

**STORIES AND SPEECHES OF
WILLIAM O. BRADLEY;
WITH BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCH BY M. H. THATCHER**

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Stories and speeches of William O. Bradley; with biographical sketch by M. H. Thatcher by
William O. Bradley & M. H. Thatcher

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W. O. Bradley

Stories and
Speeches of

William O. Bradley

with
Biographical Sketch
By M. H. Thatcher

TRANSYLVANIA PRINTING COMPANY,
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PUBLISHERS' PREFACE

In publishing this volume of "Stories and Speeches" of Senator William O. Bradley, we desire to extend thanks to Hon. M. H. Thatcher, former Governor of the Canal Zone, and the intimate friend of the Senator, for the biographical sketch herewith included, as well as for his compilation of the speeches of Senator Bradley herewith published, and for suggesting their inclusion; also, for other very valuable work rendered in relation to this undertaking and in reading and revising the proofs. We also desire to extend thanks to Mr. Arthur B. Krock, of the Louisville Courier-Journal for valuable services rendered by him to Senator Bradley, shortly before the latter's death, in helping to put the stories in shape for publication. In these thanks the members of the Senator's family most earnestly join.

The members of the Senator's family have felt some diffidence in permitting the publication of these stories for the reason that, with characteristic Bradley candor, the real names of the actors are called, and the stories are told without reservations; and there has been expressed the fear that the feelings of some of the relatives and descendants of some of those who figure in these portrayals might be wounded. We believe, however, that this will not be the case. Some of the ancestors and kinsmen of the chief officers of the publishing company are so named herein, but we know that Senator Bradley loved these men—and, in fact, loved all the sturdy Kentuckians about whom these stories and reminiscences cluster—and what is herein portrayed, though true to life, is portrayed in the spirit of love and humor, and never otherwise. Hence, we do not believe any umbrage can be taken on this score. Moreover, we believe that the frankness with which the stories are told will greatly add to their value. For the most part they refer to Kentucky's yesterday, when the weaknesses and dissipations of men were more open than now, and when candor—always a Kentucky characteristic—went far to redeem those faults which grew up chiefly from the spirit of good fellowship. All this Senator Bradley knew and appreciated, and as he lived through that day as one of its strongest characters, these stories of his observation and experience became part and parcel of his life, and were ever retained in his wonderful memory. It was natural, therefore, that with his remarkable story-telling gifts, and with his recollection of all these humorous incidents, he should desire to record and preserve them. It had been his hope to see the collection in print during his life-time, but the

constant exactions of public duty delayed the completion of the work, and the hope was denied him. The publication is now being made in accordance with his wishes.

Confident that the collection of stories and speeches of so notable a man as William O. Bradley will be widely read and appreciated, and that it shall prove a unique, most valuable, and popular contribution to the literature of the day, and of the days to come, we submit same to the reading public.

THE PUBLISHERS.

Lexington, Kentucky, November, 1916.

William O. Bradley

O wondrous man of magic, golden tongue,
Who, looking ever sunward, didst arise
And pierce the glory of our civic skies,—
How shall the story of thy life be sung
To keep thine honored name forever young?
How shall we term that dauntless enterprise
Which, in Mischance, finds Fortune's skilled disguise,
And gains and holds the ladder's highest rung?

No song thou need'st: thy deeds have wrought thy fame
And launched it on its journey through the years;
Death only raised and glorified thy name,—
Thine youth eterne began amidst our tears.
By gifts divine the heights thou didst ascend,
And Time shall know and claim thee to the end.

The writer has been asked to prepare a sketch of the life and labors of William O. Bradley, to be published with this volume of his stories and speeches. While deeply appreciative of this honor, and while the work is one of love, the writer is, nevertheless, very diffident in undertaking it. Senator Bradley was made up of such strong and unusual elements that only the pen of a Plutarch could do him justice. It goes without saying, however, that the poor, unaided boy who could mount to the high estate of eminent lawyer, orator, successful political leader, Governor and United States Senator, in the face of the heaviest and most adverse political odds, was no ordinary character.

There is nothing more fascinating than the study of biography; nothing more interesting than to upward trace the career of great-souled men and women who have struggled from the valleys to the summits. The great personages of history are the stars which up-light the night of the past; and they serve the necessary purpose of guiding the present and future generations along the paths of worthy endeavor. Extinguish these lights, eliminate all history of these men and women, and the world would be immediately plunged into darkness and despair. Character has been variously defined, but there is certainly one element which enters into its composition which is its surest proof. It is the element of endurance; it is strength, force; and, having strength and force, it possesses the eternal quality. It is the

law of effort that those who, on this plane of struggle, strenuously strive for right or for wrong, shall live long after they have ceased to labor; and if their labors have been for the right they shall be loved and revered as long as the flower of gratitude blooms in the human heart. What man has done, man may do again. The noblest inspiration must come from the contemplation of the heroic deeds of our fellow beings; and it is of the highest importance that the lives of those who have driven the chariots of progress be faithfully portrayed to the multitude to the end that the multitude may be informed and inspired. Each nation has its history, its heroes, and its historical characters. A few there are, like Shakespeare and Goethe and the prophets of old, who are universal in their influence. They were not of a single country, but were of all the race; and because they spoke fundamentally to our human sympathy and need, by all are they understood. Then, there are others, like Washington and Lincoln, who though identified with great movements, national and local in their immediate scope, yet spoke and wrought mightily for the principles of liberty and justice, and pointed the way to those ultimate conditions of liberty and justice, which, in the course of ages, the race hopes to reach. These, too, with the unfolding of time, shall make their universal appeal. These, too, were, and are, the brothers of all mankind; and all mankind shall come to recognize them as such.

The skill of the biographer depends on at least three essentials, viz.: First, a sufficient statement of details of the subject's life and labors to properly set forth his character and achievements; second, the proper deduction from these facts and their just interpretation; and, third, the ability to present all in such a way as to fix and hold the attention of the reader.

The present sketch, however, is not ambitious. Moreover, in this volume there is not room for an extended narrative. Only the more essential facts of Senator Bradley's life, together with some general comment and deduction, can be given; and these follow.

William O'Connell Bradley was born in Garrard County, Kentucky, near Lancaster, on March 18, 1847, and died in Washington, D. C., on May 23, 1914. He was of Scotch-Irish descent. His father was Robert M. Bradley, and his mother was Ellen (Totten) Bradley. The mother was a woman of fine intelligence and capacity. Under the general law of maternal transmission this could not have been otherwise; for it seems to be pretty well conceded that weak fathers may sometimes have strong sons, but strong sons, rarely, if ever, are the children of weak mothers. But so far as strength of character and unusual intelligence were concerned, Senator Bradley was fortunate as