

## WILL OUR REPUBLIC LAST?

EMINENT STATESMEN, CLERGYMEN AND SOLDIERS ANSWER NATIONAL QUESTIONS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE.

[Copyright and all rights reserved by Geoffrey Williston Christine.]

No question is of more vital importance to every American man and woman than that of the perpetuity of our republican institutions and form of government. Recognizing this fact, the following questions were recently submitted to a number of our most prominent public men best qualified to answer them.

1st. Will our present republican form of government last 100 years longer?

2nd. If not, why not?

3rd. What is its greatest peril?

4th. Is there any danger that aliens may so buy up the land and foreign syndicates so buy up the business enterprises as to obtain control of our country and eventually change its form of government?

Their answers, which comprise a most interesting symposium, will be found below.

GEOFFREY WILLISTON CHRISTINE

CARDINAL GIBBONS THINKS ADHERENCE TO CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES OUR SAFEGUARD.

My Dear Sir:—The first question to which you desire an answer from me is: Do you think that our present republican form of government will last 100 years longer? To which I reply that I not only fervently trust but also firmly believe that it will.

In view of the preceding, the second question requires no answer.

Next, you ask: What is our greatest peril? I answer, a departure from those Christian principles upon which our very laws and institutions are based. As long as these Christian principles are maintained our institutions will, under God, survive and flourish. Our laws, which are only expressions of eternal law, will command our respect, and therefore our loyal obedience. On the other hand, every departure from those Christian principles upon which our social fabric rests—especially in respect of the marriage tie and the freedom of popular suffrage—tends to loosening the foundation-stones of the Republic.

One of the most admirable features of our system of government is the happy balance of Federal power with State autonomy; and so long as this golden mean is observed we shall possess strength and liberty and indestructibility as a great nation.

To your fourth query, I reply, that in my judgment we need have no fear of foreign capitalists and foreign syndicates. Those who invest in our public lands and our business enterprises will naturally be brought into closer acquaintance with our republican form of government, and there is little doubt that our institutions and our laws will gain upon them upon closer acquaintance. Moreover, the present influx of capital cannot, in the nature of things, continue. The vendors will themselves soon be in competition with foreign investors, so as to obtain, in their turn, profitable investments. This influx of capital is, according to my view, a

positive benefit rather than a peril to large areas of our undeveloped continent. JAMES CARDINAL GIBBONS.

SENATOR DOLPH THINKS THE WORLD IS TENDING TOWARD REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT.

Joseph N. Dolph, the senior United States Senator from Oregon, writes thus:

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.,  
Nov. 21, 1890.

My Dear Sir:—Upon my return to the city after a brief absence I found your favor of the 18th inst. awaiting me, and hasten to reply.

To your first question, "Will our present republican form of government last 100 years longer?" I answer yes. The Constitution may be amended, changes in form may occur; but our republican government will endure for all time. Monarchical government is not likely to be re-established on this continent; and before another century all the leading governments in Europe will be republican. In view of the foregoing answer, your second question, "If it will not last, why not?" requires no reply.

Your third question, "What is our republic's greatest peril?" I will not undertake to answer categorically. The maintenance of a government by the people is possible only while the masses are independent, intelligent and virtuous. The danger to our republican form of government arises from the ignorant, the vicious and venal classes, controlled by designing and corrupt men. To guard against the danger we should educate the rising generation, prevent the coming to this country of the criminal classes of other nations, maintain the standard of American wages and thus secure the independence of the American workingmen; frown down by public opinion and punish by law all corrupt practices which debase the voter and cheapen suffrage. I answer your fourth interrogatory by saying that I do not think there is a particle of danger that aliens will so buy up the land and foreign syndicates so buy up the business enterprises as to obtain control of our country and eventually change its form of government. The inducements to foreign investors in this country are created by our system of government and republican institutions. Foreigners, who have invested their capital here for greater safety and better profit, will be naturally interested in maintaining those institutions; and I doubt if a majority, other things being equal, would prefer a monarchy or an aristocracy to a republican government. Of course, it would be better for the country if its land owners were all citizens and none of its industries were owned by foreigners or controlled by foreign capital, so that the profits upon the capital would remain here; but the production of what we consume in this country by foreign capital here is far better than and preferable to, in every way and on every account, the production of such articles by foreign workmen in foreign shops and foreign countries, with foreign capital as well.

Yours truly,

J. N. DOLPH.

KNIGHT OF LABOR POWDERLY SAYS NO.

SCRANTON, Pa., Oct. 31, 1890.

Dear Sir:—I lack the time to do justice to your questions and I am unwilling to commit myself on such important issues hastily, but I will endeavor to answer, briefly, the questions you put to me, but reserve the right to amplify my answers in the future if they should be called in question.

First—Our republican form of government can not last 100 years longer and continue to drift under the power of monopoly and wealth as it is doing now; in fact, the moneyed power at the present day forms an aristocracy, or a plutocracy, which entirely nullifies every section, clause and article in our bill of rights whenever they are called in question in behalf of the people.

Our republican form of government cannot last 100 years longer for the reasons I have given.

The above answers your first and second questions.

3rd. The greatest peril menacing our government is the poverty and indifference of our people. The poor are so oppressed that they are forced to sell themselves for what they can get and are thus at the mercy of the bosses, the pliant tools of monopoly, who forge to the front in our political parties.

The people are driven to the polls to vote for their oppressors and dare not murmur for fear of dismissal from employment.

Those who can be more independent are indifferent or so absorbed in business affairs that they do not note the rapid advances of this unforeseen power.

To your fourth question let me say that I do not care whether it be an alien or a native syndicate that buys up the land or business enterprises of the country, for the instinct of greed is the same in an American as an Englishman, and we have, therefore, as much to fear from land stealing in one form as another.

Very truly yours,  
T. V. POWDERLY.

SENATOR EDMUNDS TAKES A HOPEFUL VIEW.

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.,  
25th Nov., 1890.

Dear Sir:—Yours of the 3rd instant was received, but I have not been able to reply until now.

To your first question, I answer that I certainly think so. This answers both your first and second questions.

In respect to your third, I remark that I think the greatest perils to the Republic are insufficient education, excess of the foreign element, and political corruption.

As to your fourth, I think there is no danger of any considerable portion of the lands of the United States falling into foreign control; nor any considerable portion of its business enterprises.

Yours truly,  
GEORGE F. EDMUNDS.

EVARTS SAYS WE HAVE COME TO STAY.

Hon. Wm. M. Evarts, the senior United States Senator from New York, has faith in the permanency of our government, as will be seen below: