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Andrew Johnson's Eloquence.

If there is anything which in the light of history will become clear to the American people it is that the memory of Andrew Johnson has not had justice done to it. He was one of the strongest, most patriotic men America has produced, in spite of the clouds of disrepute and bitterness that obscured his later days and shortened his brave life. One is glad to see in The Magazine of American History a paper by Charles Aldrich, recalling to us the splendid oratory of the great Tennessean. Some extracts are given from one of his speeches when he was in the United States senate.

It was on March 2, 1861, just before Lincoln was inaugurated. From Maine to Texas public excitement was seething and boiling. Congress was expiring. It was known that Johnson desired to speak, but Confederate sympathizers determined that he should not if they could help it. Wigfall, of Texas, had said in open senate: "Gentlemen of the Republican party, the old Union is dead. The only question that concerns anybody now is as to its burial. Shall we have a decent Christian funeral or an Irish wake?" Senator Lane, of Oregon, had purposely tried to use up all the time, so some would be left for Johnson. Northern senators and those who upheld the old Union had been freely taunted with being cowards. At length, in spite of interruptions, Johnson got his chance and used it. He had not a scrap of paper or note of any kind. What he said was the outburst of a born orator's patriotic heart. He spoke of the taunts as to lack of courage that had been flung in the teeth of Union men that day. He said:

> There are men who talk about cowards, coming, and all that description of thing; and in this connection I want to say, not boastingly, that there is no man living who has been longer upon any thing in the shape of mortal man than this humble friend.

It was the truth, too. Andrew Johnson, single handed, once cowed and backed down a whole mob of roughs who were trying to kill him.

The speech against Lane and for the Union was one of the greatest ever uttered in that old senate house. As he warmed up and went on he carried the sympathetic galleries with him completely. The excitement wrought itself in wild applause that the officers of the senate could no more restrain than if it had been a raging torrent. There are young Americans who will be interested to know what a patriotic speech just at the outbreak of the civil war was like. Senator Harlan said that this speech of Johnson's had never been equaled in the country. The applause did not subside till some minutes after he had finished. The order was given to arrest those who were making the noise. Mr. Aldrich heard some of them declare with oaths that the sergeant-at-arms might arrest, that they were ready to go now.

Johnson closed as follows:

> The people of the country ought to be armed in this condition of things. They ought to buckle on their armor, and as Democrats they have rights bestowed by the exercise of the elective franchise, by going to the ballot box under a law out of indulgence, especially and particularly those who have carried some states out and secured a government over their heads. I tell you that that old flag of the Union will never be struck. I tell it may long wave, and that we may long hear the national old song:
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> "Then our mangled banner, long may it wave
> Over the land of the free and the home of the brave."
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> Long may we hear old "Hail, Columbia," that good old national air, played on all our martial instruments. Long may we hear and never produce the old tune of "Yankee Doodle!" Long may we view that ensign of the Republic which went through the Revolution, and which was borne by Tennessee and Kentucky at the battle of New Orleans, upon that soil the right to navigate the Mississippi near which is now found. Upon that library hold the men and actions worst in attitude, not in the language of sentiment, the ashes of Liberty heaved around when "the curlew's sad plaint" went forth, informing that the battle was raging, and watched the sense and the conflict grow fierce. The issue was doubtful; but when at length victory perched upon our stars and stripes, it was then on the plains of New Orleans that the goddess of Liberty took her infant flight, and proclaimed victory in accents of exultation. Will Tennessee ever desert the given of him who bore it in triumph, or desert the flag that he waved with success? Nay! We were of the Union before some of these states were spoken into existence, and we intend to remain in, and twice upon—as we have the constitutional right, we shall get—that our rights and rights and protection in the Union and under the constitution of the country.

Many attempts have been made from century to century to toughen glass. Joseph Martin, a glassblower of New Castle, Pa., believes that at length he has succeeded in solving the problem. He claims to have made a piece of glass as strong that a blacksmith could not break it with a hammer when it was laid upon his anvil. If this be true lamp chimneys will no longer break, everybody can have beautiful glass dishes for common table use, and half the fun of the world will be done for bad boys, because they can no longer sky stones though the windows of empty houses.

The proposition has been made to put children's playgrounds upon the roof of city school houses wherever yard room is scarce and land is dear. School houses in London have already been built in that way, and the result has been satisfactory. It is a poor substitute, however, for the old playground upon the solid back of mother Earth. It is probably the best we can do though, this roof playground. But if we had rapid transit and cheap railway fares parents could afford to live in less crowded districts and their children would have room to play.

When Are We Old?

A change has come over the estimate of manhood in regard to age, says a writer in The Century. Men used to be old at 40, and Lincoln called himself an old man at 56, and when Washington was in he spoke of his "advanced season of life." Now unlucky souls old say more as long as he can be a man among men, and do the full work of one. The average age of the United States senate is at present 58, and several of the justices of the supreme court are past 70.

In supplementing the article in The Century, Malcolm W. Ford, the athlete, has recently written a paper showing that even the physical activity of men carries a longer period than is generally supposed. He shows that the age at which an athlete's powers wane and he may no longer consider himself eligible for prize contests. William B. Curtis, one of the pioneer American athletes, was winning prizes in contests at the age of 46, and was throwing weights then better than he had ever done. Henry C. Buenzow, 53 years of age, can still "break an ordinary man almost in two." The athlete who breaks down young is the fast liver. Donald Dinnie, a Scotchman whom Mr. Ford knew, was going around the country engaging in athletic contests and winning them at the age of 53. When Dinnie was 18 years old he considered himself as good at running and jumping as he had ever been. So when is a man to consider himself old?

The Nicaragua Canal.

In the winter of 1889 the Maritime Canal company, of Nicaragua, was incorporated by congress. The company asked no aid from government, only seeking a charter—a legal certificate—"to give the company an honest name," as one of the most enthusiastic advocates of the bill said. Two years have passed since the company was chartered. The incorporators have been at work, and it does not appear that they have done anything which shows them unworthy of the trust reposed in them. They have obtained important concessions from the Nicaragua and Costa Rica governments, and all is working harmoniously.

It is desired now, however, to still more set the seal of the United States government upon the enterprise. To this end an amendment to the original charter has been introduced into congress. Mr. Sherman, so long chairman of the committee on foreign relations, has introduced the bill to amend in the senate, with the unanimous recommendation of his committee that it be passed.

The new act will give the United States government substantially control over the canal, without probably calling on it for any funds, though it will guarantee payment of principal and interest on the new bonds, which permission is given to the company to issue, to the amount of $100,000,000. In case the company fails to pay the interest as it falls due the secretary of the treasury is authorized to pay it.

The new Nicaragua bonds, if the bill becomes a law, are to bear date of Jan. 1, 1891, and are to be payable Jan. 1, 1991. They will bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent., payable quarterly. The bonds as they are printed will be deposited with the United States treasurer, and he will give them up to the company from time to time as the work progresses. By the senate act the United States will make such a contract with the Maritime company as will assure the completion of the canal within six years. Then the government will practically control this magnificent work, just as England now controls the Suez canal. Furthermore, there is one important advantage to be realized by the United States from this bill. By its provisions the government is empowered at any time to purchase a majority of the company's stock, if our national interests require it.

Washington's Birthday serves the school children a shabby trick this year. It comes on Sunday.

The worst storm of the season will come this year between Feb. 1 and 15, says Levi Boles, of Lee, Mass. It was Boles who predicted the New York blizzard of March, 1888. He tells all the ice gathering companies get in their work during January, as after that the snow will hinder them from cutting. And we shall see what we shall see.

In The Phonogram, the organ of the phonographic companies of the United States, Col. Robert G. Ingersoll writes a patriotic lament that there was no phonograph in Bible times, so that we could have heard the real voice of the serpent when he tempted Eve, of Jonah when he commanded the sun to stand still, likewise the genuine tones of Balaam's ass. The latter, however, may not have been such an irreparable loss. Asses have opened their mouths and spoken time and again, from the days of Balaam till now. And they keep at it.

Mrs. Ellen S. Richards is professor of chemistry in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She recommends that all girls' schools add to their course a chair of domestic economy. From it should come instructions in sanitary science, bacteriology, health cookery and biology. Collegiate alumnae could then go out from their schools and become missionaries of a higher civilization to mankind. They could form home science clubs everywhere, interest the average woman in the perfecting of homes in all ways, and so reform the world in time.

The Mexican Gulf railway, in Mexico, is the most gorgeously constructed road in the world. Its ties are of solid mahogany, and many of the bridges and culverts are of white marble. The contractors say these magnificent materials are the cheapest they could use, since both abounded along the line of the railway.

Farmers' Views.

The Springfield (Mass) Agricultural Press and a number of other agricultural papers, both east and west, have made a tolerably thorough canvass of the farmers' sentiment on leading questions of the time, and particularly on the question of who shall be the respective Republican and Democratic nominees for president.

The farmers have had such hard times in the last half dozen years that they cringe at anything they think will help them. Therefore they demand that government shall give them a new deal all around, with new names and a distinctly rural agricultural man the Secretary Rusk for presidential candidate. But as showing the inherent clinging to the old parties, it is found in way in and that the favorite candidate of the Democratic farmer is Cleveland, of the Republican farmer, Blaine. The Republicans are more divided on the question than the Democrats, however.

Cause of the Indian Rising.

Elaine Goodale has been among the Sioux Indians seven years, teaching them and trying to lead them into civilized ways, except as to their dress. She thinks the red race is far ahead of the white one in the matter of comfortable and convenient dress. Elaine knows the language of the Indians intimately. She has lived among them familiarly, and knows what the Indian themselves are trouble to tell about their troubles.

She writes a letter to The New York World setting forth the influences that have been at work among the savages since her advent among them. We have had disgrace and suffering enough over this last Indian outbreak. Once for all, the wisest, most upright and sensible persons in the country ought to be asked to deal with the Indians, those who will go to them with the desire to help them, to be honest with them, and not to make money off them. If the savages are really cheated, all the more will a decent white man abstain from cheating them. The commercial and political way of dealing with Indians is bearing fruit now, and bitter fruit.

Miss Goodale says:

> The present crisis in Indian affairs is certainly embarrassing to most of us. We have been very intimately associated with the Sioux for the past five years, some full years at least any for actual residence among them, and we have had opportunity of judging. Their last year's growing suspicion of the Indian good faith our enlightenment has to offer, a desire for the work education, as the power of teaching of Christianity, Indians have learned to recognize the power of civil succeeding even when it expressed in their in the person of a woman or a team of the laborers named and appointed white men, and such men and women, usually educationalists, have gained their respect and reality. But there has been a powerful undercurrent of unchanged, malicious and boisterous a note of suspicion.
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> Civilization has not been to the people what it promised to be. The fact is brought was usually rapid and inconsistent. The laborer was kind and upright, while the other and dressed white man was a rarity. The low minded, sensual, greedy, unscrupulous and utterly selfish white man was so frequently placed over them and teachers. Instead of speak. Was nevertheless they relinquished a third of their domain and cast some of the proof and benefits. Labor was exchanged of the annuity payment, and the Indian was left to the mercies of the white man. Hunger was pressing and sickness, universal, and death became a familiar guest in almost every lodge.
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> Especially was the mortality among little children and old and feeble so great as to remind the old men and women of the ghost dances of years ago, and the ghost dances made a great deal of trouble with the Indians. Indian agents, and the Indians, believed that many of the ghost dances, a sacred dance, came to the Indian.
>
> New general warfare was brought about was an other question, and one upon which there could have been much difference of opinion. By personal observation, it was clear that we had no intention to destroy the whites; that the Indians are standing in the bridge of our civilization, and may only as they gradually themselves to be brought to bay.

All to Sixteen Years.

Mr. Charles Fletcher, of Providence, R. I., whose enormous woolen mills—said to be the largest in the world—have been handed over to a syndicate, was sixteen years ago an overlooker at thirty shillings a week at his native village of Thornton, Yorkshire. In 1873 he went to America with $500 in his pocket, and started a mill, which was burned down just when he was getting to work, he being everything in his power in consequence of the fire. His business, however, soon recovered and again very soon. His mills now employ no fewer than 2,300 workpeople, and the profits of the concern in one year were $80,000.—London Tit-Bits.

The Natives and the Missionary.

Mr. Stanley has a high opinion of the integrity of the natives, and says they do not know how to lie. He tells of a missionary who contracted with the natives to build him a house for a certain number of brass rods. When the house was finished the missionary tried to get the natives to take less than they had bargained for. This was reported to Stanley, and he told the missionary that he must pay just what he had agreed upon. This he did reluctantly, but the natives had learned to distrust him, and he was obliged to leave the country.—Minneapolis Tribune.

In Georgia the question has been settled whether a congregation can be compelled to pay its preacher. Chief Justice Bleckley has decided that the Baptist church at Antioch must be sold to pay the salary of its pastor. Business that lagged congregations will now hustle to buy it in. They would scarcely like to see it pass out of their hands because they failed to pay their pastor.

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