

**CONGRESSMAN
HARDIE: A
BORN DEMOCRAT**

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Congressman Hardie: A Born Democrat by Courtney Wellington

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HARDIE: A
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CONGRESSMAN HARDIE

A BORN DEMOCRAT

BY

COURTNEY WELLINGTON



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Dedication.

TO THE YOUTH OF AMERICA,
PROUD OF THEIR POLITICAL BIRTHRIGHT,
SINCERE IN THEIR CONVICTIONS ON PUBLIC QUESTIONS,
BOLD IN THE PROPAGANDA OF INDIVIDUALISM,
HAVING UNDYING FAITH IN THE RIGHT,
AS GOD GIVES THEM THE POWER TO SEE THE RIGHT,
THIS VOLUME IS
AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED
BY
THE AUTHOR.



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CONGRESSMAN HARDIE.

CHAPTER I.

A POLITICAL SPEECH.

"I AM going to talk to you to-day on a subject of practical interest to every one. On a subject that is regarded by many thoughtful minds as never being entirely nor satisfactorily settled until it is settled right. It is the question whether this government should open the mints to the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 15.98 to 1. In attempting an answer I shall not follow the old ruts, but strike out into a new pathway of my own."

Here the speaker, a young man of some thirty years of age, with dark-blue eyes, light, thin hair, fair complexion, and open, manly face, looked around upon his audience to note the effect of his words. A careful observer would have noted a gleam of dry humor creeping over his face, as he proceeded with his speech.

"I don't know everything about this question; I don't assume to know everything. I have heard quite a number of gentlemen speak on this subject with that air of dogmatism characteristic of ignorance. These men will tell you that gold never appreciates in value. I would ask, if that be a fact, where is the law of supply and demand? What has become of it? Surely, if gold never appreciates in value, there is no such thing as supply and demand. There is no such thing as bringing forth from

the mines into the marts of trade a supply of anything. There is no such thing as the desire on the part of the people at large to get hold of, and utilize this thing called Supply.

"My friends, gold is as apt to appreciate in value by reason of the demand exceeding the supply as the price of wheat advances when the consumptive and speculative demands of the people make it do so. There is as much reason for an advance or a decline in the price of gold as there is in the rise and fall of any other product.

"We hear men talk of standards as though a standard were a fixed and unchangeable article of value. It is absurd. There is no truth in such a proposition. The nearest approach that we can make to any actual standard of value, or that has ever been made in the history of the world, is to be found in that product which feeds and sustains life, wheat. Any student of political economy knows that wheat has approached more nearly to the standard of value than has any other known thing.

"A standard does not necessarily mean a fixed value, though it is often so misunderstood. A standard of value is only that product (of value) which measures all other values. Nothing more nor less."

The speaker paused a moment to turn a leaf of his note book, which lay on a rough bench in front of him.

"If the article of gold should be the measure of all other values by reason of its being the standard of value, any increase in the productive capacity of the nation (by which things are brought to light and used for consumption or otherwise), without any increase in the production of gold being made, would, of necessity, decrease the purchasing power of that productive capacity.

"Men must live. They must delve and dive. They must burrow in mines. They must fell the timber, plane it and