A Few Words for the Local Press Before Leaving
(August 25, 1912)

The committee has arrange my work this year so I can have an occa-
sional rest at home. It is not likely that any other candidate will equal the
record of four years ago, so there will be no attempt on our part to break
records. In the campaign four years ago, I made 560 speeches in 68 days
and was on the go night and day. Before that time Mr. Bryan held the
record for campaigning.

I have been away from home so much that Terre Haute has grown
out of my knowledge. When I worked at Hulman’s¹ and fired an engine²
I knew nearly every man and woman in the city. Now, many of them are
gone. Conditions also have changed. The city is bigger and better but it is
no longer the Terre Haute I knew so well — my Terre Haute.

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microfilm collection, reel 18.

¹ Debs worked as a warehouseman and bookkeeper for Hulman & Company, a large and
prosperous wholesale grocery operation in Terre Haute, from 1875 to 1879.

² Debs was briefly and famously employed as a locomotive fireman in Terre Haute and East
St. Louis, Illinois, primarily firing switch engines in rail yards, from December 1871 until the
fall of 1874, when a serious recession forced him to abandon the scoop just shy of his 19th
birthday.