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CHRISTINE'S CRYSTALS.

Will Our Republic Last?

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

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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 foundations 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 industrial stability as a consequence.

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 sympathetic 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 caused, in the nature of things, continues. 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. 24, 1890.

My Dear Sir:—Upon my return to the city after a brief absence I found your favor of the 19th 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 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 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 ignorance, 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, from down to public opinion, and prohibit 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 portion of apprehension. 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 thousands 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 importation of such articles by foreign workmen in foreign ships and foreign countries, with foreign capital as well.

Yours truly,
J. N. DOLPH.

KNIGHT OF LABOR FOR CHIEFLY SAYS NO.

SCRANTON, PA., Oct. 31, 1890.

Dear Sir:—I feel the time to do justice to your questions as 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 at the present day form as aristocracy, or a plutocracy, which virtually nullifies every section, clause and article in our bill of rights whenever they are called in question to 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 pilant 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 advance of this unfortunate condition.

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 peril 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:

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 8, 1890.

My Dear Sir:—I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 5th instant, and in reply would say that in my judgment the Constitution of the United States is better and stronger than it was a hundred years ago. The great people that has grown up under its protection is more capable of sustaining free institutions than at any earlier period. Every generation, no doubt, will find evils to be guarded against and good principles to need development and defense. A more intimate unity of feeling throughout the nation, and a subordination of local and particular interests to the general good, and a watchful attention to preserve our industrial and social independence of foreign, must for years to come be the great duty of this people. I can foresee no danger of a serious or permanent desertion of this duty on the part of our fellow citizens. So long as there is no such desertion we can readily overcome any perils that may menace us, whether from foreign syndicates, individual aliens, or other sources.

If I am correct in my views on this matter, I see no reason why any patriotic American citizen need feel any apprehension for the perpetuity of his beloved nation. Therefore, speaking for myself, I cannot possibly feel any great degree of concern as to the stability of the public institutions which this great, prosperous and powerful country is now in the enjoyment of. In a careful and thoughtful perusal of what I have here written I think that any one may find a full and complete answer to all four of the questions which you have propounded to me, and which I think are of very great importance to every true-hearted, thoughtful American citizen.

I am very respectfully your obedient servant,
WILLIAM M. EVARTS.

BISHOP POTTER AGREES WITH CARDINAL GIBBONS.

Rt. Rev. H. C. Potter, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of the See of New York, agrees with Cardinal Gibbons, the head of the Catholic Church in this country, in thinking that we are more in danger from an absence of religion and a departure from Christian principles on the part of those in authority. His letter happened.

DECATUR HOUSE,
28 Lafayette Place,
NEW YORK, Nov. 21, 1890.

My Dear Sir:—The four questions which you ask are certainly of the most vital interest and importance to all the people of these United States, and, like all such questions, they are not easy to answer, and yet replies to them to be hastily formulated. I shall reply to your first question, "Will our present republican form of government last one hundred years longer?" I would say that I have no doubt data which would warrant me in expressing an opinion with how long the present government of the United States will endure.

Your second question, "If not, why not?" I am equally unable to answer satisfactorily.

In reply to your third question, "What is its greatest peril?" I would say that in my judgment the indifference of the people to righteousness in their rulers and to integrity in the administration of the government is the greatest peril with which we are threatened as a nation.

In reply to your fourth question I would say that there is not the smallest possibility that aliens and foreign syndicates will ever obtain control of our country by buying up its land and business enterprises, and eventually change the form of government. The drift of the world is not toward monarchical government, but away from it, and our danger is not in the direction of monarchy, but rather of anarchy, not from foreign syndicates, but from domestic outbreaks, and then from the revolt from that tyranny which great monied combinations seek to impose. I am, my dear sir,

Sincerely yours,
H. C. POTTER.

SENATOR WADE HAMPTON SAYS KEEP EUROPE'S PAUPERS OUT OFTEN.

Hon. Wade Hampton, the junior United States Senator—in point of service—from South Carolina, writes as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,
WASHINGTON, Dec. 8, 1890.

My Dear Sir:—Time alone can give the answer to your first question. "Will our present republican form of government endure 100 years longer?" Yes, I think it will. To your second, "If not, why not?" I reply:

With regard to what is the greatest peril of our government, I think it is the accumulation of money in the hands of a few persons and the unscrupulous use of wealth.

I apprehend no danger to republican institutions by foreign immigration or capital in the way pointed out by your fourth question, for I think that great harm is done to the country by allowing nihilists, communists, and paupers of other lands to become citizens of ours. Very respectfully, yours,
WADE HAMPTON.

SENATOR JOHN SHERMAN, OF OHIO, THINKS THE COUNTRY'S SAFE HANDS.

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 7, 1890.

Dear Sir:—I never venture to prophesy for the future. No one could answer your questions with any confidence, though I hope that our government will last for many years. The perils of the future can not be anticipated. Any man would usurp the prerogative of the infinite if he attempted to reply to your questions.

Very truly yours,
JOHN SHERMAN.

POSTMASTER GENERAL WANAMAKER HAS FAITH IN OUR STAYING POWERS.

Postmaster General Wanamaker's answer, like a stick of old-fashioned molasses candy, is short and sweet.

OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 27, 1890.

Dear Sir:—In reply to your favor of 15th instant, just received, I unhesitatingly that I have full faith in the perpetuity of our institutions. I firmly believe that our republican form of government will improve steadily and endure lastingly. This answer, I think, covers all the questions you present to me, and they are well formulated.

Yours truly,
JOHN WANAMAKER.

SENATOR INGALLS, OF KANSAS, THINKS THE PAST A GUARANTEE OF THE FUTURE.

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,
Washington, D. C.,
December 8th, 1890.

My Dear Sir:—In reply to yours of 5th, I think that the Anglo-Saxon race on this continent have thus far overcome every obstacle in their unprecedented experiment of popular self-government. They have made too many sacrifices to leave any doubt that they will solve the problem of the future as successfully as they have the past.

Very respectfully yours,
JOHN J. INGALLS.

GENERAL WM. T. SHERMAN ANSWERS CHARACTERISTICALLY.

NEW YORK, December 29, 1890.

My Dear Sir:—Your questions can only be answered by some newspaper editor. Newspaper editors are the only true prophets now living to my knowledge.

Truly yours,
WM. T. SHERMAN,
General.

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