

THE GREECE OF TODAY

HOW UNLIKE THE GREECE OF YESTERDAY!

W. J. Bryan Writes of His Recent View of the Abiding Place of the Gods of Mythology.

Athens, the Acropolis, Mars' Hill, the Battlefield of Marathon, the Thermopylean Pass and Other Famous Places.

When I picture to myself Athens, I fancy her resplendent with her legions of sculptors and poets; with her assemblies, where each discourse was a hymn; with her singers; with that theater whence were visible the bright waves of the Mediterranean; with those processions in which Grecian virgins, crowned with flowers, danced to the music of the citherns; with those statues, which almost realized the perfect idea of plastic beauty; with those Olympic games, in which snowy steeds drew in glided cars the players armed with lances, as Jupiter with his lightning; with her schools, in which were taught at the same time metaphysics, gymnastics, music and geometry; with all her life, which was the divine worship of art and beauty.—Castelar.

By William Jennings Bryan.

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Nothing so impresses the visitor to Greece—not the waters of the Aegean sea, with their myriad hues, not the Acropolis, eloquent with ruins, not even the lovely site of Athens itself—as the part which little Greece has played in the instruction of the world. Less than 25,000 square miles in area, less than half of which is productive, and with a population of less than two and a half millions, this diminutive nation has a history without a parallel.

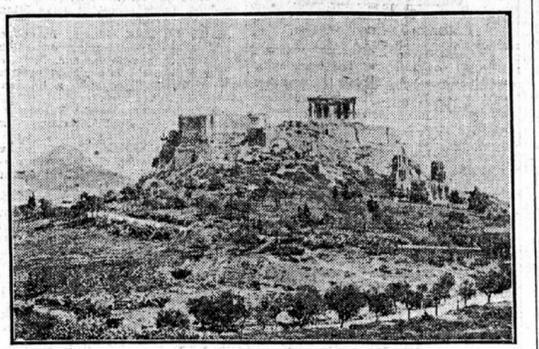
There is scarcely a department of thought in which Greece has not been the pioneer, and in many things she has set an example which subsequent generations have but imperfectly followed. If in Egypt one is awed by the evidences of antiquity; if in Palestine he is made reverent by the spiritual association connected with Judea, Galilee and Samaria; if in Greece he bows with profound respect to the mighty influence exerted by this single people upon civilization.

The signs along the streets recall the alphabet with which the student of the classics struggles when he takes up the dead languages—and by the Greek language can hardly be called dead, for while it is the spoken tongue of but a comparatively small number, it has found a glorious resurrection in nearly all the languages of Europe. In fact, it had so many merits that we are constantly complimenting it by returning to it for the nomenclature of philosophy, science and art.

Of those who still speak the language of Herodotus, Homer, Socrates and Demosthenes, a majority live outside of Greece. For the Greek colonies planted around the eastern end of the Mediterranean form a considerable

able as well as an influential portion of the population. Greek colonization, by the way, was of an enduring kind. Those who went out into distant fields did not go as individual beings (official or commercial) to gather honey and return with it to the parent hive; they went out rather in swarms to found cities, develop countries and establish new centers for the spread of Greek influence. They identified themselves with the land to which they went; they became an integral part of the population, and by virtue of their inherent superiority, they gradually substituted the language, the ideas, the customs of their native land for those which they found. So securely did they build that neither the Roman nor the Turk were able to obliterate their work. The people bowed before the storm, but continued Greek, and today in Alexandria, Asia Minor and Constantinople, Hellenic influence is still felt.

The ancient Greeks sought to perfect the human form, and it is not to be wondered at that marble models of strength, grace and beauty have been unearthed where the Olympian games inspired a rivalry in physical development. The games were established nearly 800 years before the beginning of the Christian era, and during the nation's independent existence they were held in such high esteem that the laurel wreath of victory was the greatest reward within the reach of the youth of the country. Each city had its stadium, some of them of immense size. The one at Athens seated 50,000 spectators, and the enthusiasm aroused by the contests was scarcely less than that which at Rome greeted the gladiators. By the generosity of a rich Greek the stadium at Athens has recently been restored at a cost of more than a million dollars. The racetrack is 670 feet long and a little more than 100 feet in width, and the seats are of



TODAY THE ACROPOLIS IS A PICTURE OF DESOLATION.

Pentelic marble. Notwithstanding its great capacity it cannot contain the crowds that assemble to witness the athletic games, renewed there in 1896 by the International Athletic association. Our country has the distinction of having led in the contest of 1896 and again in the contest held at Athens last April. Our representatives won eleven prizes each time, and I found that these victories had very favorably impressed the people of Athens.

The stadium is not the only splendid monument to the public spirit of the modern Greeks. The Academy of Science and the library are magnificent buildings, each costing more than the restoration of the stadium. They illustrate the best Grecian architecture, reproducing the Corinthian, the Doric and the Ionic. They are of Pentelic marble and would be worthy of a place in any city of the world. The library contains several hundred thousand volumes and has all the modern equipment. Athens has a population of but little more than 100,000, and it is doubtful whether there is another city of its size that can boast of as large an expenditure of private capital in public buildings. The mountain which has supplied Athens with marble for 2,500 years is only a few miles from the city and its quarries are still unexhausted. Modern Athens is very attractive; its streets are paved and clean; its business houses are large and well built; its government buildings are substantial, and its private residences give evidence of taste. We were there in the season of flowers, and we saw them blooming in profusion everywhere.

Numerous statues adorn the streets and parks, the most noted being the statue of Byron, erected in memory of his unselfish devotion to Greek independence. The soldiers and policemen have adopted the costume of the ancient Greeks, but otherwise the people dress like the people of northern Europe.

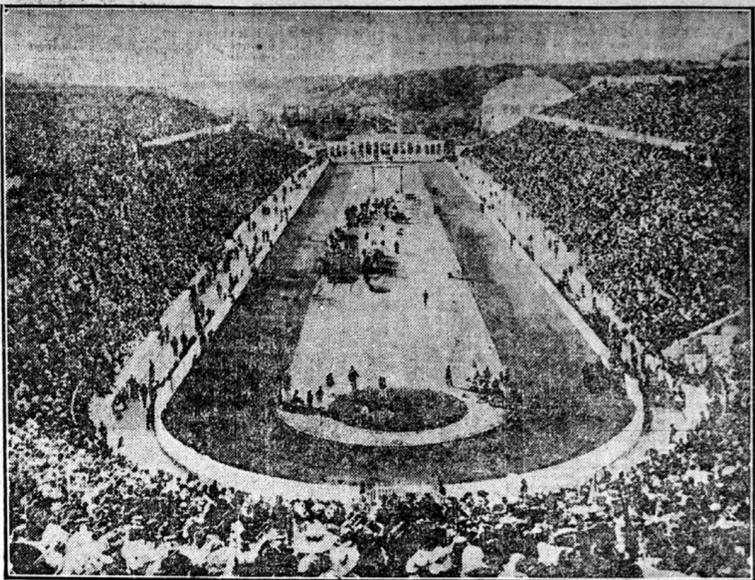
As one approaches Athens for the first time his eye is sure to search for the "temple-crowned" Acropolis—the hill which art and religion combined to make immortal. It rises from the plain much as Chapultepec rises from the plain of Mexico. It is about 500 feet high and at the top 200 yards

in length. It must have been surpassingly beautiful when the Parthenon was completed, that great treasury which has not only supplied the art galleries of the world with marvels in stone, but has given law to the architects from that day to this. Pericles, who deserves the credit for the construction of the Parthenon, can be pardoned for exulting in his work. Today, the Acropolis is a picture of desolation, but the few columns that remain bear witness to its departed glory. Lord Elgin carried away at one time 250 feet of the sculptured frieze, and scarcely any of its columns, capitals, cornice and pediment would have remained but for the size and weight of the masses of marble. The pillage that for nearly twenty centuries has been robbing Greece of her priceless works of art can be understood when it is stated that one Roman conqueror celebrated his victory by exhibiting in his triumphal procession 250 wagonloads of Greek pictures and statues, and these things were followed by 3,000 men, each bearing some trophy taken from the cities of Greece.

And yet, in spite of the grand larceny which has been perpetrated against this unsharpened land, the museum at Athens contains labor of the beautiful in marble and bronze to make any nation conspicuous in the realm of art. Within two years some notable additions have been made to the collection; a life-size bronze statue has been unearthed and a marble figure, half buried in the sands of the sea, has been rescued. The latter is perfect in the portions protected by the sand, but was disintegrated where it came into contact with the waves.

The readers of these articles are too well informed to require to the discoveries of Dr. Schliemann to make it necessary to refer to the work in detail. One room of the museum contains a collection of jewelry which he gathered from five tombs, and they are sufficient to show the extended use made of this metal in the past. The collection includes rings, finger rings, bracelets, necklaces, ornaments, vases, cups, coins, etc. A pair of cups which attract special attention bear in relief the figures of bulls—the animals being equated in value to the best breeds of today. On one cup they are being led to the sacrifice, and on the other they are bound at the sides of a man.

Besides original statues of renown



THE STADIUM AT ATHENS, RECENTLY RESTORED AT A COST OF MORE THAN \$1,000,000.

and the casts of those which have been removed, there are many specimens of ancient pottery by which one can trace the rise in artistic taste and skill. Some of the earliest statues in stone, and also a striking resemblance to those of Egypt.

Second only in interest to the Acropolis is Mars' hill, a rocky summit two-thirds of the height of the Acropolis. Here the ancient court of the Areopagus, composed of the most eminent of the Athenians, held its sessions. Here under the dome of the sky the most important cases were tried and life and death hung upon the decree of the court. Here, also, Paul's great speech to the "men of Athens" was delivered, his text being found in the altar erected to "the unknown god."

Only a little distance from Mars' hill is the stone platform from which the orators of Greece addressed the people. A level, shelf-like space was formed near the top of the hill where a few thousand could congregate, and here the citizens listened while the greatest of all the public speakers poured forth his eloquence. It was worth a trip to Athens to view this spot where Demosthenes delivered the oration on the crown and the Philipics which have been the pattern set before the student for 2,500 years. In the marshaling of facts, in the grouping of arguments, in the use of invective, and in the arranging of climaxes, he is still the teacher. Some one has drawn a distinction between Cicero and Demosthenes, saying that when the former spoke the people said, "How well Cicero speaks," while, when Demosthenes spoke, they said, "Let us go against Phillip!" Demosthenes' style was more convincing than ornate; his purpose was to arouse, not merely to please, and from the accounts that have come down to us his delivery was suited to his language. He, in fact, gave to action the highest place among the requisites of effective speech. He recalled this saying of Demosthenes when he listened to the excited tones of the boatman who thronged about our ship in the harbor of Piræus. The physician who came aboard to examine the passenger gave us even a better illustration of "action," altho his gestures were more forcible than graceful, possibly because he addressed himself to the captain of the ship instead of to the multitude.

On the shore of the Aegean sea, better effect than to finish Pericles with a theme for his great funeral oration it would still have been worthy of remembrance. The battlefield of Marathon, which gives Miltiades a place among the world's generals, is unchanged. It is about twenty-five miles from Athens, and the story, told in marble, of the Greek who carried the news of the victory to Athens and died from exhaustion amid the shouts of his countrymen has led to the incorporation of a twenty-five mile race in the athletic games when they are held at Athens. In 1896 the race was won by a Greek (much to the satisfaction of the audience), who made the run from Marathon to the city in two hours and forty-five minutes.

The pass at Thermopylae is also to be seen and the heroism of the 800 Spartans who, under the leadership of Leonidas, offered up their lives there for their country continues to be an inspiration. They failed to stay the onward march of Xerxes, but who can measure the value of their example? Corinth, now as of old, guards the entrance of the Peloponnese, but notwithstanding the canal which at this point connects the Aegean sea with the Gulf of Corinth, the city has only a small population.

Corinth brings to memory the part Greece played in the spread of Christianity. It was not enough that this country led the world in statecraft and oratory, in poetry and history, in philosophy and literature, in art and athletics; she was also one of the first missions fields of the apostles. It was to the Corinthians that Paul wrote the epistles in which love is given the first place among the virtues, and it was Greece that gave her name to one of the great branches of the Christian church.

A democrat may be pardoned for cherishing a high regard for the land that coined the word, democracy. The derivation of the word—from "demos," the people, and "kratos," who rules—makes it an appropriate one to describe a government based upon popular will. And as governments more and more recognize the citizen as the sovereign, and the people as the source of all political power, the world's debt to Greece will be more and more fully appreciated. She not only gave to language a word accurately expressing the idea of self-government, but she proved by experience the wisdom of trusting the people with the management of all public affairs.

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ACCOUNTANT BY DAY; BURGLAR BY NIGHT

Young Londoner Proves to Have Been a Sure-Enough "Raffles."

Special Cable to The Journal.

London, Aug. 11.—A young, spruce-looking, well-educated man who was yesterday sentenced at the Clerkenwell Sessions to two years' hard labor in the name of Henry Lewis is one of the most remarkable criminals who have come under the notice of the police in recent years.

Barely 25 years old, he has single-handed caused more burglary scares than many hardened thieves twice his age.

On a previous occasion—in October, 1904—this young fellow was ordered a year's imprisonment in the name of Monks. His real name is neither Monks nor Lewis, but that of a well-known and highly respected inhabitant of Kilburn, by whom he was given a good college education, and who subsequently secured for him an excellent situation in an accountant's office.

The young man's first conviction was in connection with a number of mysterious burglaries in Hampstead, Kilburn, and the Westbourne Park district.

For months detectives were baffled, the reason being that "Lewis" invariably worked alone, secured his first conviction only the most valuable and easily portable goods, and disposed of them immediately the pawnbrokers' establishments opened on the following morning, and before the police had been notified of the robberies.

Moreover, during the whole of the time the mysterious robberies were going on he was working assiduously during the daytime at a situation.

Despite his busy days and nights the young fellow managed to find opportunities to go on his "night" work. At the time of his first conviction he was courting no fewer than four young women in highly respectable positions.

In addition to his daring as a burglar, his ability as an accountant, and his success in love making, "Lewis" has gained considerable success as a cyclist. Some years back he was a frequent winner of valuable prizes on the Kenilworth track.

His conviction yesterday followed a series of burglaries in Hampstead, the police having forgotten his previous crimes, and they were able to catch him red-handed. At the time he was occupying a good situation, the second he had held since his release from jail. In both he had given the greatest satisfaction to his employers. He was also "walking out" with a young lady at "Lewis" received his sentence yesterday with the utmost nonchalance.



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