

ing one. Most likely it was among those questions which the framers of the Constitution anticipated might arise at some future period to perplex the nation and disturb its peace, and which caused the members of that honored and patriotic body of men to proceed cautiously, protracting their session for many days before they ventured to sign that instrument which has proved to be the very best that could have been framed to secure the liberties and rights of the whole people. No wonder those honored delegates should have felt the premonitions of danger as to the results that might follow in the then unseen future. It is not strange that they were filled with solicitude as to the future of their country, knowing, by common reasoning, that in the settling up of such a vast area of country, complications of a general and local character must naturally arise in the political, financial, social and sectional interests of the citizens. To show that great solicitude was felt in the convention, I need only relate the following, which is recorded of Dr. Franklin:

"Whilst the last members were signing, Dr. Franklin, looking towards the President's chair, at the back of which a rising sun happened to be painted, observed to a few members near him that painters have often found it difficult, in their art, to distinguish a rising from a setting sun. 'I have,' said he, 'often and often, in the course of the session, and the vicissitudes of my hopes and fears as to its issue, looked at that sun behind the President, without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting; but now, at length, I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun.'"

Dr. Franklin was certainly right in his final conclusion. It was indeed a "rising sun." Though the dark and angry clouds of rebellion and war have since obscured its brightness somewhat for four years, the hand of a great destiny has brushed them aside, and the glorious orb of liberty still shows a smiling face and mounts onward and upward to a zenith of future excellence; and the inspired Constitution, so carefully and wisely framed and adopted by Congress and the entire people, may it never be made a nullity by division, by rebellion or the deliberate vote of freemen.

The war, which has resulted in the liberation of four millions of slaves, has taught the American people a lesson that cannot fail to have its influence upon posterity. The future citizens of this republic will be slow to assemble cabals to connive against the perpetuity of the Government. They will hesitate to light the torch of revolution or fire such signal guns of revolt as shook the walls of Fort Sumpter. The gory fields that quickly followed the reverberating echoes of the rebel cannon will rise before the visions of coming generations, and they will consider well and wisely before igniting the match of incendiarism against the fair fabric of national liberty.

It must be that this American Republic has been framed to endure. It must be that the Divine hand of Omnipotence directed its formation and the fabric that has been erected upon it. It must be that its brightest destiny and the full career of its usefulness has not yet been reached. It must be that the hand of His great providence sustains the ark of freedom and will guide it to its full and bright destiny as the "cradle of liberty" for all who are trodden down by the feet of tyrants. I am convinced of this when I read concerning the discovery of the continent and of the emigration that afterward followed from all parts of the old world. I am inspired with that belief when I refer to the *Mayflower* and the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth Rock. I discern it in the planting of the colonies; in the Declaration of Independence, and in the magnanimity of those principles combined in the Constitution. And who can fail to be influenced by the potency of that incomprehensible power that held together the ship of State while the cannon belched forth its flames and hurled its death missiles over the fields of slaughter, where thousands upon thousands, who had been citizens together, lay dead in pools of fratricidal blood? And when a little time has blown away the smoke of hostile cannon and hushed the clang of arms where the opposing legions rushed to the shock of death, and I see once more the glad spectacle of a republic bowing to one flag; deliberating together, as of yore, in the highest councils of the nation; it is then that the patriot takes comfort; then the heart feels gladness, and the internal monitor whispers of the perpetuity of the republic and the blessings it is destined to secure to millions still unborn.

That the ship of State has safely sailed through a period of storms that rent her sails and imperiled its crew is evident to the entire world; but in its preservation the candid can discern the overruling of a power more potent and wise than that of man. The terrible picture of sixty millions of people, professing freedom, rushing into a general conflict and drenching the rich soil of a continent with the blood of those who owed a common allegiance to one flag, had been a strange enigma even to oppressive monarchs. They said the American Republic had at last shown its weakness—a weakness that belonged to all republics—and boasted that only monarchies were strong and lasting. But now that perhaps two millions have found a soldier's grave, and the same stars and stripes float in triumph in all the world—respected and recognized everywhere—they once more witness the workings of that vital and internal force that was early interwoven in the grand symmetry of the national fabric.

That our Union is thus so wonderfully preserved Americans have great reason to thank the God who lifts up nations and casts them down at His behest. Will they learn wis-

dom from the bitter past? If they will and will act upon the principles of the Constitution, there will be good hope for the government. If men in power will dispense equal justice to every citizen and see that none are proscribed in the exercise of their political and religious rights, it will be a reform that will answer the demands of humanity. If the ballot box is kept pure that the voice of the majority shall decide as to who shall rule in the government, it will protect the franchise from further corruption. If in the legislative councils of States and in the halls of Congress men will stand erect in their honor and decline to be swayed from their honest convictions by the pressure of political parties or the bigotry of the religious sectarists; if bribes are withheld, or rejected, if offered; if the Constitution shall draw the line of demarcation and fix the path to be pursued by him who accepts of office—then may the government go onward in its great career of purity and enlightenment. Then may Americans indeed hope ever to be free and prosperous, and the march of the Republic to be such as to secure the admiration of all the world, which loves strong and permanent governments; able to overcome the internal bickerings of traitors, and defy the efforts of the kingcraft of old monarchies ever to obtain a foothold upon this God blessed continent.

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### SCENES OF DEATH.

The *Straits Times* gives the following account of a riot between 5000 coolies which began at Bangkok June 16th and continued four days: The report which appeared on Saturday stating that a serious riot had broken out among the Chinese populace of Bangkok is now not only confirmed, but later and authentic accounts go to show that the affair was of more serious proportions than was reported. There are two kongsees in Bangkok, the coolies in the employ of Windsor, Rose & Co. and the cargo-boat coolies comprising one society, while the coolies of the Borneo Company, Messrs. Markwald, and the coolies employed in three Chinese-owned rice mills from the other kongsee.

These two societies have several times been in collision, but on the 16th of June the disturbances which eventually led on to the riot commenced, and gradually assumed larger dimensions until the night of the 18th, when the two bodies met, and after a sharp bout, during which firearms were freely used, they again dispersed. This was practically the beginning of the rioting.

Early on the following morning the coolies of No. 1 society, instead of returning to their ordinary routine duty, occupied themselves by erecting two blockades across the main road, one at each end of the mill. The No. 2 society also blocked the traffic a little lower down the road. A little shooting was all that