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## SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE.

In countries with popular government the citizens naturally divide into political groups, or parties. As they differ in their views, owing to the difference in their gifts of perception, degree of knowledge, or previous training, they form associations in accordance with their opinions on questions of public interest. Parties arise under all forms of government. Where there is a despotism, however, the great multitudes of citizens are not supposed to take part in the party contests. They are supposed to be merely silent spectators of the conflicts that are being waged among the favored few who claim to have a personal interest in matters pertaining to the government. But where popular government prevails, parties also become popular.

Such formation of different parties is not only natural, but necessary to preserve the balance of power. As long as partisanship is confined to its legitimate sphere, it is also beneficial. It causes discussion of issues and a dissemination of knowledge on current questions. Through the operation of party politics, the citizens will gain an experience that can be obtained in no other way. By the varying fortunes of parties, by which now one party and now another is elevated to power and responsibility for the administration of public affairs, different principles of government are put to a practical test. This enables the citizens to judge for themselves and choose the course they should take in the future. Their experience will warn them against supporting the principles which have proved disastrous, and help them to choose those that have been tested and found good, because promoting peace and prosperity, and securing for the country influence in the council of nations.

When, however, so-called politicians descend below the level of civilized beings and make war upon their fellow citizens, a war utterly void of reason and with no more principle for its motive than an encounter in the wilderness between hungry wolves over a morsel of food, they are outside the sphere of legitimate politics. When they resort to slander and abuse and the creation of sensations to gain a point, they are no longer entitled to the consideration due an honest partisan. They violate the principles of popular government, as well as the rules governing gentlemanly conduct. They, moreover, confess the weakness of their cause, for he who has a true principle to announce, a truth to defend, does not need to resort to dishonorable tactics. Falsehoods may need such supports; truth, never.

Patriotic citizens everywhere should unite in a strong demand for respectable tactics in political campaigns, no matter what the issues are. Even in actual war, where the appeal is made to brute force, there are certain rules of conduct no civilized nation would care to break. This should be the case when citizens perform their duties as citizens and select officers to represent them in the administration of the government. The work of certain politicians is certainly injurious to the interests of the State. It is not approved by anyone, except those who hope to profit by strife and contention. If every citizen were concerned about the welfare of the community, there would be no occasion for bitter contests. With the element of selfishness eliminated, it would be much easier to preserve unity and harmony. We believe it is the duty of every respectable citizen to leave the breeders of strife severely alone. He who identifies himself with their cause, simply assists in working a grave and almost irreparable injury to the community in which he lives, and in which his material interests center.

## THE NEW FRENCH PREMIER.

The new French Premier, M. Clemenceau, is described as one of the most brilliant figures in French politics for the last twenty years. It is said that he has caused the fall of no less than sixteen cabinets. To Americans he is of special interest, because, as a young man, he lived in New York for four years. He also married an American girl, but they were later divorced. He is said to be a man of high literary attainments, with a large fund of philosophical knowledge. He will need all the intellectual equipment he may possess, for the republic has at present great problems to solve. There is the question of church and state, and, if we mistake not, that is a matter which must be handled with great discrimination, or the state will be the loser in the conflict. Whenever a state has engaged in a warfare against an ecclesiastical organization, it has always had to retreat, for the simple reason that the citizen's right to belief and practice of worship is inalienable.

Another question at present prominent in France, as in the United States, is the divorce question. Until 1854, the French law on this subject was very strict and divorces were comparatively speaking, few. In that year greater freedom of divorce was given by law, and it was supposed by those who favored the measure that this would diminish the number of divorces for indelicacy. But this has proved a miscalculation. The number of divorces for this cause during the four years preceding 1854 was only 324. This is said to have increased to 2,214 during the last four years. Consequently, an agitation has commenced in favor of the restriction of the freedom of divorce,

but there is also a crusade in progress to secure greater liberties. This is naturally regarded by the clerical party as an effect of the anti-Catholic sentiment. It is unfortunate for any country to have an anti-ecclesiastical sentiment affecting the discussion of questions relating to the welfare of the public. Such matters should be disposed of without prejudices, since these will necessarily blind the judgment of even the best of men.

## UNITED, WE STAND.

Less than a decade since, just prior to the opening of the Spanish-American war, the United States presented, outwardly at least, a condition of sectional division, partisan prejudice, and personal animosity which made most of the European powers believe that this nation was weakened materially by internal dissensions, and could not be counted on seriously as a world-power. But events in the opening month of 1898 brought the people of the United States to a realization that danger threatened the nation—that in the imminence of war with Spain there was a menace to the prestige of this Republic, and a blow aimed at that successful career of laudable purpose and action which never had known defeat. In their realization of the threatened danger, the people sprang together with one accord; the voice of sectional division was hushed; the bitterness of partisan prejudice was cast aside; the preferences and animosities of personal aims were relegated to the rear, in common defense of the national welfare. There was not a sectional line, no party obligation, no personal hostility that was allowed to stand in the way of unanimity in meeting and coping with a national peril. From Maine to California, from Florida to the State of Washington, the nation was united. The volunteers of Massachusetts, of Wisconsin, of Utah, of Oregon, of Texas, of South Carolina, were all marching under one flag. The American people stopped not to discuss the why and the how of getting together; they got together speedily and well. Patriotism, that higher sentiment of citizenship, swept aside all other differences.

It was a magnificent spectacle to other governments and peoples. It was grander, and more effective still, as a lesson to Americans and to other nationalities. The world learned that the United States was not a divided, tottering nation. Even with sectional dissension and party strife at home, this nation was strong enough to overthrow the Spanish power in Cuba. But in the inseparable union of all her sentiments and forces at home, not only did she sweep from the Gem of the Antilles the misrule of Spain, but that misrule went out of the Western Hemisphere and of the Far East. Every nation on earth recognized that the Stars and Stripes waved over one of the foremost world-powers. United, the nation stood for a grander and more glorious prestige and development than had been dreamed of before, except in prophetic vision.

The lesson of this retrospect is of inestimable value in the condition of today. The members of a society or a community may have differences which in the ordinary peaceful conduct of affairs seem insurmountable. But when a common danger threatens, these differences become insignificant in the presence of the grander and more exalted duty which calls people together, and that higher sentiment of patriotism which burns in every true American's heart, springs to the common defense. When the rights and liberties of people in this nation are menaced, the spirit of true Americanism does not waste time in discussing the why and the how of getting together, but, taking up the line of its national leadership stands as a solid phalanx in defense of the rights and liberties of every citizen, however humble. The course followed in the Spanish-American war shows how well the American people then realized the force of the Divine Master's admonition, "A house divided against itself cannot stand," and by their unanimity in laying aside all minor differences, they stood for a firmer, grander, invincible union.

The lesson thus taught should not be wasted now or in future, either in the nation, in a State, or in a community, when the menace of a common danger calls for prompt and vigorous action in the common defense. When the citizens are united and determined, the onslaught of an unscrupulous and wicked foe is easily repelled.

All work and no grinding makes an axe dull.

It should be easy to hear Mr. Hughes in his den, he is so hirsute.

The insurgents having been disarmed, criticism has been disarmed in Cuba.

A Kentucky paper wants to know who owns the English language. All who have mastered it.

How the trusts must fear Mr. Hearst! Every puff from his cigar is a whiff of grapeshot.

So far, no one has accused the "hierarchies" of having caused the late hurricane.

If great fortunes were heavily taxed as the President suggests, most people's wethers would be unwring.

Colorado really feels proud to think that she can have such a great snow storm so early in the year.

The man who attempts to lead "the ideal life" generally wants a great deal of idleness with which to do it.

Ex-Senator Burton says that though in prison he is not guilty. Then he can tell the world how sleep the brave.

The late Speaker Reed's fortune has trebled since his death. Why cannot such things happen in a man's lifetime?

It is said that the Sultan of Turkey cannot live six months longer. There is not a monarch anywhere that has the vitality of the Sick Man of Europe.

A peculiar thing about the newspapers

pictures of the late Mrs. Jefferson Davis is that they look very much as though they were of the same person.

Truly America is the land of the dollar this year with campaign and other contributions being for the sum of one dollar, "and other good and lawful considerations."

The United States supreme court refused to take jurisdiction of the case of Mayor Rose of Kansas City, Kan. The result is that he remains a Kansas character instead of becoming a national one.

The man who undertook to finance a Venezuelan revolution by counterfeiting the silver coin of the realm of Castro, got six months' imprisonment for his trouble. As a financier he proved a most eminent failure.

Margaret Anglin, the actress, desires the police to arrest a young man who has been annoying her for two years. This form of advertising is preferable to hair breadth escapes from burning hotels or diamond robberies.

Gompers' advice to the labor unions of Chicago to quit their quarreling, was the best he could have given them. It is advice that might well be heeded by others than members of labor unions. There is too much quarreling in the world.

The United States can take no steps to bring about the extradition of Silveira, the Cuban banker wanted in Havana now supposed to be in Caracas, Venezuela. The proper proceeding in this case would be to sue out a writ of habeas Caracas.

The veterinarian of the State Agricultural college, who has been investigating the disease from which the livestock in Sevier county is suffering, says that it is not pleuropneumonia, but is due to something that the stock has eaten. Why not enforce the pure food law in Sevier county and stop the disease?

Notwithstanding the mishap to French submarine boats, a French naval engineer maintains that this class of craft is the ideal means of coast defense for small states. The battleship, he admits, remains the master on the high seas, but the submarine boat is to play a most important role in future warfare in the coast defense.

According to a Vienna newspaper, negotiations are now in progress for a commercial treaty between Russia and Japan. The Japanese representative is said to have been most cordially received by the Czar and treated with exceptional honors, and the highest state officials are said to have vied with one another in paying attentions to him. But for all that, some of the Russians fear that the Japanese are planning another attack upon the empire.

## MEN'S ROOMS.

Harper's Bazar.

Man may keep his ideals of comfort and convenience firmly in mind as the two essential principles, and still yield gracefully to the claims of beauty without loss of dignity. His commodious desk or writing-table may delight his very soul with its size and convenient drawers and compartments, and still be well proportioned and of beautiful wood. His chair may rest and soothe every tired muscle and nerve as he sinks into its depths, and yet be gracefully shaped and rich and harmonious in color. The curtains needed for practical purposes may fulfill all these purposes, drawing back and forth readily and resisting successfully a too vigorous pull or push, and still be beautiful in color and texture. Furniture, textiles, and wall-hangings of today all seem to be particularly adapted to a man's needs and ideas. The man's ideal and the woman's have united, and we have beauty and usefulness combined.

## MRS. JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Portland Oregonian.  
 Mrs. Jefferson Davis, after long lingering in the Valley of the Shadow, has passed on. Perhaps no figure in the fallen fortunes of the Southern Confederacy, except that of Jefferson Davis himself, was more conspicuous and in a sense more pathetic than this loyal and heroic wife. The eighty years of the life of Mrs. Davis covered a period at once the most stormy and peaceful, the most gloomy and the most prosperous, in the history of the republic. Like all Southern women, she was intensely sectional in her loyalty to her country, and though time had taken the keen edge from her disappointment and sorrow at the failure of the attempt to establish the Southern Confederacy, and she had softened the asperities born of intense convictions and bitter conflict, she was until the last loyal to what she considered the just contention of the South for a separate government with negro slavery as its cornerstone.

## A LUSTY INFANT.

Butte (Mont.) News.

The new star which has been added to the northern constellation, on Old Glory comes with wealth beyond the ordinary. Oklahoma is prosperous—nay, wealthy. Oklahoma will formally enter the Union with more assets and less indebtedness than any previous state. The only financial obligation against the new State is \$500,000 in territorial warrants, while the last monthly statement of the territorial treasurer showed a balance on hand of \$78,102. This would leave a balance of 278,102. In addition to which Oklahoma will receive a school fund of \$5,000,000 in cash from the United States treasury, besides several million acres of school lands for the further maintenance of schools and colleges.

## JUST FOR FUN.

Suggestiveness.

The Romans were building the catacombs.  
 "We wish, though," they remarked, "these tombs didn't remind us too much of Pliny Conners' headquarters."

As the wish was futile, they went on making receptacles for some more dead ones.

Might Send Missionaries Here.

Rigid censorship should prevent the Cubans and Filipinos from reading details of that peculiar form of barbarism known as the college class rush.—Chicago Post.

The Master—Joan, don't you know that letters should be brought in on the silver salver?

The Servant—Oh, yes, I know it well enough, but I didn't know that your honor knew it as well.—Kikeriki.

Young Lady (in hairdresser's shop). I should like to see a false front. Hairdresser—With pleasure, Mad-

am. What shade does your friend wish.—Wiener Salon-witzblatt.

Panbroker—I am very sorry, but I can't lend you anything on Schiller's works.

Student (enraged)—Beast, and you presume to include yourself among educated persons!—Wiener Salon-witzblatt.

Mr. Moore (to his son, who has just been through a punching from the other kid and has not attempted to hit him back)—Vy don't you smash him one, you little fool?

They (sotto voce)—Hill, father, I've got me foot on a thrippenny bit.—Ally sloper.

Redd—I see they have a new dance called the automobilly dance.

Greene—Is it a breakdown.—Yonkers Statesman.

"When you read, my son," advised the prudent sire, "you should always select the meat of good literature."  
 "Meat!" echoed the studious son.  
 "That's just what I am doing, pa."  
 "Indeed? What have you been reading today?"  
 "Bacon and Lamb."

She—So you told Lady Buncomb she looked as young as her daughter! That caught the old lady, I know.  
 He—Yes; but it lost me the daughter.  
 Judy.

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