

DANIEL BRYAN'S OATH.

Daniel Bryan had been a lawyer of eminence; but had fallen through intoxication, to beggary and a dying condition. Bryan had married in his better days the sister of Moses Felton.

At length all hopes were given up. Week after week would the fallen man lie drunk on the floor, and not a day of real sobriety marked his course. I doubt if such another case was known. He was too low for conviviality, for those whom he would have associated with would not drink with him.

All alone in his office and chamber he still continued to drink and even his very life seemed the offspring of his jug.

One early spring Moses Felton had a call to go to Ohio. Before he set out he visited his sister. He offered to take her with him, but she would not go.

"But why stay here?" urged the brother. "You are fading away, and disease is upon you. Why should you live with such a brute?"

"Hush, Moses, speak not so," answered the wife, keeping back her tears. "I will not leave him now, but he will soon leave me. He cannot live much longer."

At that moment Daniel entered the apartment. He looked like a wanderer from the tomb. He had his hat on and his jug in his hand. "Ah, Moses, how are you?" He gasped, for he could not speak plainly.

The visitor looked at him a few moments in silence. Then, as his features assumed a cold, stern expression, he said in a strongly emphasised tone; "Daniel Bryan, I have been your best friend but one. My sister is an angel though matched with a demon. I have loved you Daniel as I never loved man before: you were generous, noble and kind; but I hate you now, for you are a perfect devil incarnate. Look at that woman. She is my sister—she now might live with me in comfort, only that she will not do it while you are alive, when you die, she will come to me. Thus do I pray that God will soon give her joys to my keeping. Now, Daniel, I do sincerely hope that the first intelligence that reaches me from my native place, after I shall have reached my new home may be—THAT—YOU—ARE DEAD!"

"Stop, Moses, I can reform yet." "You cannot. It is beyond your power. You have had inducements enough to have reformed half the sinners of creation, and you are lower than ever before. Go and die, sir, as soon as you can, for the moment that sees you thus will not find me among the mourners."

Bryan's eyes flashed, and he drew himself proudly up. "Go he said in the tone of the old sarcasm, "Go to Ohio, and I'll send you news. Go, sir, and watch the post. I will yet make you take back your words."

"Never, Daniel Bryan never!" "You shall, I swear."

With these words Daniel Bryan hurled the jug into the fire-place, and while yet a thousand fragments were flying over the floor he strode from the house.

Mary sank fainting on the floor. Moses bore her to the bed, and then, having called in a neighbor, he hurried away, for the stage was waiting. For a month Daniel hovered over the brink of the grave, but he did not die.

"One gill of brandy will save you, said the doctor, who saw that the abrupt removal of stimulants from the system, that for long years had almost subsisted on nothing else, was nearly sure to prove fatal. You can surely take

a gill and no more. Aye gasped the poor man, take a gill and break my oath. Moses Felton shall never hear that brandy and rum killed me. If the want of it can kill me, than let me die, but I won't die—I'll live till Moses Felton shall eat his words.

He did live! An iron will conquered the messenger death sent—Daniel Bryan lived. For one month he could not even walk without help. Mary helped him.

A year passed away, and Moses Felton returned to Vermont. He entered the court house at Burlington, and Daniel Bryan was on the floor pleading for a young man, who had been indicted for forgery. Felton started in surprise. Never before had such torrents of eloquence poured from his lips. The case was given to the jury, and the youth was acquitted. The successful counsel turned from the court room and met Moses Felton.

They shook hands but did not speak. When they reached a spot where none others could see them Bryan stopped. Moses he said do you remember the words you spoke to me a year ago?

"I do Daniel." "Will you now not take them back—unsay them now and forever?"

"Yes, with all my heart." "Then I am in part repaid."

"And what must be the remainder of payment?" asked Moses. "I must die an honest, unperjured man! The oath that has bound me thus far was made for life."

That evening Mary Bryan was among the happiest of the happy. *Christian—Witness.*

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A Plan to Restore the Mail Services of the South.

TO THE PEOPLE OF VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA, ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI, LOUISIANA, TENNESSEE, ARKANSAS, MISSOURI, FLORIDA, AND TEXAS.—Having recently returned from the South, I am well aware of the great inconveniences to which the Southern people are subjected on account of lack of mail facilities. This is, to a very great extent, owing to the oath with which contractors are required to comply, there being but few men at the South who can take it. Having conferred with the proper authorities, (and obtained their approval,) I find that this difficulty can be obviated and the mails established upon every route at the South, and at the highest rates admissible for the people of either the North or South. Being a National Union man, (late of North Carolina,) by which I mean one that is alike opposed to the heresies of the Extremists North and South, I can take this oath and thus form the connecting link between the Southern people and the United States Government. This I propose to do and to establish mails on every route at the South destitute of them, as follows:

Any person who is desirous of becoming a contractor will address me at once, stating the route or routes for which he wishes to become contractor, (stating the extreme points to be connected, which, of course, should be on some route heretofore established.) I will then contract for such route or routes in my own name, and let the parties have them at a discount of 2 1/2 per cent. on the annual amount, for carrying the mails on said route or routes. This arrangement will secure the route to the sub-contractor substantially the same as if it were his own contract, and frequently at a better price than could be obtained in the usual way where there is so much competition. My percentage of mileage, or mileage, as above, will not be required until the end of the first quarter.

The first applicant for a Route or Routes, Judging by the postmark on the letter of application, will have the preference, other things being equal. Persons when making application should send a guaranty signed by at least two guarantors. The guaranty should be certified to by a postmaster or a judge of a court of record. Applicants can, if they desire, obtain blank forms, printed by the Government, by addressing either the undersigned or the 2d Assistant Postmaster General, Geo. W. McClellan, who will take pleasure in giving all the information that may be desired. As I am recognized as principal in this matter, payment must necessarily come through me. I can however give the parties drafts on the sixth Auditor of the United States Treasury for all the quarters for which the contract may have been awarded, and these can be presented one at a time as they fall due, and the money drawn substantially the same as if the parties were bona fide contractors. In this case the expenses (two and a half per cent) should be paid by or before the expiration of the first quarter after the commencement of service; otherwise payment for this quarter will be drawn by the undersigned, expenses deducted, and the residue, with drafts for the remaining quarters, forwarded to the parties carrying the mails. If persons prefer, I will draw and forward their money at the end of every quarter, without extra charge. I would however prefer that they accept the drafts, in order that they may have the matter in their own hands.

It would be a source of much gratification to me if I be the means of extending mail facilities to the Southern people. Their attention is therefore respectfully called to this matter. As I am not required to cut down, through competition, it would doubtless be to their interest to make speedy application, before any modification is made in the test oath, in order that they may obtain these Routes at the highest rates admissible.

Persons confiding to my care may rely upon fair dealing. All accepted bids will be entered upon the books of the Post-Office Department, where they will be open for inspection. All letters relative to the foregoing should contain a stamp for answer, and be addressed to BRYAN TYSON, Box 1000, Washington, D. C. References, (by permission):—G. W. Samson, D. D., L. L. D., President Columbia College; Hon Chas Mason, President National Democratic Executive Committee.

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