

who seem to love the franchise as much as they do life itself, although it does appear to be a bit preposterous that they should persist in making their cause the paramount issue at this critical time in the nation's affairs.

In the meantime, the lady from Montana, Miss Rankin, seems to have forgotten her sisters altogether. At least, her time has been mostly occupied in an endeavor to compromise the labor troubles in her home state in such a manner that the I. W. W. will not get the worst of the bargain. The probabilities are that she is heartily ashamed of much that the militant suffragists have done to date but doesn't consider it good politics (policy, perhaps, would be a better word in her case) to openly disapprove of the propaganda.

And speaking of those who like to splash around in shallow water, what about Vice-president Marshall? It has long been known that all was not harmony between him and President Wilson although it was not expected that he would openly criticize the administration. Yet he did more than this; he opposed the president's program in congress time and again, and in a manner that did not become one in his exalted position. Then, when he had been balked at every turn, instead of accepting the situation in good grace and standing solidly behind the president, he gave vent to a fine flourish of words and went away from Washington to spend the summer. Since then he has been sulking in his tent. But why make further observations? The text covers everything we have in mind to say.

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A VOICE FROM THE PAST.

THIS nation has a banner, and wherever it streamed abroad men saw daybreak bursting on their eyes, for the American flag has been the symbol of liberty, and men rejoiced in it. Not another flag on the globe has such an errand or went forth upon the sea carrying everywhere the world around such hope for the captive and such glorious tidings. The stars upon it were to the pining nations like the morning stars of God, and the stripes upon it were the beams of morning light. And wherever the flag comes and men behold it they see in its sacred blazonry no rampant lion and fierce eagle, but only light, and every fold significant of liberty.

Let us then twine each thread of the glorious tissue of our country's flag about our heartstrings, and, looking upon our homes and catching the spirit that breathes upon us from the battlefields of our fathers, let us resolve, come weal or woe, we will in life and death stand by the Stars and Stripes.

The foregoing has such a striking and direct application to our present day affairs that one could readily believe that the sentiments were uttered by some gifted contemporary. They are quoted, however, from Henry Ward Beecher who gave expression to them at a time when the nation was facing a similar crisis. And yet how pertinent the utterance is today. Need we longer wonder why we are at war or what is our duty as a nation? This tells us in language so clear that it permits of no further controversy. And if we would hold true to our traditions as citizens of the great Republic, we will hearken to this gifted voice that comes to us out of a glorious past.

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TIME TO FORGET IT.

SOUTH CAROLINA contemporary takes Colonel Bryan severely to task for this recent utterance in support of prohibition: "Beverages that contain but a small percentage of alcohol will unsteady the nerves and impair the productive value of the drinker, no matter what his occupation may be." "How about Thomas Jefferson?" the fiery southern editor inquires; "He drank wine every day. Would Mr. Bryan say that the nerves of the author of the Declaration of Independence and the father of the Democratic party were 'unsteady'?" A rather pointed question, this, but we doubt that it will stump the Commoner.

Then we are reminded that Washington was a whiskey drinker; so was Andrew Jackson; so was General Grant and so was Grover Cleveland. Also, that Napoleon Bonaparte drank wine daily and had wine distributed to his soldiers as a part of their regular rations. The outstanding exception, so we are told, was Abraham Lincoln, and even

he—a strict teetotaler—in reply to some of Grant's critics who charged the general with drinking whiskey, said: "I wish some of you fellows would find out the particular brand that Grant is using and drink a little of it yourselves."

All of which is probably true. At least we have come to accept the tradition as based more or less on the truth, and while we think none the less of these great Americans who indulged in intoxicants in their day, we most certainly do not consider this an acceptable argument in favor of the use of alcoholics in the present generation. Who knows but what these are the very exceptions that prove the rule? We must confess that the more we see of prohibition and its effects, the better we like it. It goes without saying that this country could make excellent use of a few Washingtons, Jacksons, Cleverlands and Grants just now, and if whiskey-drinking would produce them out of our present generation we might be willing to give it a trial. In the absence of such assurance, however, the best thing to do is to forget it.

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WHAT AN OFFENSE!

THE diplomats seem to be having a merry time picking the president's peace note to pieces and speculating upon the probable impression it will leave on the minds of the German people. Last week we ventured the prediction that the message would make them mad as hornets, and that they would begin to fight as Germans never fought before. We are still of the same opinion and reports from across the seas appear to bear out the prediction.

One diplomat of prominence, speaking of the reception of the Wilson note in neutral circles, says: "Some incline to the belief that despite careful wording the answer would be construed as a 'command' to the German people to change their form of government, regarded as interfering with the internal rights of a sovereign people, and bitterly resented." In other words, we are to believe that the president has offended the dignity of the German people, and are warned that it is bad policy for us to do or say anything that might give the Germans a sense of humiliation.

How sensitive our enemies have become of late: We wonder if it has ever occurred to them that they have suffered humiliation in the opinion of mankind ever since they so ignominiously subjected themselves to the absolute dictation of their savage war lords. It is inconceivable how even the slightest sensibility of honor, dignity or common decency could possibly remain with them after all their outlandish acts. We had come to think of them as a shameless race. But if sufficient of the finer sensibilities remain to make possible their ultimate redemption, the realization can come only through their own self-rehabilitation. And President Wilson has pointed out the way. There is no other.

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AN EXTREME WAR MEASURE.

INASMUCH as cleanliness is said to be next to godliness, and the kaiser claims to be in close partnership with the Almighty, we wonder how the second member of the firm will view the recent dictum of the war lord respecting the sacrifice of sanitary customs in the interest of war economy. It is reported on good authority that the emperor has recently promulgated a series of sumptuary laws prohibiting the use of napkins on all tables—unless made of paper—and forbidding the use of tablecloths of any fabric whatever. Guests in hotels and lodging houses are limited to one towel a day, save on rare occasions they are allowed to use a soiled towel while taking a bath. Also, in the exact translation of the royal edict, such guests, "as a fundamental principle, must make their bed linen serve for at least a week before it is changed, and the rule may only be broken in extraordinary circumstances."

Some of these imperial decrees, stringent as they may seem, are not without a touch of humor. For instance: newly wedded couples are, by grace of his highness, allowed double food rations during their first six weeks of married life. It goes without saying that the placing of this premium on war marriages in Germany has its own peculiar advantages.