

IN MEMORIAM

JAMES BRYCE

1838–1922

Not the least claim of the late Lord Bryce to remembrance (we Americans always think of him as Mr. Bryce) is the service which he rendered during the all too short period of his ambassadorship to the United States.

He was, indeed, an ambassador of good will, and he was an ambassador in the very modern sense of the word, in that he represented the people of the country sending him to the people of the country to which he was accredited. He was in the best sense of the word "a popular ambassador". He never seemed to be a foreigner. We felt that he was one of us, and he was, for, whatever politicians may say on both sides of the water, we are still one people, although we are two nations. We felt, and we were indeed justified, that Mr. Bryce understood us. How could it be otherwise, in the case of one who had repeatedly visited our country; who had studied our institutions even more carefully than de Tocqueville at an earlier period; who comprehended, as de Tocqueville could not, their origin; who appreciated that through experience mistakes would be corrected as they had been in the mother country, and that in practice they would work out to the happiness of a continent. He had faith in us, and we had confidence in him.

It was fortunate for us that Mr. Bryce came when he did, succeeding a minister who had failed to touch the American heart. It was fortunate for Mr. Bryce, and also for us, that Mr. Elihu Root was then Secretary of State, who understood the temper of the English mind, who appreciated the traditions of the home country, the oneness of the two peoples and of their institutions, notwithstanding apparent differences of form.

In a period of calm, these two men set about to remove questions which, if unsettled, might be the cause of trouble between the two great branches of the English-thinking peoples.

The North Atlantic fisheries had perplexed the two countries for more than a century and might in the future, as in the past, generate ill feeling and be provocative of trouble. Mr. Bryce and Mr. Root brought the controversies to an issue, had all the tangled questions submitted to arbitration at The Hague, and this source of irritation removed once and for all from our foreign relations.

Again, Mr. Root and Mr. Bryce provided for a general treaty of arbitration, submitting all justiciable questions to arbitration—a treaty which is still in force and which, it is to be hoped, will remain, with modifications from time to time to enlarge its scope and increase its usefulness.

One further service should not be overlooked. The Dominion of Canada is a neighbor, but the road to Washington runs through London. Mr.

Bryce saw the folly of this. When a Canadian question arose, he himself went to Ottawa, and learned in person the views of the Canadian government. He was thus in a position to discuss intelligently questions which needed immediate settlement, without the delay and friction incident to negotiations through London.

We Americans look upon Mr. Bryce as one of the great men of Great Britain—a country prolific in great and noble men. We appreciate him for the services which he rendered to our country, as well as to his own. We saw in him how an ambassador of good will could be loyal to his own country, and yet be a friend of both.

JAMES BROWN SCOTT.

HARRY SHEPARD KNAPP

June 27, 1856—April 6, 1923

In an address to this year's graduating class of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, the Honorable Edwin Denby, Secretary of the Navy, said, in effect, that in these modern days it is not enough for the naval officer to be technically qualified for the service; that he must, of course, be this and be something more, and that he should, in addition to a thorough knowledge of English, possess a ready mastery of French as the diplomatic language of the world and of Spanish as the language of the vast majority of American states.

Admiral Knapp possessed a clear, forcible, precise and attractive English, both in writing and in speaking. French he spoke fluently and well, and Spanish was as a second language to him during the later years of his professional life.

One might almost think that Secretary Denby had Admiral Knapp in mind when he insisted that the naval officer must master the principles and practice of the law of nations and that, as he had not had the opportunity to do so in the Academy, he must make it his serious business in life to perfect himself in international law.

Immediately upon the outbreak of the World War in August, 1914, President Wilson's administration created the Joint State and Navy Neutrality Board, consisting of two naval officers and a civilian. One of these officers was Admiral, then Captain, Knapp. The other was Admiral, then Captain, James H. Oliver. The third member of the Board was the writer of these lines. Admiral Knapp's knowledge of international law and of admiralty jurisprudence was broad and deep, and at instant command.

Secretary Denby further required of the naval officer that he should be ready at a moment's notice to undertake a diplomatic mission, as in these days a sailor could almost be called a floating diplomat, entrusted with delicate and serious negotiations without preparation or warning. Admiral