

from all parts of the civilized world, rendering it possible for the people of all nations to read in their newspapers tonight an account of the homage which our nation pays today to its first and greatest President. Then if he were to see the telephone, the phonograph, and the thousand other wonderful devices that now exist for the annihilation of time and space and the substitution of mechanical for manual labor, he would see that his countrymen are leading the van in all departments of human progress.

In the absence of prophetic vision it is impossible for me to predict or even conceive the achievements of the coming century. If three millions of people could accomplish what has been done, what may not sixty millions of people do in the years that are to come, with the increased facilities for advancement which they possess? The thought is beyond human conception.

I am proud of my birthright and thankful for my citizenship in this great Republic. I desire to perpetuate, by every means in my power, the glorious principles contained in the Constitution. Its provisions are broad enough to extend to every human being, and its protecting shield is thrown around all citizens alike. The strong and the weak, the high and the low, the rich and the poor, are equal before the law, which recognizes the right wherever found and punishes the wrong wherever it exists. The most exalted official stands upon the same constitutional level as the humblest citizen. Constitutional securities are for the protection of those who are not strong enough to help themselves so they may say to arbitrary power "you cannot touch me for I am protected by law."

Standing as we do upon the threshold of the second century of our country's existence, I unite with you in an earnest wish for the perpetuity of our republican institutions, and pray that men may be raised up from time to time to occupy exalted positions in the government, who will not only possess the integrity, the patriotism and the wisdom of Washington, but also the inspiration of Divine intelligence and the guidance of Almighty God, that the Constitution may be preserved inviolate, and our sacred heritage of liberty handed down to posterity in all its grandeur and sublimity.

PRESIDENT GEO. Q. CANNON

was next announced, and spoke as follows:

I have listened to the oration of Lieut. Young and to the speech of the Hon. F. S. Richards with a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure. I had hoped that the remarks made by them and others who might be called upon would be so ample that I should not myself be requested to say anything upon this occasion. To me, therefore, the call to address you is very unexpected. But this is an occasion in which we can all participate; and though our words may not be in set phrases or very eloquently framed, yet the object of

our meeting together is one that should call forth from all of us expressions of thanksgiving to the giver of all good for the blessings which we enjoy as inhabitants of this land. Certainly no people upon this continent should join in this celebration today with more profound gratitude to Almighty God for giving unto us this form of government under which we dwell than the people assembled in this tabernacle and the inhabitants of this Territory generally.

This has been beautifully set forth in the oration to which we have been listening. We not only believe that our form of government is superior to every other known to man; but, more than this, we believe that it was founded under the direct inspiration of God, and that He is the founder thereof. I thank God constantly, and I teach my children to be grateful to Him for this Republic. I have heard expressions from some persons during our recent trials that would seem to cast a shadow upon the institutions under which we live. In my own heart there has never been a place for any thoughts derogatory to this republican form of government. As has been already said, it is the highest, the most liberal, and the best adapted to the growth and development of humanity of any form under which human beings have ever dwelt, from the beginning until now.

I love republicanism; I love this Constitution of which we have heard. It ought to be sustained, even if it should be necessary to lay down life to maintain it. Whatever faults there may be, whatever wrongs may exist, are not due to republicanism; they are not due to that glorious instrument to which allusion has been made, but to the maladministration of its principles. The form of government is not in the least responsible for those wrongs.

We have the best of reasons for holding republicanism in high estimation, for it was established expressly on this land to be a shield and protection to the Church and Kingdom of God. Would a monarchy or an autocracy have given it the necessary liberty? God in His supreme wisdom made ready the way, and has revealed to us, as we firmly believe, that this republican form of government was expressly prepared so that His Church and Kingdom might be established, grow and increase without coming into conflict with any principle of true liberty under the Constitution. On this account, if for no other, I think that we should be devotedly attached to this Constitution and to all institutions which have grown under it; and that we of all people who now dwell upon the face of this land should show our love for it and teach our children to love it, so that they may love it more than life.

So far as George Washington is concerned, it seems as though every attribute necessary to make a great, noble and almost perfect man was possessed by him. Doubtless he had his weaknesses. It is right, however, in holding up that

great man as an example to the rising generation, that those weaknesses should be covered with the mantle of charity. Those men who framed the Constitution were only human; George Washington was no more than man.

We have met today to honor his memory and to hold him up as an example to ourselves and our posterity—the example of patriotism that he gave to us and the nobility of his character. Above all, I think, the great and grand feature in his character was his reluctance to assume power, his unwillingness to take upon himself any authority or power which was not just, legitimate and consistent with the principles of that republicanism which he had espoused. This was the feature to be admired in him. He could have assumed dictatorial and perhaps kingly power had he so chosen; but the man's native worth, the grandeur of his character, the true conception which he possessed of republicanism and of the equality of men prevented him from taking any step of that kind. In fact, power had to be thrust upon him, or he would not have received it. This feature in his character stands out in noble contrast with that which we witness today around us in our own nation.

The great difficulty today—and I look upon it as one of the great evils that menaces us is the disposition of men to grasp power, rightfully or wrongfully, when it is placed within their reach—to exercise it in an improper manner over their fellowmen. Evils are growing up, or have grown up, around us in our nation which cause reflecting men who look to the future to view it with some degree of apprehension. We have now over sixty millions of people in this nation. A number of these are ignorant and yet have the right to vote, to select their own officers; and there is a class growing up in the nation who pander to these ignorant people, who bow to falsely created public opinion and commit wrongs in order to obtain power. This is one of the evils menacing our nation today. Politicians are willing to do almost anything to obtain the votes of the people and stand in terror lest they should do anything that would turn those votes against them, or that would forfeit the good opinion of these ignorant classes. To this cowardice of politicians may be traced the wrongs from which we have suffered; and it is the cause which has prevented this Territory from assuming its true position as a State in the United States. Leading men will say to you in conversation, "We believe you are fully entitled to the rights of Statehood; that you are a commonwealth fitted to take your place among the States of the Union, and would adorn it." They say this in private conversation; at the same time dare not vote for it, because, as they will confess, they are afraid of the effects such a vote would have upon their constituents. They fear that by voting for the admission of Utah they will lose the places which they