

No. 7--HEROES OF HISTORY.

(Written for the Desret News by Albert Payson Terhune.)

Pompey, the Hero Who Could Not Make up His Mind

CNEIUS POMPEY, hero and waverer, peerless soldier and wretched statesman, great genius and greater blunderer, missed world-empire by a narrow margin. Two barriers stood between him and this goal. The first of these was Julius Caesar. The second was the fact that he could not make up his mind. Here is his story:

Rome was a republic. It was nominally governed by the senate, but almost always there was some great man who practically ruled the city and the nation. Sometimes there were two such men at a time. That meant anarchy, riot, and sometimes civil war. There were also two great political parties, the Patricians (aristocrats), and Plebeians (or plain people). Marius, a rough peasant by birth, was the Plebeians' leader. He won fame as a general and conquered Rome's enemies in many lands. Then his lieutenant, Sulla, an aristocrat, successfully won the leadership from him, and Patricians were again in power. The clash between Marius and Sulla was known as the social war, and in it Pompey, then a lad of 17, first won fame as a staunch adherent of Sulla.

Later, Pompey raised an army in aid of Sulla and won several battles against Marius' troops. In reward Sulla bestowed on him in 71 B. C., the title of "Magnus" (the Great), and though the young soldier was only 25, the state showered enough honors on him to turn a fair older head. At the head of another army Pompey next won a series of brilliant victories in Spain, and on his return helped to put down a rebellion of slaves and hired fighting men led by Spartacus, a gladiator. These successes led to his election as consul of Rome. His colleague in office was Crassus, the richest man in the city.

Now it was that Pompey's inability to make up his mind firmly and unalterably to any one course first showed forth. He had been an aristocrat and an upholder of the senate. Yet, to strengthen his popularity, he proceeded to undermine the senate's rule and to help the plain people to greater power in the state. He had plans to serve, but the time was not yet ripe for putting them into effect. So, to strengthen himself still further, he personally embarked on an expedition against the pirates who swarmed all over the Mediterranean, and who caused raffles in Rome by preventing provision ships from landing at Italian ports. Pompey swept these pirates from the seas and then turned to the conquest of the Orient. He defeated Rome's eastern foes and annexed Syria and Palestine to the empire, storming Jerusalem after a three months' siege. Having forced nearly all Asia and the rest of the east under the Roman yoke, he returned home in 61 B. C., where he was acclaimed "Conqueror of Spain, Africa and Asia." In the flood-tide of his popularity he proceeded to carry out the plans his ambition had earlier formed.

In Rome at this time was another rising man, one who had lived down a youth of profligacy and debts, and who was already making his influence felt in politics. This was Julius Caesar. He was ambitious of fame and power. As a step toward this goal he sought Pompey's friendship. Pompey made a secret agreement with Caesar and Crassus by which the three should rule Rome. Crassus was made governor of Syria and was straightway killed in a war with the Parthians. Caesar was made governor of Gaul, and at once entered on his famous conquest of that country. Pompey made himself governor of Spain, but left the administration of Spanish affairs in the hands of deputies while he stayed in Rome and strengthened his power there. Crassus being dead and Caesar away, Pompey was practically master of Rome. In other words, of the civilized world.

So he set himself to getting permanently rid of Caesar. To do this he again sought favor with the conservative Patrician party, wishing to become the recognized leader of the Aristocrats, even as Caesar had become champion of the Liberal party. The chief difference between the two was that while Pompey had so often changed his mind and his principles that both parties were beginning to mistrust him, Caesar had won his followers' full confidence.

The period of Caesar's brilliant governorship of Gaul came to an end. Pompey made the senate order Caesar to give up his Gallic command and to disband his army under penalty of being declared an outlaw and an enemy to Rome. Caesar, instead of obeying, crossed the Rubicon river and advanced into Italy at the head of his soldiers. Pompey was certain he had now found a pretext for removing Caesar from his path and prepared to march against the invader and overwhelm him by superior force of numbers. But the army had been bribed and otherwise subsidized by Caesar and refused to rise against him. So Pompey was obliged to fly for his life before Caesar's victorious advance.

He fled to Greece, where he raised a host in his behalf. Caesar followed with a small army of veterans. In the first few engagements Pompey was victorious, but at length, in 48 B. C., he met Caesar at the field of Pharsalia. He had 40,000 men, Caesar had barely 20,000. Pompey's army was utterly routed. Pompey himself hurried to Egypt, where he hoped to raise a new force. But as he landed he was stabbed in the back by one of his own officers, Septimius by name. Septimius cut off Pompey's head and carried it to Caesar. Caesar, now that he had accomplished his ends and destroyed his last rival, feared lest Pompey's popularity might cause a reaction of feeling. So, pretending grief and fury at the murder of his gallant, unfortunate foe, he ordered Septimius put to death and disavowed all part in the killing of Pompey.

A few years later, when Caesar himself was murdered, he fell, by a strange irony of fate, across the base of Pompey's statue, splashing with his life-blood the marble image of the man whose ruin he had wrought, and who, but for him, might have ruled the world.

THE PRACTICAL VALUE OF LIBRARIES.

Philanthropists who delight in giving libraries to towns and cities are often criticized because of the so-called impracticability of their gifts. The varied uses and services to which libraries may be put is outlined in the December Charities and the Commons, where Miss Irene Van Kleeck gives some specific instances of city libraries helping city dwellers in innumerable ways.

"At the Reid Library in Passaic an evening spent in the discussion of what the Italian can do for America, and what America can do for the Italian not only aroused the patriotic spirit of the listeners, but led to much practical good. The library was glad to give the use of its lecture hall to the Dante Literary society, and the members feel at home there and have presented to the library a bust of Dante. In speaking of the foreign readers the report says: 'We have constant evidence of their interest and loyal appreciation of our civic development and claim for them the honor of reading the best class of literature we lend.'"

"In Cedar Rapids, where one-third of the population is Bohemian, a nucleus of books in this language, selected and catalogued by Bohemian residents, has been made, and the people showed their appreciation in a meeting at the library where they had speaking and singing in their own tongue. In New York a wide and varying representation was secured for a branch library in a foreign quarter by choosing as its committee a Catholic priest, a Presbyterian minister, an anarchist, a real estate agent, and a newspaper man who published every few days in the foreign paper of the district items about the library and the use of books. Branches for several nationalities are developing along the same lines.

"In Madison, N. J., a bird club of boys met twice a week, once for study and once for an expedition, and found the library's resources on this topic to be of interest and value. How to utilize profitably the activities of a 'gang' of boys is worth much planning. One librarian is reported to have started a chattering class to interest restless boys; another had a museum of flowers and insects; another conducted a branch of the flower mission. Not less interesting, and perhaps more instructive, is a series of talks on Indian legends accompanied by hunting expeditions for the half-buried implements and relics found in almost every meadow in some parts of the country. Boys are eager to learn about natural history and natural science, and they should be encouraged at the public library."

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Man's highest grade extra high top boots in tan or elk viscolized throughout as near water proof as it is possible to produce them. These shoes are made with buckles and straps or plain and are absolutely the very best goods produced at any price former values \$8.50 and \$9.00 at **\$6.85**

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\$2.85 Is the price we have placed on a bunch of women's high top shoes in tan or black calf, also black kid, button; former values \$3.50 and \$4.00.

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