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From New York to California by Way of Indiana
The Wit and Wisdom of David Starr Jordan

by William F. R. Briscoe

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200 years ago, Indiana became a state. 125 years ago, in 1891, the Indianapolis Literary Club gave a farewell reception to the subject of this essay (the only one prior to that was for Benjamin Harrison as he headed to Washington DC to become the US President). 100 years ago, our subject retired and obtained the title “emeritus”.

Our subject described himself as a “naturalist and explorer; ... teacher; and ... minor prophet of Democracy.” I would like to supplement those; he was: one of the leading administrators in reforming college education; the world’s foremost ornithologist of his time; a leading pacifist and espouser of other causes, including civil service reform, temperance and women’s suffrage; a prolific writer; a wonderful sense of self-deprecating humor; an early user of new inventions; an initial critic of the injuries caused by football; and a world traveler including mountain climbing.

Our subject has been one of only three Indianapolis Literary Club members to have been depicted on the cover of “Time” magazine. The first, on the December 21, 1925 cover, was the author, Booth Tarkington; the most recent was Richard Helms, a director of the CIA, who appeared on the February 24, 1967 cover. Our subject is David Starr Jordan, who was on the June 8, 1931 cover.

Thus the subtitle of this essay is: “The Wit and Wisdom of David Starr Jordan”. I will cover David Starr Jordan’s entire life, but due to time constraints, the emphasis will be on his years in Indiana including his literary club contemporaries.

David Starr Jordan was born on January 19, 1851 in the family farmhouse near Gainesville, NY. He was too young to fight in the Civil War, but his older brother went to war, developed “Army Fever”, and came home to die. This may well have had a significant influence on his pacifism later in life. Jordan inherited many of

the qualities from both parents which served him greatly throughout his life. He particularly attributed his being a quick learner, ability to recall, enthusiasm, and patient optimism to his parents, and in particular from his father a disposition to proclaim any fixed position especially if unpopular, and from his mother an impulse to quietly ignore differences when nothing is to be gained from an outcry. During his youth, he developed his initial interests in the sciences beginning with astronomy, followed by geography, botany, and zoology.

It is interesting that he had a particular idiosyncrasy, pseudochromesthesia, which is a false color sense. He actually had a feeling for colors in letters; for instance he saw 's' as bright yellow, 'y' as blue, 'z' as scarlet, and 'o' as white. He even ran experiments later in life and wrote two papers on the subject.

He also was a voracious reader as a child; besides books, he favored "The Atlantic Monthly", particularly essays by Emerson, Holmes, Lowell, and especially Thoreau which helped to shape his intellectual skills and strengthen his sense of democracy. He developed many of his long-held views at this time, including: religious skepticism, pacifism, and temperance positions.

Jordan entered Cornell in 1869 with a scholarship and graduated three years later with both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree – the only person to do so simultaneously. While he finished first in his class, no one ever saw him studying, rather his fellow students said he was always playing baseball or going with the girls. In 1886, Cornell awarded Jordan and Andrew D. White, the first president of Cornell, honorary Doctor's degrees, the only such degrees awarded by Cornell during Jordan's lifetime. A year later, Jordan was named a trustee of the university.

At Cornell, he joined Delta Upsilon, The first and largest non-secret college social fraternity. [Disclosure – This essayist is also a member of Delta Upsilon.] He found this a significantly rewarding experience; a number of his fraternity brothers, attending Cornell during and shortly after Jordan's time there, went on to very successful careers, such as Theodore Bryant Comstock, geologist and first president of Arizona University and John Casper Branner, professor of geology at Indiana University and second president of Stanford University. Later in life, as an educator, Jordan developed a healthy skepticism of the fraternity system, seeing both its benefits and weaknesses.

In 1874, at the age of 23, after teaching for two years, Jordan arrived in Indiana for a seventeen year stay (minus numerous trips to study fish and climb mountains). He came to Indianapolis to teach high school. Harvey Washington Wiley, later the father of the Pure Food and Drug Act, had recommended Jordan for the position. Years later after a distinguished science career, when asked what his greatest discovery in science was, Wiley replied "David Starr Jordan". Wiley added, "He is not only the greatest living biologist, but with that greatness combines perfect simplicity and modesty."

His first impression of Indianapolis was, in his words "singularly monotonous, being perfectly level and laid out in regular squares around a circle". He didn't even care for the silver maple trees that lined the streets. People told him he would learn to love the city, which he later concurred, stating "it contained an unusual number of clear-headed and broad-minded citizens" (many of whom later became members of the Indianapolis Literary Club).

During the year teaching at Indianapolis High School, he also attended the Indiana Medical College for which he received the degree Doctor of Medicine, a degree which even he felt he had hardly earned. This was at the same time that the medical school ceased to be a part of Indiana University – a relationship that would be reunited in 1912.

He spent the summer of 1875 in Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, as an instructor at the Harvard Summer School of Geology. While he was away that summer, he was elected to a professorship at the Northern Christian University in Indianapolis. By the time he had returned from his trip, the college had been renamed Butler University and had moved to Irvington.

Jordan spent four years at Butler as the Dean of Science. He began to seriously study fish, identifying and categorizing numerous varieties in Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and most of the southeastern United States. He conducted these studies with Alembert W. Brayton, who was a professor of Dermatology at the Indiana Medical College and in 1882 became a member of the Indianapolis Literary Club.

During this period several opportunities appeared, none of which materialized. Harvey Wiley, then a professor at Purdue, tried to organize a department of natural history at Purdue with Jordan as the head, but it failed to materialize. Other opportunities that, for one reason or another, didn't work out included:

professor of zoology at Wisconsin and at Princeton; professor of natural history at University of Cincinnati; chair of zoology at the Imperial University of Tokyo; and positions at Vassar, Williams, University of Michigan, and Cornell, his alma mater. Fortunately for the literary club, none of those panned out.

In the summer of 1877, he made a trip to Washington DC and was privileged to experience the first telephone and the first typewriter. He marveled at these inventions which we now consider old-fashioned.

During these first five years in Indianapolis, he made a number of good friends, many of whom were or became members of the Indianapolis Literary Club, including Theodore L. Sewall, master of the local classical school and whose wife, May Wright, after his death in 1894, became a leader in the international peace and equal suffrage movements – both causes that Jordan also became very active in. Another was Lewis H. Jones who taught at the high school with Jordan and later was superintendent of the Indianapolis schools and then head of Michigan State Normal College in Ypsilanti, Michigan. One of his closest friends was Oscar Carlton McCollough, President of the National Conference of Charities and pastor of Plymouth Church which served as the meeting place for the Indianapolis Literary Club from 1884-1901. He described McCollough as humanly genial and broadminded, and Jordan actually became a member of that church – the only one he ever formally joined. He was also close to an additional clergyman, Myron Winslow Reed, who moved to Denver in 1884, and as a Christian Socialist, staunchly supported working-class people as well as being a cofounder of the Charity Organizations Society (now known as The United Way) and was its first president. Photographs of some of the members is attached.

Jordan described another friend, Benjamin Harrison, as “an excellent lawyer, quiet, undemonstrative, conscientious, cold in a manner and lacking ordinary elements of popularity” but when he later became President he appointed high-quality people. Among those he appointed, who were also Indianapolis Literary Club members: William H. Miller, his law partner, as Attorney-General; Elijah W. Halford, as his private secretary; Albert G. Porter, previously Governor of Indiana, as Minister to Italy; and William Allen Woods, to the 7th Circuit US Court of Appeals. Julius Augustus Lemcke was offered the position of Treasury Secretary but turned it down. It’s surprising that the Indianapolis Literary Club survived with so many members leaving town.

One person whom Harrison failed to put in his administration, after defeating him for the Republican nomination for president, was Walter Q. Gresham, who had served as Post Master General and Treasury Secretary in the Chester A. Arthur administration and was one of the founding members of the literary club.

Gresham subsequently became a Democrat and helped Grover Cleveland defeat Harrison four years later; Cleveland then appointed him Secretary of State in his administration.

Two other close friends were William F. Fishback, a founder and first dean of the Indiana Law School, as well as co-owner of the Indianapolis Journal newspaper, and William Baldwin Fletcher, a state senator and a pioneer of mental health reform as superintendent of the Indiana Hospital for the Insane (later known as Neuronhurst).

One of his students at Butler, who later became an Indianapolis Literary Club member, was John H. Oliver, a noted surgeon who operated on Theodore Roosevelt while he was President.

There were also two writers with whom he became friends. Maurice Thompson, a novelist and poet best known for his novel: "Alice of Old Vincennes" and James Whitcomb Riley, the "Hoosier Poet". Riley wrote a poem about the literary club in the 1800s, titled 'At "The Literary" ' which is attached. While it talks about his first night at the club, it appears to be more of a collage of various meetings include some where wives attended.

Toward the end of Jordan's tenure at Butler, a dispute erupted between two factions: one that wanted the college to be simply a feeder to the Christian Church and the other favoring modern scholarship to meet the demands of the Indianapolis population. The leadership chose the first option and dismissed professors not affiliated with the church, including Charles E. Hollenbeck, who was the college librarian – two decades later he joined the Indianapolis Literary Club. Jordan recommended a successor for himself, but the school chose someone else because they didn't want an evolutionist. Ironically, their choice became a Darwinist with views as radical as Jordan's. A dozen years later, when Scot Butler, son of the founder and later a literary club member, became President, the school reversed its course of direction.

In the spring of 1879, Jordan travelled to Bloomington to judge an oratorical contest with Alembert Brayton, who was a candidate for the professorship of

natural history at Indiana University. Jordan met with the IU board of Trustees to help Brayton; however, they elected Jordan to the position. Fortunately, Brayton gave his approval to Jordan taking the position.

No sooner did Jordan arrive in Bloomington in the fall of 1879, when the United States Census Bureau came calling to enlist him in the 1880 census effort. When Jordan left for the west coast, William Dudley Foulke filled in for the rest of the academic year. Foulke, who later became a literary club member, had a distinguished career: state senator, an active participant in civil service reform including a stint on the Civil Service Commission during Theodore Roosevelt's administration, as well as presidencies of the American Woman Suffrage Association, the Proportional Representational League and the National Municipal League. Foulke was also a critic of the then influential Ku Klux Klan for which he was threatened with a flogging by the Klan.

Back at Indiana University in the fall of 1880, Jordan began his efforts, which would continue throughout his career, to reform college education. American colleges, with few exceptions up to that point, had traditionally offered a classical education (primarily Greek, Latin, mathematics, and a limited amount of philosophy) with little or no choices. Jordan felt strongly that everyone had different strengths and interests and that a person should be allowed to immerse himself in his specialty. Progress began slowly but eventually colleges came around to what is now the modern American university.

During his tenure at IU, Jordan alternated summers between domestic tours to study fish and European adventures including climbing to the peak of the Matterhorn in the Swiss Alps in 1881. Within several years, he also climbed to the peaks of Mount Washington in the New Hampshire section of the White Mountains and Mount Mercy, the highest of the Adirondacks, as well as to the summit of Pike's Peak in Colorado. In 1892, being the first passenger in an automobile on the Pacific Coast, he found yet another way to get to the top of a mountain, by riding to the peak of Mount Hamilton to the site of the Lick Observatory.

One funny episode occurred in the summer of 1882. Jordan had gone with a group led by Elijah T. Cox, the state geologist and another member of the literary club, to explore the Wyandotte Cave in southern Indiana. At one point, wanting to experience total darkness, Jordan let the rest of the group go on ahead, sat down on a rock, blew out his candle and waited for them to return. Unfortunately, he

fell asleep and the group did not see him on their way out. When he was nowhere to be found outside the cave, they sent in a rescue party to bring him out.

The presidency of Indiana University came open in the autumn of 1884 and Jordan recommended John M. Coulter, professor of Botany at Wabash College; however, the board of trustees again turned the tables and offered Jordan the position. In January of 1885, he began as the youngest college president in the country and one of only two scientists, the other being Charles W. Eliot at Harvard. He had hoped for an appointment to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC because his main interests were in natural history and intended to only serve as president for the remainder of the school year. He even submitted a letter of resignation when he took the post, but the secretary of the board conveniently “lost” it.

An early task in his presidency was to secure more money from the state legislature. There were several factions attempting to thwart this effort: lobbyists for denominational colleges who thought the state shouldn’t support such institutions and a group that advocated merging IU and Purdue. Little did Jordan realize the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee would be James H. Willard, a man he had mocked as an orator a few years prior, with Willard saying, as they met, “You little dreamed when you laughed at me before your students, that very soon I would be chairman of the Senate Committee of Finance and you would come before me begging for appropriations.” Fortunately, Jordan overcame these obstacles and was appropriated \$50,000.

Jordan made a number of significant changes and improvements as president, including: elimination of the prep school as a part of the university; continuation of the modernization of college education including the beginning of an elective system and the selecting of a major; establishment of the law school; reduction of the length of commencement by no longer requiring every graduate to speak (class size had grown and the ceremony was lasting upwards of ten hours); construction of buildings such as a new library; implementation of a summer school; and addition of alumni to the board of trustees. Rather than adapting students to the studies, he insisted that his professors adapt the studies to each student.

He also eliminated petty rules regarding behavior which he considered to be an insult to college students. He replaced them with just two rules “no student shall

fire one of the buildings nor shoot a member of the faculty". Apparently, Jordan was against arson and murder.

During his presidency, Jordan brought many notables to lecture at the university, including: Theodore Roosevelt (speaking on civil service); Susan B. Anthony; Frederick Douglas; and a number of fellow literary club members, such as Lew Wallace, the noted author, Governor of the New Mexico Territory, and the US Minister to Turkey.

Professors under Jordan's leadership included several who would become literary club members: Allan Bearden Philpott, who later was pastor of Central Christian Church in Indianapolis; William Lowe Bryan, who served as Indiana University President from 1902 to 1937; and James Albert Woodburn, who wrote the definitive "History of Indiana University 1820-1902". One professor, Jordan failed to lure to Indiana University, was a young man by the name of Woodrow Wilson.

His activities during this period included: president of the College Association of Indiana; organizer of the Indiana Academy of Sciences and its first president; and president of the local branch of the Indiana Civil Service Reform.

While at Indiana University, Jordan and his students discovered over 2500 species of fish, more than twenty percent of the known varieties at that time in the world, and named over one thousand of them. Jordan, in 1888, postulated a general rule governing the formation of distinct species by isolation or separation. He noted that the nearest relatives of living things were not in the same region but separated by a barrier preventing intermingling of the two groups. This fact was later named "Jordan's Law" by a scientist at the American Museum in New York City.

The first evidence of Jordan's attendance at The Indianapolis Literary Club, even though he was not yet a member, was at the annual dinner held at the Denison Hotel on February 23, 1885. He sat at the head table next to Charles W. Fairbanks, later a US Senator and the Vice President under Theodore Roosevelt.

Although Jordan may have attended meetings after that dinner, the next recorded instance of him at a meeting was on November 15, 1886, where he presented an essay titled "Darwinism". He most likely had presented this same essay the year before to the Indiana State Normal School under the title "Darwin". Jordan expressed his conversion to Darwin's theory as "I went over to

evolutionists with the grace of a cat the boy 'leads' by its tail across the carpet." Darwin's Origin of the Species was the basis of this essay.

He then gave an essay entitled "The Octroi of Issoire, or a City Made Rich by Taxation" on April 9, 1888. He replaced the originally scheduled essayist, Benjamin Harrison, who was obviously on the campaign trail in his successful pursuit of the United States presidency. That essay was published later that year in "The Popular Science Monthly" magazine and eventually in book form. It essentially dealt with an import tariff to encourage purchase of locally made goods. This led to an escalation of taxes among cities and caused an increasing disparity of income between the rich and poor. It provided a good analogy to the then current disputes in the US regarding protective tariffs.

After that essay, the Literary Club was motivated to make Jordan an honorary member. He was sponsored for membership on April 23, 1888 by T.L. Sewall, John Baltzly, J. N. Hurty and G. T. Porter. At the May 21st meeting, he was voted into membership as the first of two honorary members, the other being John Coulter, who was Jordan's successor as President of Indiana University. The other person initiated on that date was William Dudley Foulke.

Jordan's third essay, "A View of Ethics" was on October 8 the same year. It has not been preserved, but his speech "Nature-Study and Moral Culture" to the National Education Association in 1896 may be similar to his essay. Several quotes give a clue to what his essay may have been about: "to seek knowledge is better than to have knowledge", "the essence of character building lies in action" and "knowing what is right, and why it is right, before doing it is the basis of greatness of character". He strongly felt that the study of nature would provide the knowledge leading to ethical behavior.

On a fateful day in the spring of 1891, a Pullman car pulled up on a railroad siding in Bloomington. It contained the US Senator from California who had a job offer for Jordan. He was none other than Leland Stanford and was offering Jordan the Presidency of the newly established, but not yet functioning, Stanford University. The challenge was one he could not resist, not to mention the salary of \$10,000 which was a rather substantial sum those days – almost three times his salary at Indiana University.

In "The Popular Science Monthly", Professor Melville B. Anderson, reflecting on Jordan's tenure as Indiana University president, wrote: "In the course of six years,

he raised the State University of Indiana from a condition of obscurity and ineffectiveness to its present position in the front rank of Western colleges.” He added, “Once it became understood that change was possible in matters academic without greater harm than that of converting impotent philippics into whining jeremiads, things moved very rapidly.” Jordan simply would have said that he outmaneuvered his critics because modernizing college education was the proper course of action.

The Indianapolis Literary club held a farewell reception for him on April 6th, only the second such honor, the first being for Benjamin Harrison as he went off to run the country. At this meeting, Jordan gave his final essay “The American College”. While this essay is not available, it may well be very similar to an address in 1887 at the Indiana College Association titled “The Evolution of the College Curriculum”. The basis of the speech was the transition from a strictly classical education to one of an elective one allowing specialization, particularly in the sciences. He thought that the university’s role was to train individuals to observe, experiment, and think for themselves, as divergent in their various geniuses as the human mind itself. This enabled the student to bring himself into contact with the best teachers and to better prepare him for a meaningful career after college.

When David Starr Jordan arrived at Stanford, there were no professors, no students and just a couple of buildings, but plenty of money. He had both the opportunity and the challenge to build a college from nothing. He spent twenty-two years as president, creating a world-class university in spite of many serious impediments that occurred along the way. These included Leland Stanford’s death within two years and subsequently several years fighting the federal government regarding tax liabilities, a recalcitrant professor who insisted on publicly airing his controversial political views, and the San Francisco earthquake.

Ironically, Jordan’s first student at Stanford was Herbert Hoover, the future US president, who as a Stanford Trustee in 1913 “promoted” Jordan to the position of chancellor so he could concentrate his efforts on the causes he devotedly believed in. Jordan brought several literary club members out to Stanford during his first few years. In the fall of 1893, Benjamin Harrison lectured on international law. Even though Jordan was anti-smoking and anti-drinking, he provided Harrison with cigars and liquor to make his time at Stanford more enjoyable. James Whitcomb Riley read a number of his poems using his wonderful dialect. Ambrose Bierce, then a literary critic for the San Francisco *Examiner*, assailed

Riley for corrupting the English language with the use of the “Hoosier dialect”. When asked why he didn’t go back at Bierce, Riley replied, “I did; I hit him with a great chunk of silence.”

Jordan stated, “A generous education is the birthright of every man and woman in America.” At Stanford, he brought this to a reality admitting both men and women and making the college tuition free which lasted throughout his tenure.

Jordan eliminated most of the rules and regulations at Stanford, as he had done at Indiana, trusting students to act appropriately. A rule that did remain in force was ‘hours’ for girls living in the dormitory. However, one evening, Jordan was taking his nightly walk and found a girl crying outside her dormitory after hours. He simply lifted her up so she could crawl through an open window. So much for silly rules.

Jordan continued to pursue his scientific activities including helping John Muir to establish the Sierra Club in 1892 where he served on the board of directors for a number of years. He also pursued his fish studies around the world and even served as the US International Commissioner of Fisheries along the Canadian border from 1908-1910. During that same period, he served as the president of American Association for the Advancement of Science. His fish studies took him to Hawaii where he recommended that Hawaii be annexed by California. Needless to say, he was no longer a popular figure there. In addition, he investigated a fur seal dispute between the United States and Britain.

Jordan’s philosophy included an optimistic outlook on life coupled with a serious work ethic. In his book The Call of the Twentieth Century, Jordan discusses happiness as follows: “Happiness is not a state. It is the accompaniment of action. It comes from the exercise of natural functions, from doing, thinking, planning, fighting, overcoming, loving. It is positive and strengthening. It is the signal “all is well,” passed from one nerve cell to another. It does not burn out as it glows. It makes room for more happiness.” He also wrote a poem titled “To-day”:

To-day is your day and mine;
The only day we have;
The day in which we play our part.
What our part may signify
In the great whole,
We may not understand,

But we are here to play it,
And now is our time.

Jordan was his own man regarding religion. He kept Stanford nonsectarian on the premise that college students did not need to have religion foisted upon them. He felt that people made God in their own image and that everyone believed his own way. He believed that God existed but couldn't be described. His God was a scientific principle, a prime mover and the embodiment of love. Jordan felt the influence of organized religion was evil, striving to resist the progress of knowledge and punishing or ostracizing men and women who think for themselves and, therefore, by truth are made free. In his book The Wandering Host, an allegory of Jesus, he stated, "Choose thine own best way, and help thy neighbor to find that way which is best for him."

In 1896, Jordan wrote another article in "The Popular Science Monthly" titled 'The Sympsychograph: A Study in Impressionist Physics'. Similar to Roentgen's work with X-rays, a machine had been invented which captured a person's thoughts on a photographic plate. The article contained numerous clues that it was a total spoof, but many readers actually took it seriously. Jordan had to write a disclaimer which the magazine published two months later. Apparently, he was far more clever than he gave himself credit for.

While he loved sports, particularly baseball which he played throughout his life, he considered football too brutal causing many injuries. He simply replaced it with rugby for a number of years; many other west coast colleges followed his lead.

Throughout his career, Jordan felt education was the key to democracy. A true democracy should have a limited federal government strictly in the role of an umpire, not to provide subsidy, monopoly, franchise or concession. He said: "The ideal of democracy is to foster individual initiative, with an equal chance and an open field for every citizen. It is not the business of a democratic state to make money for itself nor to help citizens make it, but to see that all have a fair and equal chance to do so." Jordan was against all social welfare legislation including: minimum wage laws; disability and unemployment insurance; old-age pensions; as well as, government handouts to the poor. Again quoting him, "Citizens accustomed to public support in idleness would soon grow indifferent to both freedom and responsibility."

He said individualism was the key – that man needs to be frugal, industrious, sober and intelligent. He saw education providing the strength, skill, character and purpose to enable individualism. He even felt workers would be more successful with education rather than through unions and strikes. He insisted school superintendents should have the right to hire and fire teachers at will, and that teachers should not all receive the same pay but rather be subject to a performance based system.

When he became chancellor in 1913, World War I was on the horizon and Jordan was already deeply involved in the peace movement. He spent considerable time in Europe attempting to keep fighting from breaking out. After the war began, he concentrated his efforts on keeping the United States out of the war. He even personally discussed staying out of it with President Woodrow Wilson. However, after Wilson declared war, he fell in line with the country's efforts to defeat Germany much to the chagrin of many of his fellow peace advocates. He was in favor of the League of Nations which though imperfect, he felt was better than nothing; however, Congress never voted to join the league. In 1925, he was awarded the \$25,000 Raphael Herman Award for the best educational plan to promote international peace.

In his poem "Unarmed and Unafraid", he expressed his devotion to peace as illustrated in the last two verses:

O speed the day when blood of man
 No more shall drench the weary sod,
All joined in sacred brotherhood,
 And every child a son of God –

When peace with velvet-sandaled feet
 Shall tread the earth from shore to shore
And peoples in the bond of love
 Shall lust for conquest nevermore.

His involvement with the pseudo-science of eugenics was primarily due to his concerns about war. He felt that a country's most intelligent and ablest young men were the ones to get killed in war, leaving lesser men to repopulate the country thus creating an inferior race. However, he did resist associating with the more radical beliefs of those in the movement, such as: sterilization of imbeciles

and criminals or selective breeding of the most intelligent and physically perfect individuals. However, he did believe in a superiority of certain races, primarily those of Anglo-Saxon and Teutonic ancestry.

In terms of social causes, after years of active involvement, he was pleased with the adoption of the prohibition and women's suffrage amendments to the constitution.

Jordan was highly displeased with the jailing of the socialist, Eugene Debs, under the Espionage Act, stating "So long as Debs is in jail for voicing his opinions, the rest of us are in a degree stopped from expressing ours, unless persons who disagree with me are free to speak their minds, I am not free either." In 1925, Jordan was on the Tennessee Evolution Case Fund Advisory Committee for the famous Scopes Trial. He then chaired the committee to raise scholarship funds for John Scopes that enabled Scopes to attend the University of Chicago.

In 1921, Jordan was made an Honorary Associate in Zoology at the Smithsonian Institution. The next year, he published his autobiography The Days of a Man which has over 1600 pages in two volumes. During his lifetime, he wrote 52 books and more than 1,000 articles, many related to his fish studies.

Jordan died on September 19, 1931 after suffering his fifth stroke resulting in a coma from which did not recover. During his life, Jordan made substantial contributions to science, education and social issues. He was an industrious man with boundless energy, tackling a number of issues and responsibilities simultaneously. His shortcomings were primarily due to being a man of his times.

The state of Indiana, celebrating its 200th year, can be proud to have had him in our midst for almost two decades. He had a big influence on the early success and growth of Indiana University. And lastly, David Starr Jordan was a valuable member of The Indianapolis Literary Club during its early years while he was on his way from New York to California.



Eijah W Halford



Walter Q Gresham



Albert G Porter



Benjamin Harrison



William HH Miller



William Dudley Foulke



Charles W Fairbanks



James Whitcomb Riley

MEMORIALS



Maurice Thompson



Lew Wallace



Myron W



Oscar C McCollouch



David Starr



William Lowe Bryan



John M Coulter



James A Woodburn

At the Literary

James Whitcomb Riley

Folks in town, I reckon, thinks
They git all the fun they air
Runnin' loose 'round!—but i jinks!
We' got fun, and fun to spare,
Right out here amongst the ash-
And oak-timber ever'where!
Some folks else kin cut a dash
'Sides town-people, don't fergit!—
'Specially in *winter*-time,
When they's snow, and roads is fit.
In them circumstances I'm
Resig-nated to my lot—
Which putts me in mind o' what
 'S called "The Literary."

Us folks in the country sees
Lots o' fun! — Take spellin' school;
Er ole hoe-down jamborees;
Er revivals; er ef you'll
Tackle taffy-pullin's you
Kin git fun, and quite a few! —
Same with huskin's. But all those
Kind o' frolics they hain't new
By a hundred year' er two,
Cipher on it as you please!
But I'll tell you what I jest
Think walks over all the rest —
Anyway, it suits *me* best, —
That's "The Literary."

First they started it—"i gee!"
Thinks-says-I, "this settle-ment
'S gittin' too high-toned fer me!"
But when it all began to jine,
And I heerd *Izory* went,
I jest kindo' draped in line,
Like you've seen some sandy, thin,
Scrawny shoat putt fer the crick
Down some pig-trail through the thick
Spice-bresh, where the whole drove's been
'Bout six weeks 'fore he gits in!—
"Can't tell nothin'," I-says-ee,
"'Bout it tel you go and see
 Their blame' 'Literary'!"

Very first night I was there
I was 'p'inted to be what
They call "Critic"—so's a fair
And square jedgment could be got
On the pieces 'at was read,
And on the debate,—"Which air
Most destructive element,
Fire er worter?" Then they hed
Compositions on "Content,"
"Death," and "Botany"; and Tomps
He read one on "Dreenin' swamps"
I p'nounced the boss, and said,
"So fur, 'at's the best thing read
 In yer 'Literary'!"

Then they *sung* some—tel I called
Order, and got back ag'in
In the Critic's cheer, and hauled
All o' the p'formers in:—
Mandy Brizendine read one
I fergit; and Doc's was "Thought";
And Sarepty's, hern was "None
Air denied 'at knocks"; and Daut-
Fayette Strawnse's little niece—
She got up and spoke a piece:
Then *Izory* she read hern—
"Best thing in the whole concern,"
I-says-ee; now le' 's adjourn
 This-here 'Literary'!"

They was some contendin'—yit
We broke up in harmony.
Road outside as white as grit,
And as slick as slick could be!—
I'd fetched 'Zory in my sleigh,—
And I had a heap to say,
Drivin' back—in fact, I driv
'Way around the old north way,
Where the Daubenspeckses live.
'Zory allus—'fore that night a—
Never 'peared to feel jest right
In my company.—You see,
On'y thing on earth save me
 Was that "Literary'!"