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WHAT WOULD WASHINGTON DO?

The United States is confronted with serious questions at this anniversary of the birth of the human instrument through which the Republic was framed. To the east and west of us are knocking for admittance into the sisterhood of States and Territories. The question of connecting two oceans by a water way, thus changing, perhaps, the world's great trade routes, is one of absorbing interest. And internal problems, involving the industrial and financial status of the nation, are hardly less urgent.

At times of great crises nations naturally turn the leaves of history and dwell thoughtfully on the features of their prominent men. What would these do under similar circumstances? The idealized heroes that have no existence except in the imagination of eulogists are of no value at such times, but the practical, matter-of-fact mortals presented on the pages of history can serve as guides at many a critical turn. All great men have been living exponents of true principles, and it is not possible to go very much wrong, as long as such principles are adhered to.

Washington was above all a practical man. He was no visionary. He performed his duty with no motive of ambition. If there is such a thing as doing right, merely for the sake of its being right, "the father of his country" set the example. He was valiant, and perhaps never more so than when he accepted the command of the army, though conscious of his unfitness for the position. "I beg," said he when selected for that position, "it may be remembered by every gentleman in this room that I this day declare with the utmost sincerity I do not feel myself equal to the command I am honored with." But he accepted his duty and applied himself to it with all his gigantic powers. He fought the foe from the outside, and conquered rebellion and sedition among the ranks of his own men.

Characters like that in the history of the nation should exert an influence upon its history in all ages and particularly at critical times. They should be imitated as far as possible. To eulogize them is but poor compliment to their memory, if the eulogy is not followed by a desire to go the road they pointed out. The disposition to build elaborate graves over dead prophets is just a subject of rebuke.

If we read George Washington's life correctly, it is an undying appeal to this nation to guard sacredly the principles of human liberty from both moral and physical bondage, and to extend the privileges of this liberty as far as human beings are prepared to receive them. From the pedestal upon which history has placed him, he must look down in wonder upon the timidity that hesitates at extending a hand of welcome to God's children, who look to the guardians of the starry banner for freedom.

The principles for which he lived are indestructible. Once in a while the perturbed waters may rise and dash against the rock, threatening to break it into fragments and bury it in the deep. But the storms last only a moment. Presently their rage is spent, and all is calm, and the rock remains, a beacon to the sailor. It is so with the principles upon which the American government is founded. Their assaults may seem to triumph for a short time, but that is only apparently. Like the foam that evaporates in the sun, their effusions vanish. That which is good is everlasting.

A MASTERLY ARGUMENT.

We hope the readers of the Deseret News have taken the pains to peruse carefully the magnificent speech delivered by Hon. C. E. Littlefield of Maine, on the question of the constitutional powers of Congress. It is not only a logical and legal argument, demonstrating the proposition that the House of Representatives has no authority to add to the qualifications, prescribed in the Constitution of the United States, for a member of that body, but it is a complete refutation of everything presented in the majority report of the committee on the Roberts case, as a plea for the unprecedented course which it recommended the House to pursue.

It has not been really replied to. Indeed it is unanswerable, logically and rationally from a legal standpoint. The brilliant rhetorical retort of Mr. Landis was not an argument, it was an assault. It carried away his hearers, as flights of oratory frequently affect an audience, but it did not touch the clear, lucid and learned reasoning, supported by undoubted authorities, presented by the member from Maine. Nor did any other speaker on that occasion make any real attempt to answer Mr. Littlefield's exhaustive essay. Every point in it was direct and was securely clinched. It will stand as a splendid definition and defense of the constitutional powers of Congress, that will be cited in after years when further at-

tacks are made upon the Supreme law of the land.

It is in this light that it is of interest and value to the majority of the people of Utah. The Constitution of the United States to them is an inspired document. They regard it as emanating from chosen instruments in the hand of Deity, who guided them in their labors for liberty by the Spirit of truth. The Latter-day Saints believe it to be part of their mission to preserve that sacred instrument intact, with all its definitions and limitations of the powers of this government. Any departure from its spirit and the lines it draws around the several departments of national authority, they view with regret if not with alarm.

The effects of the extraordinary step taken by the House of Representatives in the case of the member from Utah matters very little, so far as it affects that gentleman either personally or as the Representative of his State. It is the principle involved that is of moment to us and to this nation. That which was done was clearly in violation of that authority which should be regarded by every American patriot as paramount. It is above all Congressmen, Judges and Executives. It regulates them all, and, under our system of republican organization, it is supreme.

Mr. Littlefield's exposition of the constitutional powers of the House of Representatives establishes, beyond fair dispute, the absolute lack of authority on the part of that body to add to the qualifications of a member provided for in the Constitution. If it be granted, that the entire Congress has such power—even that being disputed—certainly one branch of the national legislature cannot lawfully make that addition. It must be accomplished by law duly enacted or it cannot be done at all.

The idea that when a duly elected member, whose election is not contested and who possesses all the qualifications prescribed by constitutional law, presents himself to take the oath of office, he can be thrust aside on an excuse that is not founded upon any existing legal provision, but simply to satisfy the prejudices of a majority of the House or of the masses of the populace, is so utterly antagonistic to the spirit and letter of the "palladium of our liberties" that it is startling to every clear thinker who is unbiased by public sentiment or private animosity.

It is on this account that the subject is one of vital interest to the majority of Utah's citizens, and of vastly greater import to the nation than now appears on the surface. The speech of Mr. Littlefield should be preserved by those who value and desire to maintain the principles which enter into the very life of our Republic. It will prove of great worth as a work of reference in time to come. The thanks of the people of Utah are due to the gentleman from Maine, who at one step has placed himself in the position of a leader in national politics and a prominent figure among the great men of the United States.

COST OF EXPANSION.

What colonies cost is a subject of no little interest to this country at present. Statistics issued by the Bureau at Berlin have been published by the San Francisco Call, showing the expense Germany's colonies have been to the Fatherland. According to these figures, Germany imported last year goods to the value of 4,617,000 marks and exported goods to the value of 10,149,000 marks. To obtain this trade, the government spent 14,788,000 marks, or 22,000 more than the total trade amounted to. But this, it is claimed, does not represent the entire cost of the colonial policy. Famine and sickness have been encountered in German East Africa, and caused enormous loss to the empire. In the district of Tanganyika, the population is said to have diminished from 121,308 to 61,328, by means of famine, leprosy, smallpox, and typhoid fever. The colony is three times the size of Germany, but its trade is mostly with British India. The German people are taxed heavily for the maintenance of German supremacy over territory from which but little revenue is obtained.

The figures are made public for the purpose of showing the folly of a policy that seeks expansion in tropical regions. But there are two sides to every story. Europe has during the latter part of this century been under the necessity of sending out from her overcrowded countries about 50,000,000 people who have taken up their abode in different parts of the world. And the swarming continues. In a short time there will be no non-Christian country except Japan over which European influence does not extend. The great powers must either secure colonies for their surplus population, or suffer this surplus to merge into other nations. Germany especially cannot exist as a great empire unless she can seize and hold an abundance of territory for her rapidly growing population. The colonial policy is, from a nationalistic standpoint, undoubtedly correct.

This is proved by the fact that the great powers which command the world's finances tenaciously hold to their colonies, and industriously look for new openings. It is not known that Great Britain is willing to give up India, or South Africa, notwithstanding the enormous cost of maintaining British sovereignty. Russia would seem to control territory enough for ten nations, but the imperial government is still seeking to expand the boundaries of the country in nearly every direction. It is understood that a colony is not as a rule self-supporting from the beginning, but it is also quite apparent that the rulers of nations have found colonial expenditures some of the best paying investments. All depends on circumstances. A strong government, sound morality and guided by the principles of justice will grow stronger and stronger as its domain is extended and its opportunities are enlarged. It is only when corruption and decay set in that area and multitude aggravate the condition.

If there is any particular lesson the United States have to learn from Europe, it is certainly not any against legitimate expansion. Europe is the smallest of continents, yet her inhabitants all but dominate the entire world. Without expansion the monarchies of Europe would be where India and China are today.

FOLLOWING "MORMONISM"

The Wilkesbanc Union Leader learns that Rev. Dr. Edward Everett Hale, who is about to retire from the pastorate of the South Congregational church of Boston, has introduced an innovation at the communion service, which is no less than the substitution of water for wine.

The reasons given for the change are several. Dr. Hale argues that it is not essential to the sacrament that wine should be used. The reason, he thinks, why the juice of the grape was selected by our Savior was this, that wine was the common drink of the country at that time, and not its particular suitability as a sacred emblem. Water, he asserts, is the common drink of this country, and it should therefore be used in the sacrament. It is the most natural fluid to put upon our communion tables.

It is further asserted that many persons find wine, even in the smallest quantity a temptation and snare to them. Some of them feel that they cannot conscientiously partake of the sacrament, as long as in it is offered an intoxicating drink, and Dr. Hale believes the church should remove every stumbling block in the road of those who may be weak and easily led astray.

The matter is worth mentioning as another instance of the "Christian" world slowly but surely following in the track of the Church. The Latter-day Saints have for years renewed their covenants by partaking of God's pure water in the sacramental cup, instead of the adulterated fluid sold under the name of wine. The Saints have at times been ridiculed for this, but it appears notwithstanding that their example has had its influence upon the world.

It has often been noticed that "Mormonism," though everywhere gained, is one of the great powers of the world today. Gradually it modifies theology, both theoretical and practical, and causes ideas of truth, liberty, and justice to be sown broadcast among the children of men. Judging from the results already seen it is safe to say that it is only a question of time till the world again will find that "the stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner."

AN ELDER CALLED HOME.

News has just been received at the President's office of the death yesterday in Christiania, Norway, of Elder Henry Ward Berg, of Provo city, Utah county.

The deceased is a son of Elder O. H. Berg and Sister Anne Nilsen Berg. He was born on the 13th of August, 1873, and was set apart for his mission to Norway on the 13th of October last. No particulars as to the sickness that ended fatally have been received.

Deceased was a young man of sterling qualities, much thought of by friends and acquaintances. His bereaved relatives undoubtedly have the consolation of knowing that he was called home while on his post of duty. The aims and purposes of Providence are not always easy to understand, but finally it will appear that the Lord has done all things well, and it is safe to acknowledge His hand in all things.

There is another end to the Philippine war. The new police system in the islands expects to tug at this one.

Whatever comes to Gen. Cronje in the present situation, he has given additional evidence of his superior qualities as a fighting general.

The Denver police board has ordered gambling houses closed. It will probably prove an "open and shut" game, with a wide-open finish.

The shakiness of the Persian shah's rule presents an opportunity for Russia to fasten a firm grip on the domains of that functionary, with none to say nay.

Dean C. Worcester says there is not in the Philippines a modern plow to turn a furrow. Most of the furrows made there recently have been by modern guns.

The life of Chief Washakie, who for 53 years has been at the head of the Eastern Shoshones, is an emphatic refutation of the old slander that "the only good Indian is a dead Indian."

The German press says Britain would be willing for President McKinley to mediate in the South African war. If that be true, then the British government has "a good English tongue of its own" to ask for the favor.

Canadians are feeling a touch of the war, and today flags are at half mast because of the heavy losses in the attack on Gen. Cronje's army. It should be remembered, too, that it is not only in Canadian homes that the present war brings deep sorrow.

A Valparaiso dispatch says that H. L. Wilson, American minister to Chile, has congratulated the British minister there, A. C. Gosling, on British success in South Africa. If Mr. Wilson, being a diplomatic official, has so far forgotten the neutrality of the nation he represents, it is he who is the goosing.

The arrest of an actress in New York for presenting an alleged indecent play is likely to prove more of an advertisement for the actress than otherwise, and therefore is not the wisest way to deal with the evil complained of. But that does not change the fact that indecency in dramatic presentations is gaining such headway that the public is being led gradually to yield an approving toleration which is not conducive to good morals.

In our notice of the decease of the lamented Richard Mackintosh, his niece, who has kept faithful vigil during his last sickness, watching over him with untiring patience, was inadvertently referred to as his daughter. Miss Mackintosh was indeed as a daughter to him who has departed, but he was not blessed with children of his own to soften the blow that fell upon him in the loss of his loved companion in life. The funeral will take place on Friday.

An illustration of motherly anxiety is given in the action of Mrs. Fred D. Grant, whose daughter, the granddaughter of Gen. U. S. Grant, became Princess Cantacuzene a few months ago. The princess is ill with typhoid fever,

and is in St. Petersburg—almost a land of strangers to her. Upon receipt of the news the mother left at once, hoping to reach her daughter's bedside within ten days. The father is with the United States army in the Philippines. May Mrs. Grant find only the most favorable conditions when she reaches her child?

The raising of the American flag by Canadians on a transport with troops for the South African war was, to say the least, in bad taste, as foreigners have no right to use the flag of another nation except in a way to represent that nation. The United States are not at war with South Africa, and the reported use of the Stars and Stripes was discourteous. For Canadians or others to hoist an American flag in expressing their harmony of sentiment with American action, or for Americans to raise the Union Jack in token of their personal endorsement of Britain's course, is a proper proceeding, but a nation at war cannot involve a neutral power without a breach of propriety.

The news of the death of Washakie, the peace chief of the Shoshones, recalls many incidents in the early history of Utah. The old Indian chief was a real leader among his people and used his influence over them, usually, for good. He admired and honored Brigham Young, and listened to his counsel to keep his young braves in submission and not permit them to shed human blood. He did all he could in that direction and prevented much evil and destruction. He was a friend to the whites and recognized the fact that in that friendship lay the best good of his own people. He lived to a good old age, over 80 years, died on Tuesday, February 20th, and will be buried at Fort Washakie, Wyoming, on Friday. He will be mourned by his tribe and remembered with respect by many others.

RELIEF OF KIMBERLEY.

Springfield Republican.

The Boers may make great efforts to menace Lord Roberts' communications in Cape Colony from the beginning of his invasion; indeed, their recent successes at Rensburg point that way. The situation is such, indeed, that after eliminating Kimberley and even Ladysmith, serious students of modern military art, both in Europe and this country, are openly expressing grave doubts as to England's ability to carry the projected invasion through to a complete triumph. The Boers, on their part, may well refrain from offering the smallest opportunities to fight decisive battles until the foe has undergone the sweat of a long march in a dry, burning country, far from their base of supplies. The invasion will be no such brilliant flight into Egypt as Kitchener had on his way to Khartoum.

Boston Herald.

The relief of Kimberley may well prove a turning point in the South African war. It is the first strategic success of any considerable value that the British have won since the beginning of hostilities, and it is quite likely to lead to further gains, which will transfer to their side the superiority that the Boers have hitherto enjoyed in the western campaign. Whatever the future may have in store for him, Lord Roberts, in this victorious movement, has justified his reputation as a great soldier.

Spokane Spokesman's Review.

From this time forward the struggle will not be the one-sided affair it has been. The real fighting capacity of the Boer forces will now be tested. We shall see how they stand under silent reverses; and later we may see how they bear more trying defeats. Still there is nothing in the outlook this morning to cause The Spokesman-Review to change the belief it has previously expressed, that the real struggle is yet to come. If England ever subjugates the Boers, it will be done by crushing the Boer armies. If the Boers ever dictate the terms of peace, it will be done only after the British empire has been whipped to a standstill.

Feoria Journal.

The chances are that a decisive battle will be fought the coming week. It is a "decisive" battle in the sense that it will decide whether the advance on the Orange State capital is to be kept up or whether a new plan of campaign is to be inaugurated by Lord Roberts. In view of the almost overwhelming force that Lord Roberts now has under his control it may be assumed that the march to Pretoria has begun. Eventually without intervention even the best friends of the Boers admit that they have lost. But there has never been a war in the history of England that has cost more than this one when the object to be gained is considered.

Boston Transcript.

There is a distinction between throwing reinforcements into a besieged place and compelling the besiegers to raise the siege and withdraw their army. Today's dispatches indicate that the relief of Kimberley is complete. General French did more than throw men and supplies into the city; he compelled Cronje to choose between being cut off from his base at Bloemfontein and abandoning the siege. Cronje, like a sensible man, preferred to get back towards Bloemfontein rather than be surrounded. If Lord Roberts' purpose was to bag Cronje's army he failed, but it is equally probable that all the former proposed was to raise the siege.

Worcester Gazette.

If Lord Roberts' advance can proceed uninterrupted to Bloemfontein the result should be to cause all the Boer forces to fall back from their present positions. If they did not do so and Roberts' movement should be successful they would be cut off. Roberts' movement should therefore result in the relief of Ladysmith. Buller's force is kept at the Tugela to hold a part of Joubert's force, and if that force should remain there Roberts' task would be easier. It would seem probable, however, that Joubert would join Cronje at Bloemfontein for more would be gained by saving the city than by keeping White penned up in Ladysmith.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

But there is much yet to be known before the British can afford to rejoice greatly over three favorable reports. Unquestionably Lord Roberts and Gen. Kitchener are excellent strategists as well as hard fighters, but the Boer commanders know something about strategy themselves, and until further details of the movements of the last two or three days around Kimberley are received it will not be quite clear whether the "dispersion of the enemy" from the southern side of Kimberley" may not mean their concentration at some other point more dangerous to the British advance.

New York Journal.

Yesterday made some extensive additions to the history of the world. At last the British made progress in South Africa. Roberts and Kitchener seem to have broken the deadlock at the Modder river, and it would not be surprising to hear at any moment of the relief of Kimberley. But that will be only the beginning of the real work. The hardest part of the British job is yet to come.

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