Arthur Pue Gorman. And this was not all. Many battles were fought and won by our redoubtable townswoman in the space of a few days, and she has more long haired scapls than she could hang on a dozen belts. We say, hurrah for Mrs. Bryan!

Unquestionably Mr. Bryan's remarkable success as ringmaster of the Omaha society circus, December 11 and 12, 1895, had great weight in inducing him to make the spectacular appearance in Madison Square Garden, New York. As

we read the newspaper account of the society circus and Mr. Bryan's great triumph we can understand the depth and breadth of Mr. Bryan's disappointment over the failure of the New York show. It is interesting at this time to note what Mr. Bryan's own paper, the World-Herald, said of Mr. Bryan's show, the society circus. That paper, in the issue of December 12, '95, said:

"The honors that have long belonged to the Barnum aggregation, the glitter and glamour of Ringling Bros.' organization, have been hidden in gloom for all time to come by the dazzling brightness and the stupendousness of the society circus. There never was a time since the one-ring show, with the trick donkey accompaniment of Dan Rice, when there has been assembled together under one ring or roof such a glittering, world-bewildering entertainment as that provided by the society people of Omaha * * *

It was a few minutes after 8 o'clock when the three ringmasters, W. J. Bryan, H. B. Irey and W. B. Taylor, each clad in a black dress coat, white duck trousers and white vest, with high top boots, walked into the ring and took their respective rings, Mr. Irey the third, Mr. Bryan the second and Mr. Taylor the first. Their entrance was the signal for a round of applause that shook the big building, and there was a waving of handkerchiefs that created a small cyclone through the edifice. Mr. Bryan announced that if the actors made fools of themselves it was not from lack of sense, but dollars; it would be the greatest show that anyone had ever seen, and after the second performance it would be the greatest show that had ever been. Mr. Bryan spoke of how they had traveled in their own trains and remarked that they had never seen such terminal facilities as was found in Omaha, for the union depot was so large that the largest animals could be unloaded without difficulty. Mr. Bryan said there were Brownies from Brownville, and Judge Dundy's famous bear, one that was caught by a western man twenty years ago, and which the judge took with him every season and tied to a tree and shot at, and hence it was not as ferocious as some beasts. In fact, show time and feeding time had been so gauged that none of the animals were dangerous. At the conclusion of the remarks by Mr. Bryan the grand entry took place. The Second regiment band headed the parade that swept in from the westside in true circus fashion, followed by cages containing brass monkeys, brass leopards, hyenas, pigs, sheep, and other wild animals."

The next day the World Herald contained an account of the second performance from which we quote the following: "In opening the exercises of the evening Ringmaster Bryan said that when the society circus was proposed as a means of raising funds for the associ-

ated charities, some feared that the participant in the circus would suffer as much in dignity as charity gained in dollars. There is a dignity, a false dignity, which consists of outward show, and that kind of dignity, like a fragile vessel, can only be preserved by the exercise of constant care; but there is a dignity, a real dignity which is manifested by the goodness of heart. This kind of dignity is never endangered by a noble heart or a generous deed. Where could the young men of Omaha exhibit more true maniness than they do in an entertainment of this kind by donating their time and means for the benefit of those on whom the fickle goddess, Fortune, has for the moment turned a frowning face? Where could the flower of Omaha's fair womanhood bloom in greater beauty than in the garden of sweet charity, warmed by the sunshine of a generous sympathy and moistened by the gentle dews of mercy?"

Ringmaster Bryan read a number of telegrams the second evening. One was as follows: "United States Senate, Washington, D. C., December 12.—P. T. Barnum Lee, Sole Owner Omaha Society Circus: Altho' absent in the body we are with you in the spirit. There is no truth in the report that we are jealous of your success. Your circus does not interfere with ours in the least. WILLIAM V. ALLEN. JOHN M. THURSTON."

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan, as they wander aimlessly about in New York state, present a spectacle that is unique in many respects. In this country we have had all kinds of presidential candidates, but never before have we had a candidate who detached himself from all committees and control and turned himself loose in the community, to be bobbed up and jogged about by popular clamor. Mr. Bryan has done many things that are undignified, but his drifting from pillar to post in the Empire state caps the climax. The presidential candidate appears to have become a mere schedule of the arrival and departure of trains. It was an evil day for our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan, when they decided to go east to be notified of their nomination.

Mr. Bryan, in his public statement denying that he has ever been in the employ of the silver mine owners, said: "The first platform upon which I ran for congress, in 1890, when I was not known politically outside of my own state, contained a free coinage plank." And Mr. Bryan said he ran on a free coinage plank in 1892. This is a little mixed.

In 1890 the financial plank which he says he wrote himself reads as follows: "We demand free coinage of silver on equal terms with gold." Had the Chicago convention, which nominated Mr. Bryan for president, adopted this plank