THE CHARACTER AND CAREER OF WM. JENNINGS BRYAN

[By T. P. O'Connor, M. P., in T. P.'s Weekly.]

One of the fascinating, and at the cratic authority, the Republicans at same time insoluble, problems for the tack my authority, and they keep me psychologists who study the crowd is so busy defending the men from whom and often even with contempt, from my business." the very man who at the moment is embody their hopes through having piety and of learning. passed through the experiences that are familiar to most of them. The That has been—that to a certain ex- writes:

tokens of the nationality of the man. ed savior in their hour of travail. In dress, also, he is the unmistakable American—especially of the class that devotes itself to political life. The similar—in modest but not such lowly number of wives. After this friendly

1 am in the habit of doing, for I have



Soap and Ointment wife draws a picture of him as a child which is attractive. Here is what she says:

The constant use of Cuticura Soap, assisted when was sturdy, round-limbed and fond of play. There is a tradition that his apclogging of the pores, the purpose became the controlling one, and his education was directed tocommon cause of pimples, ward that end." blackheads, inflammation, and annoying conditions.

the very man who at the moment is the hope and the idol of millions of I would like to dwell, if I had time look well, I thought; a broad, thin- descendants, when we have grown to feated three times, he remains still a the hope and the ide of hinness of the land space, on this passage, though, in-lipped mouth and a square chin com-seventy millions, declare that we are great force. He has extraordinary fellow-citizens. The very qualities deed, it might well be left to speak for pleted the contour of his fact. He was less independent than our forefathers? courage and patience. His physique which to them seem either common- itself. Is there not to us, living in an neat, though not fastidious in dress, No, my friends, that will never be the is one of the most remarkable in the place, or even vulgar, seem to be the qualities that make for the popular mental and simple about such a passidious in dress. No, my friends, that will never be the and stood firmly and with dignity. I verdict of our people. Therefore, we world. He has spoken twenty, thirty, noted particularly his hair and his care not upon what lines the battle sage? It is a voice that comes not from smile, the former black in color, plen- is fought. If they say bimetallism is when defeat came, slept the unbroken of a bay. Today the is in the psychologist—who usually belongs to crowded cities with long history bethe superior class that considers itself hind them; not from pulpits where the
intellectual—turns to the easy theory preacher has been taught in all the
later veers his amile her black in color, plenis fought. If they say bimetalism is
good, that we cannot have it until
sleep of a baby. Today he is in the
other nations help us, we reply that,
intellectual—turns to the easy theory
preacher has been taught in all the
later veers his amile her black in color, plenits fought. If they say bimetalism is
good, that we cannot have it until
other nations help us, we reply that,
instead of having a gold standard berestless, eager, curious, studying that the popular idol appeals to the learning of all the ages and all the later years his smile has been the cause England has, we will restore everywhere, according to his lights the common people because he is common. schools. It is direct from the new subject of considerable comment, but bimetallism, and then let England have problems of human society, always The solution is too simple and too lands where pioneers are still alive who had to fight with primordial nature, now check its onward march. No one has it. If they dare to come out in apostle of international peace, of inyet there is a certain element of truth and formed a primitive society. It is has seen the real breadth of this smile in it, though the truth has to be very the language of the loneliness of the who did not see it in the early days. It is has seen the real breadth of this smile the open field and defend the who did not see it in the early days. differently expressed. I would put it new provinces conquered by small and Upon one occasion a heartless ob- fight them to the uttermost. Having all unjust privilege, freed from all that the popular idol appeals to the isolated communities, where the chief server was heard to remark. That pehind us the producing masses of this pecuniary cares by his success as a common people when his experiences teacher was experience in a hard man can whisper in his own ear, but nation and the world, supported by the journalist and a lecturer, he has much have been largely their own, when school, and the little village chapel this was a cruel exaggeration." he is able to speak their thoughts and and schoolhouse the only temples of

popular idol is at his highest and his tent still is—the life of many millions best when, in addition, these universal experiences have graven upon his heart a certain holy indignation and a certain divine pity; and if, in addition, life of innumerablee great cities, there nature has given him an eloquent are still millions of the American tongue, it is tipped with prophetic people who cultivate its gigantic when it seemed proper to have a litspaces, and do so under primordial conditions. And it is to that vast and this was something of an ordeal, as One of the popular idols of somewhat inarticulate multitude that my father was rather a reserved One of the popular idols of the truly American man makes his ap-four time who has puzzled many peal. It was because he was such a refuge in the Scriptures, and began: psychologists is William Jennings man, had lived in the small commun- 'Mr. Baird, I have been reading Pro-Bryan, thrice the unsuccessful ity, had helped to create it into larger verbs a good deal lately, and find that candidate for the presidency of the things, had worked his hands in the Solomon says: "Whose findeth a wife United States. When you look at the hardest drudgery, had pleaded his findeth a good thing, and obtaineth man and when you know the man, it is little cases in little country courts, favor of the Lord." Father, being not difficult to find the secret of his had passed through all the same worpower. In the first place, he is unmis- ries and difficulties of the small peo- replied: 'Yes, I believe Solomon did The clean-shaven, ple—it was because of these things, say that, but Paul suggests that, while full face, the keen and alert eyes, the apart from his supreme political gifts, he that marrieth doeth well, he that robust frame, the large mouth with thin that Abraham Littcoln made so power- marrieth not doeth better.' This was lips and the grim compression of reso- ful an appeal to the American masses, lute purpose—these are signs and and was their predestined and accept- his way through. 'Solomon,' he re-

American of political life still has surroundings as Abraham Lincoln— tilt the mater was satisfactorily ar- the front Opposition bench in the with us is fashionable among clergy- something of the same kind of elemen. And Mr. Bryan is always to be mental and characteristically Amerifound arrayed in the full-skirted coal- can traditions and upbringings that fit black coat of the American politician him to be the typical American, rep- years. He practiced law in Jackson- bers or of physical vigor, must now cepts the proposal which has been formulated to rename a street after our and the English clergyman. In habits, resenting the typical American spirit, ville, Ill., and the moment clients in the worst days of Libert again, Mr. Bryan is a typical AmerDescending from foreign strains—
and briefs began to come in he marican especially of the west. He read to the list of English names berican especially of the west. He read to the list of English names berican especially of the west. He read to the list of English names berican especially of the west. He read to the list of English names berican especially of the west. He read to the list of English names berican especially of the west. He read to the list of English names berican especially of the west. He read to the list of English names berican especially of the west. He read to the list of English names berican especially of the west. He read to the list of English names beican, especially of the west. He neither smokes nor drinks. That freshness of complexion which mains after all the hard stress of political and other conflicts is the best mains after all the hard stress of political and other conflicts is the best mains after all the hard stress of political and other conflicts is the best mains after all the hard stress of political and other conflicts is the best mains after all the hard stress of political and other conflicts is the best mains after all the hard stress of political and other conflicts is the best mains after all the hard stress of political and other conflicts is the best mains after all the hard stress of political and other conflicts is the best mains after all the hard stress of political and other conflicts is the best mains after all the hard stress of political and other conflicts is the best mains after all the hard stress of political and other conflicts is the best mains after all the hard stress of political and other conflicts is the best mains after all the hard stress of political and other conflicts is the best mains after all the hard stress of political and other conflicts is the best mains after all the hard stress of political and other conflicts is the best mains after any nakedness made to the list of English names between the mains and built a comfort to compare with this. In 1905 the stowed on streets in the French means after the mains after any nakedness of the mains and built a comfort to compare with this. In 1905 the stowed on streets in the French means after the mains after any nakedness made to the list of English names between the mains after any nakedness and built a comfort to compare with this. In 1905 the stowed on streets in the French means after any nakedness and built a comfort to compare with this. In 1905 the stowed on streets in the French means after any nakedness and built a comfort. The main and built a comfort to compare with this. In 1905 the stowed on streets in the French means after any nakedness and built a political and other conflicts is the best Mr. Bryan's mother. You find the two State of Nebraska, was attracted by and Sir Henry Fowler—all of them George Stephenson, Dr. Livingstone, testimony to the perfect healthiness families following the developments of the scenery and the prospects, emifamilies following the developments of the scenery and the prospects, emitheir country, and curiously enough, grated from Illinois to Nebraska, of them enjoying a European reputacontrol of street names the French are much respects he reminds me a good deal along the same track of country as the and that has been his state ever since, tion. I am for the moment consider of street names the French are much of the man who is sent forth among the same track of country as the and that has been his state ever since, then, I am for the moment considerfamily of Abraham Lincoln. They are Like so many Americans, he tried his ing only the established ex-ministers more cosmopolitan than we are.

Nonconformist homes simple in faith found first in the rural districts of hand at more than one profession be- of that day. I say nothing of the in
Statemen, artists and authors of quite Nonconformist homes, simple in faith, the south. They are in Virginia, in fore he finally settled down. He was comparable body sober and even severe in habits, pure Kentucky, and then they accompany a lawyer, then a congressman, and for George, Mr. Churchill, and the others commemorated in Paris. Even foreign in heart, sometimes a little narrow the narrow that the congressman is a little narrow to the congressman and for George, Mr. Churchill, and the others commemorated in Paris. Even foreign generals are not forgotten for there is in heart, sometimes a little narrow the exodus to the new west, which is some time a journalist. He was a —who joined the Government at some generals are not forgotten, for there is growing up in the now mighty State of journalist still when he went to the time or other after its formatics.

The pible Heart sometimes a little narrow the exodus to the new west, which is some time a journalist. He was a —who joined the Government at some generals are not forgotten, for there is a Rue Jules Caesar and a Rue Christian Dewet. The system, however, has a draw bear of the converted in the condition of the convergence of t Then they begin to enter the profes- he obtained the nomination for the with a literalness that is somewhat sions—one is a doctor, another be-presidency with almost melodramatic Mr. Balfour, Mr. Long, Mr. Austen cult for a Frenchman to prencunce the strange in an age of the higher critistrange in an age of the higher criticomes a lawyer. They belong to the suddenness and amid a wild burst of Chamberlain, Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Akerseism and of the very large decay of communions which have grown up in enthusiasm which a single speech—it village and county life everywhere in might even be said a single sentence in in all his speeches which is so com- English-speaking countries—Baptists, a speech—won for him. I regret that plete a picture of this side of his char- Methodists, and finally, in the case of Mrs. Bryan's modest reserve has for-

never found any other book which Bryan of today—the one who brought blage of men after a fashion almost servative leadership is confined to Mr. contains so much of truth or in which him along the path which led to his unparalleled in history. truth is so well expressed; and, then, there is another reason why I his father, Silas Lillard Bryan. He was just the kind of parent for a man the country, who was as yet not very sence, who else is there? destined for public life. In another well known outside Washington and respect-one which every biographer his state. It was largely due to the dulum, one must none the less say Mr. Bryan ought to note with special emphasis—Silas Bryan gave his of that revolt against organized mon- front bench is by no means creditable son a very fine bent. He did not share opoly and great aggregations of capital which is now in full swing, and one he has sacrificed the men who political life which is so common in which finds its apostles in both the ought to have been at his side. Think many countries, but perhaps most one great political party and the other. common in America. "He regarded the It was believed-I think erroneouslycience of government," writes his that the evils of the country were due daughter-in-law, "as highly honor- to gold as the basis of currency, and able, and set apart the guest chamber that salvation was to be found in silof his home for 'politicians and di- ver. Of that sentiment Mr. Bryan vines." If today William Jennings made himself the spokesman, and it Bryan holds the respect of so many was when he was called upon to speak millions of America, if his character on that subject that he made the has always been stainless, if not even speech which at once main him famthe most violent opponent has dared ous. I give a short extract from the conspicuous case was Lord Curzon, who had the chance of sitting in the tegrity, he owes it in some degree to that respect which his father had for the calling of a politician. In the political, as in other human occupations, the first essential is self-re-

The father was a splendid influence for his son in another respect; he had the strongest faith in education and in the duty of a father to see that his children got every advantage education could give. Fortunately in that respect modern America offers advantages greater than almost any other land. Before he was sent to school he already had begun to display a love of learning. It was evident that he was not one of the boys who could have to be forced into study. His

necessary by Cuticura Ointment, not only preserves,

play. There is a tradition that his appetite developed early. The pockets of his first trousers were always filled with bread, which he kept for an purifies and beautifies the emergency. One of the memories belonging to this period is that he was ambitious to be a minister, but this of infants, children and soon gave place to a desire to be a farmer, and that to a determination to become a lawyer, 'like father.' This

Then he went off to a school away irritation, redness and rough- from home; and as to the epoch, there ness, and other unsightly is a little story from the period which and comparing conditions tic of the family and the race:

"During the first year of his absence from home he discovered as his holidays drew near that his trousers were becoming too short, and wrote home for money to buy a new pai His father responded that as it was

so near vacation he need not make any purchase until he reached home, and added: 'My son, you may as well learn now that people measure you learn now that people measure you by the length of your head rather than by the length of your breeches."

though loving. She writes:

fondness which Mr. Bryan shows for gold." cumstance shows. The time came Americanism—the convention, and gotten. tle conversation with my father, and something of a Bible scholar himself, disheartening, but the young man saw joined, 'would be the better authority upon this point, because Paul was Born amid surroundings somewhat never married, while Solomon had

acter and training than the following: Mr. Bryan, they have drifted into bidden her to give a full description await Sir Edward Carson, who in any ent and had the joy and pride of see- House of Commons, we are left with The immediate ancestor of the Mr. ing her husband sweep a great assemt the really amazing fact that the Con-

fact that there was then the beginning plainly that the condition of the Tery

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nation is able to legislate for its own It was as a schoolboy not yet entered upon the world that his future wife saw him. She draws a picture of wife saw him. She draws a picture of issue we expect to carry every state him at that period which is frank, in the Union. I shall not slander the inhabitants of the fair State of Massachusetts nor the inhabitants of the "I saw him first in the parlors of the State of New York, by saying that, young ladies' school which I attended when they are confronted with the the discovery of the particular quali- I quote that I do not have time to do in Jacksonville. He entered the room proposition, they will declare that this ties that the crowd demands or finds the work I want to do, but when I with several other students, was tall- nation is not able to attend to its own in its idols. It is almost insoluble, for quote Scripture and they attack my er than the rest, and attracted my at- business. It is the issue of 1776 over very often a certain majority of the authority, I can let them fight it out tention at once. His face was pale again. Our ancestors, when but three population turn away with distrust, with the Bible, while I go on about and thin; a pair of keen, dark eyes millions in number, had the courage looked out from beneath heavy brows; to declare their political independence from that hour Mr. Bryan has been a his nose was prominent—too large to of every other nation; shall we, their great figure in American politics. Decommercial interests, the laboring in- good work of his country and for the terests, and the toilers everywhere, we world to do. He may or may not be The lad did even his courtship like will answer their demand for a gold president of the United States, but an orator and a politician. Mrs. Bryan standard by saying to them: You that is a detail. What counts in the shall not press down upon the brow of life of a public man is not the place he labor this crown of thorns; you shall attains in the hierarchy of officialdom,

of long standing, as the following cir- peded"—to use the very expressive often over a grave that has been for-

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Many people have remarked upon the not crucify mankind upon a cross of but the lessons he leaves behind, the ideas he sows. Others reap, but quoting Scripture. This habit is one These are the words which "stam- the seed comes to the blossoming-

BRITISH UNIONIST

the Government Side.

discuss the health of statesmer, to even then he was not quite himself. whatever party they may belong, but The point about the present situation at the present juncture one can nard- is that Mr. Balfour has not at his ly ignore a coincidence which side the colleagues who could adefor a cure in Austria. The matter is Daily News. important, because the weakness of House of Commons is becoming every day a more and more startling fact. I pass rapidly over the intervening And any depletion, whether of num-

Douglas, Sir Edward Carson, and Mr. Bonar Law-these are all, unless we include privy councillors like Colenel Balfour, Mr. Long, Mr. Chamberlain,

quote Scripture. When I quote demoan excellent teacher as well as father met at Chicago to give the nomination for his son. A lawyer in fair practice for the presidency, few could have wender that the influence of Mr. and Mr. Bonar Law, the first two of a keen, ardent and upright politician ventured to predict that the choice Austen Chamberlain should have dea graceful and forcible speaker, he was would fall on this young lawyer from veloped apace. In Mr. Balfour's ab-Making every allowance for the pen-

> what would have been the position of the Tory front bench today if Churchill, Colonel Seely, and Sir Edward Clarke had not been hounded out of the party. Another serious cause of weakness has been the steady drift of Tory statesmen to the House of Lords -Lord Midleton, Lord Salisbury, the present Duke of Devonshire-they have all vanished, not great men, but who had the chance of sitting in the House of Commons, but was far too superior to approach a constituency and chose the Upper House instead. It leeks as if the next Tory Government would see nearly all the important appointments held by peers, with undersecretaries, most of them untried, answering for them in the House of Com-

A Contrast. I am far from overlooking the reserve of ability which is to be found on the back benches of every political The Tories have there F. E. Smith, Steel-Maitland, George Cave, James Hope, Lord Helmsley, and others like them. But even here there has been blood-letting. Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Stewart Bowles have been sacrificed to tariff reform, and Lord Hugh Cecil is probably barred. Besides, with every respect to this rising talent, does it really compare with the Liberal reserves in 1905? Consider the private members who then joined, the Government-having never held office before. They were: Mr. Lloyd George Mr. Haldane Mr. Churchill Mr. McKenna Mr. Sinclair Mr. Samuel Mr. Birrell Mr. Runciman Mr. Lough

Mr. Harcourt Mr. Whitelev Master of Elibank Captain Norton Mr. Lambert and there may be others. Later ap-pointments were Mr. Masterman, Mr. McKinnon Wood, Colonel Seely, Mr. Trevelyan, Mr. Acland, Mr. Montagu, Mr. Wedgwood Bean, Mr. Whitley, Mr.

Gulland, and Mr. Partington. Happily, Mr. Balfour is still young as statesmen's ages are reckoned. He was, undoubtedly, shocked beyond measure by the result of the election of 1906, but he steadily recovered his confidence, and the question of his health did not arise in a serious manner until about eighteen months ago. His enemy has always been a kind of All Druggists. A few weeks ago he returned to the House radiant with his victory in the parliamentary golf

Serious Weakness of the Opposi- handicap. No man could have looked better. But when the debate on wotion Front Bench-A Contest men's suffrage came his voice was wretched and his whole manner indi-With the Array of Talent on cated a difficulty in delivering what was in itself a singularly powerful and acutely worded speech. His later speech on the King's Declaration was It is always an unwelcome task to much more easily rendered, though threatens Mr. Long with an operation quately relieve him from the humdrum for appendicitis and sends Mr. Belfour of his position,-P. W. W., in London

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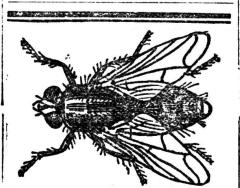
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