

in this part. The "News is very much appreciated.

GEO. M. WHITE,
GEO. F. ASHLEY,

Charlestown, Jefferson County, West Virginia.

OUR COUNTRY HIS THEME.

Rev. J. Leonard Levy, the noted Philadelphia divine, held spell-bound an audience of over 2,000 people in the Assembly Hall Wednesday evening, the learned gentleman speaking upon Our Country. His remarks were well punctuated with applause, especially when the freedom of America and her desire to set others free was referred to, the audience being thoroughly imbued with that spirit which is characteristic of every true American citizen.

After patriotic selections by members of the Tabernacle choir and prayer by Elder George Teasdale, Rev. Levy was introduced by Elder Brigham Young, his introduction being the signal for considerable applause. The speaker commenced:

Breathes there a man with soul so dead

Who never to himself hath said

This is my own, my native land.

Of all sentiments, said Dr. Levy, that well up within the human heart, next to the love of God is the love of country. What an ennobling burden, what a high idealizing sentiment, Our Country! Its Constitution was wide as the folds and broad as the earth itself. Our Country in time of peace or war, Our Country, is the sentiment which will respond within the breast of the patriot under every circumstance of life. No matter what its size or form of government the children love their own, their native land; and of all people upon the earth to breathe such a sentiment, the American people, said Dr. Levy, had the wisest, the most fervent right.

Fifty years ago. What a change it had wrought along the borders of Western civilization and progress! The Pioneers of the West had done for Utah what the American people in general had done for the United States. It was the first time the speaker had gazed at our surroundings with a critical eye, and he had been led to remark: Truly such faith as this is not to be found even in Israel. He was willing to go back to the East and bear witness to a faith in God unconquerable among the American people, and that with no flattery, but prompted by the plain, unvarnished truth.

Dr. Levy here referred to the colonization of America, and its rise and progress during the 120 years intervening. Its advancement was marvelous, and its flag which now fluttered in the breeze from every conceivable point of honor, betokened freedom to all, a freedom which judge all the world, all humane country-loving people, a hearty welcome. There was no bigotry in it; no narrowness of soul, but it was as broad as the great expanse of heaven, and threw out open arms to all who cherished freedom, to all who believed in the liberty, which only a glorious republic, such as ours, can give. In view of these facts, the whole world was partaking of our institutions of learning, recognizing the great growth of our country, and the good that would come out of it.

Dr. Levy said that America never idealized war as had Egypt and Assyria. The heroes of the latter bore witness of their condition in years ago. America had fought for individual rights and for the emancipation of the colored race. They had always regarded war as terrible and

never had they made conquest an ideal as did Rome of old, neither glory as did Napoleon for France. The U. S. ideal was of righteousness, justice and equity, and while, said the speaker, the spirit of the Constitution had not been fully carried out by the administration, he believed their ideal was the same and would so continue.

The United States was now engaged in an international conflict. The taps of the drum, the clarion notes of the bugle and the tread of martial feet had resounded through the land. America had exhausted all diplomatic means to avoid war and to give and perpetuate unto the people, the blessings of peace but all in vain. President McKinley had shown himself to be a hero, believing that peace hath her victories, no less renowned than war, but all in vain. War was inevitable and it had come.

High in the heavens declared the speaker, it had been recorded that the sins of Spain were complete and that her punishment was nigh. What a terrible thing! It drew a picture of bloodshed. It told of the wounded and the dying. It spoke of happy homes destroyed, obliterated; of mothers in deep anguish for their children, sweethearts for their lovers, wives for their husbands and children for their parents. And yet withal, it could not be avoided; diplomacy had been fully exhausted and it became the duty of citizens of a free and mighty republic to push on with full force, to the end that war shall cease, and to say with Decatur: Our country right or wrong, our country.

The speaker pictured the dastardly atrocities of Spain, which had forced America to intervene. The history of Cuba, said he, was one of appalling horror. The revolt in Cuba had been brought about as was the revolution in America. Unbearable taxation was the cause of it. The people of the productive, self-sustaining little Isle had been robbed of their all in order to replenish and fill up the coffers of their Spanish neighbors, who had met with reverses and great losses, which had to be paid by the Cuban people. It was the spreading of on taxes that had caused murmurings and discontent among the Cubans. They were a happy and progressive colony beforehand, but the merciless acts of their wicked, consciousness companions had driven them to starvation, misery and death. Such, in short, was the status of affairs. Promise upon promise to alleviate their sufferings, to tear down their oppression had been made by the Spanish nation, but further than this nothing had been done. The pledged pacification had not materialized, and for a period of nearly thirty years, the Cubans had suffered untold misery and privations, until in 1895 they were forced to declare war to the knife, and adopting our national colors, the red, white and blue, had flung them to the breeze and commenced their fight for right and independence. And with God's help, said the speaker, and the aid of the American people, Cuba shall have her freedom.

Dr. Levy told of Weyler's debut on Cuban soil with an army of 200,000 Spanish soldiers and his scheme of reconcentration. He pictured the city of Matanzas with its 75,000 people starving to death, around the free, billowy waves of the bay, and under the broad expanse of the heavens, with its pure, air and general health-giving qualities. He spoke of the cruel murder by Spanish soldiers, of the little boy who had gone out seeking food for his mother, and was arrested as a spy; and portrayed the general condition in that war-stricken land, where a people had been persecuted and down-trodden to an extent unknown and unrecorded in the annals of all civilization. Cuba

bleeding and mangled, declared Dr. Levy, appealed to a great portion of a great nation. The flag had gone forth. Cuba must and shall be free.

Spain's great dignity and lofty position among nations 400 years ago, was also referred to by the speaker. But she had domineered with unspeakable pitilessness and brought herself to the doom that now awaited her. It had been well said in the Congress of the United States, that Spain had built more churches and condemned more people to death in the shadow of those churches, than had all the nations of the earth put together. The Spanish flag will not be tolerated on the Western shore of civilization, declared Dr. Levy. America will tell Spain to go back into obscurity. Your cup of iniquity is filled. Your measure of cruelty is long drawn out! *Avant! Lie down in the dust, and shrink from the sight of civilized and humane humanity.* were the doctor's telling words.

Cuba could not help herself no more than could Ireland. The policemen, as the Irishman had said, would not let them. It was true freedom to share it with others. There was no desire on the part of America to annex Cuban territory. The Americans had entered the war, the spirit of justice and humanity. Their flag was the most beautiful, grand and glorious that waved above any people. It betokened protection to womanhood and a shield to childhood. It was likewise a menace to tyranny, and, unlike other nations, its a b c was not aggression, bloodshed and conquest. It had not sought bigness, but greatness, and like Rome of old it was a missionary nation, with a great mission to perform, and that mission to establish and maintain peace, as well as to ameliorate the condition of suffering humanity. Washington was an ideal Gomez and Cisneros, and it would have been cowardly, and against the spirit of a liberty-loving people and a free nation, to have refused to do our part in helping the Cuban people. Intervention was a sacrifice, but non-intervention would have shattered all American ideals.

After a brief reference to the Maine disaster in the harbor of Havana, and the Monroe doctrine which stood out so boldly for liberty and freedom, Dr. Levy turned his attention to the volunteer army and the part he was about to play in it—chaplain in the Pennsylvania regiment. He was pleased to note the ready and willing response from Utah, and hoped he would be privileged to go side by side with them. Death or victory was the motto, and America had spoken with fiery eloquence and would continue to do so until the American eagle had frightened away the Spanish vulture now feeding on starving Cubans. With Dewey, Sampson, Schley and our brave volunteers said the speaker, Cuba shall be free.

Dr. Levy then dwelt on England's loyalty to the cause for which America was struggling. This was an age of unification. There was a tendency on the part of one nation to join issues with the other, and why should not the Anglo-Saxons, unite in a love of God, a love of peace, and a love of all that was required. The Anglo-Saxons had accomplished by evolution what others had accomplished by revolution. Russia, France and the other haughty nations of the earth were shaking and falling. They had been weighed in the balance and found wanting. England and America would continue to grow, and it was the speaker's belief and opinion that the time would come when the Union Jack of England would become interwoven with the Stars and Stripes of America, not for war, but for peace.