

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1926.

MR. BRYAN'S GIFT

When William J. Bryan passed on two weeks ago, one of the most conspicuous figures of the past 30 years left us. The majority of the American people did not accept his ideas, but all admitted his honesty of purpose.

Mr. Bryan will perhaps be longest remembered for his gift of passionate oratory, which had the power of swaying millions. Probably no man ever addressed so many people or had such power over his listeners, if one will, perhaps, except Theodore Roosevelt. Mr. Bryan seemed to know how to touch the common run of people, and he could move them to action and attach them to the causes which were dear to him, where an orator with more cultivated gifts might have failed.

William Jennings Bryan spent the greater part of his days in political life; however, unlike the majority of persons who enter the field of politics, Bryan always put principle above votes. He was a true statesman—a poor modern politician. The great Commoner has won for himself a fitting place in the minds and hearts of both Republicans and Democrats; the actions that were the product of his mentality easily justify the room he occupied while on earth. Certainly he advanced the cause of Truth and Justice while he lived—he held aloft the Principle of Love and Life!

MICHIGAN'S NEXT GOVERNOR

It is quite the natural thing for any political aspirant to boldly bellow forth to the voting public that he stands for "such and such a cause, for such and such a reform," with the hope of winning sympathetic electors to his side. Many platforms have been proposed by various candidates for the Governorship of Michigan, ranging from good roads to lower taxation; some of these candidates have been successful.

We believe that the most important problem before the people of Michigan today is the conservation, preservation, and propagation of the things that Nature is doing out of doors; we believe that a real man, imbued with the spirit of carrying out this kind of a program, would stand a splendid chance at the polls next year when a new Governor is selected by the people.

Is there such a man in Michigan? Then let his voice cry out of the wilderness—let his shouts awaken the people of Michigan to the fact that the Wolverine State's great heritage out of doors is slowly but surely vanishing.

THE NEW RESIDENTS OF BIRMINGHAM

A few weeks ago Birmingham, through a special election, annexed 312 acres of adjacent lands, bringing in a goodly number of new residents. Birmingham welcomes these residents, and bids them make themselves at home.

Would it be out of order to remind them that one of the splendid duties which now befalls them is to take an active part when local civic problems are up for settlement? In other words, to cast their ballots at local elections. This would, indeed, set an excellent example for many of the older residents of the village.

OUR COMMUNITY HOUSE

Like all properly conducted households, the Birmingham Community House is now undergoing a process of renovating and cleaning. During this month it will be closed to the public, to reopen again for the next year's activities. Dust and grime may be removed from its walls, new paint may be applied, but it will always contain many memories of happy hours spent within it by local people. May it come to mean more and more to the mental and spiritual development, as well as clean relaxation of Birmingham and vicinity.

100 YEARS OF RAILROADS

One of the most remarkable anniversaries of history is being celebrated this year, in the completion of the first century of railroad operation. A tablet has just been set up at Stockton, England, having the following inscription: "Here in 1825, the Stockton and Darlington railway company booked the first railway passenger, thus marking an epoch in the history of mankind."

In America a few tramways were built with wooden rails, in the early part of the century, and were operated with horses. The first use of a locomotive occurred in 1829 on the railway from Carbondale to Honesdale, Pennsylvania.

American energy soon made wide use of this new idea. In 1830 there were 233 miles of railroad in operation in this country, in 1840 there were 2318, and by the beginning of the Civil War there was quite an extensive system for those days, covering over 30,000 miles.

The changes that have come during the past century have been amazing, but possibly those created by the construction of railroads have been more important than those due to any one later invention, though some say that the telegraph, making possible quick transmission of intelligence, was of equal importance.

The United States went forward by leaps and bounds as soon as the railroads and telegraph began to operate. The states that had been scattered, and more or less unfriendly sections, began to feel that they were a nation, they acquired power, and prosperity grew rapidly. Newspapers developed, intelligence spread, and the progress of all the arts became rapid. The world owes a great debt to the original thinkers whose bright minds brought about this revolutionary transformation.

REALIZATION

By Edla Park Peck
As streams the sun in golden gleams,
A splendor signal from the skies,
So shown for them the magic beams
Where glittering fame resplendent lies
And spreads enchanted paths of dreams
Alluring onward to the prize

He crushed the roses in his haste
And blindly passed life's treasures by.
He grasped the gem—it was but paste;
He backward turned with longing sigh
To path which could not be retraced,
To jewels wealth nor fame could buy.

NEED FOR PHILANTHROPY

There is a wonderful feeling of self-respect running through the American temperament. The people of some nations would not dislike to accept care at public almshouses. But it goes against the American grain, thus to admit failure.

But, in spite of all this strong desire for self-maintenance, cases are constantly happening where unavoidable misfortunes occur, and where, unless help is given, a family may be broken up and its self-respect and ambition shattered.

Here is a typical instance from the report of a well known charitable society. "A family of man, wife, and five children. The father had not worked for weeks, owing to illness. The support of the family had fallen on the oldest boy, and he was ill. They were very careful managers, even going in town late Saturday night to the Saturday night market, because that was the time that everything was very cheap. They would buy a week's supplies. Money aid was given for several weeks until the father and son could return to work."

In Birmingham and everywhere else, cases are often happening, where for similar causes or some that are equally unavoidable, families are hard pressed and lack the money for food, clothing and shelter. The community that has any heart will want to help such cases.

Often all that is needed is some practical advice showing inexperienced people what they ought to do. In many cases, encouragement and sympathy are the things needed.

A large part of existing poverty is due to indolence and vice. But sickness and unemployment cause many troubles, and when people do wrong, women and little children, who are in no way to blame, may suffer. As our communities grow more prosperous, there should be more care that no worthy case of misfortune is overlooked.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS of Long Ago

Just Bits of News Cleared From Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up the Historical Background of the Birmingham of Today

Forty-three Years Ago.
Asaatic Club Formed.
Levi Allen and Nate Fall have been huckstering and told of berries so large they couldn't roll them in to the wagon. Of course, these gentlemen are truthful.

Everybody busy attending to their own business. Farmers are nearly done harvesting. Our merchants are doing a good, lively business and selling goods very cheap. Our doctor still goes about doing good. Oats are fair, hay was good, corn backward, apples a poor show, potatoes promising. Everybody happy.

Mrs. R. A. Parker and daughters, May, Mina and Grace, and the baby were in town visiting relatives and friends last week.

Wanted—Excitement!
Murders Preferred!
Robberies Will Do.

Miss Mamie E. Utter has our thanks for a lot of Chautauqua papers very interesting and of the comfort a poor fellow can have in reading what the rest are doing.
Bert Raynold, Mr. F. Hagerman's general clerk, takes a two weeks vacation beginning next week. He will visit Corona and other places during his absence.

Back Broken Nobody Dead.
Edson James and his bicycle took a tumble last week and his back was broken in twain, but Dr. John Baldwin cemented its back bone together and now Edson can spin along the road as joyful as ever.

James O. Battie, our wide-awake undertaker and business-like fly man, attended six funerals in five days last week and accomplished all the arrangements in a splendid and affable manner.

The editor of the Utica Citizen has been shot through the liver, wounded to a jelly, impaled on a spear and hit three times with a sword in the most vital part of his pants and pitched out of a window, all because he printed a baseball challenge.

Prof. W. H. H. Codnor has left this country and now grazes among the hills of New York.

Harry Wattles, of Troy, met with a very serious accident on Saturday last while drawing some rail timber in the woods a log rolled or glanced and striking his foot and leg his ankle was broken, making a very painful injury.

Twenty-five Years Ago.
A Low Down Business.
There is no such medium for the spread of disease as the trailing skirt of our women. Think of the streets are filled with germs. A woman coming along, trailing her skirts and gathers them up. She goes home, takes the garment off and hangs it up in a closet. The warmth of the house causes the germs to flourish. The rest is easy. If legislation is necessary to make a woman wear a short skirt, then we should have the legislation.

Miss Carrie Mitchell made a flying trip to Royal Oak on Thursday of last week.

Mrs. E. M. King and son, Harold,

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STATE OF MICHIGAN - In the Circuit Court of the County of Oakland, in Chancery.
The GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM, Plaintiff, vs.
The Board of Supervisors of the County of Oakland, Defendant.

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