

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF 1918

By ARTHUR WOOLLEY.

to our friends, it is the hardest thing in the world to discover what is typical and not to improve on it with a little exaggeration. What, for instance, is the typical Englishman like? He is an entirely different being according as he is seen by a friend or an enemy. One picture shows him strong and silent, speaking the truth when he speaks at all, a lover of the bath, dispensing justice to the ends of the earth. The opposite picture shows him hypocritical, greedy, grinding the faces of the poor with a Bible in his hand, the robber of the globe, spreading gin and disease wherever he goes. Common sense suggests to us that neither the Englishman of the pedestal nor the Englishman of hostile satirists is the typical Englishman. Human nature is too oddly compounded of good and evil to allow either so white a saint or so beastly a sinner as a national type. No doubt, however, they will both survive as "types" for many years to come as a result of our passion for the picturesque. This is the passion which is responsible for half the falsifications in history. It is because Macaulay sought after the picturesque rather than the typical things that his judgments on great men have been so destructively challenged. Thus he represented as characteristic actions of Dr. Johnson's the ejaculation of the Lord's Prayer in the middle of a dinner party and a fit of absentmindedness during which he stooped down and took off a lady's shoe. Suetonius in the same way wrote historical biography in which he heaped anecdote upon anecdote without discrimination between what was eccentric and what was typical, or even between what was true and what was false. And the result is, a strong reaction has set in against his portrait of a foul and debauched Tiberius. True history, like true art and perhaps true statesmanship, is the discovery of typical things. The exaggeration of the eccentric and abnormal, with whatever earnestness, is mere entertainment and anecdote.—Town Talk.

THE TWO WOMEN

Once on a Time there was a Woman who was very Beautiful and Virtuous. But she became the victim of a Grand Passion, and she was sore Distraught betwixt her desires to live Morally or Merrily. So long did she Dally with her Indecision that at last the Inevitable occurred and she Went Wrong.

There was also another Woman. Once on the same Time, and she, too, was alike and Similarly tempted. Being of an impulsive disposition, she paused not to Think of Consequences, or Consider Results, but Hurl'd herself Headlong into the very Arms of Temptation.

The moral of all this is that the woman who hesitates is lost, and that we should look before we leap; but the results are the same in any case.—Town Topics.

THE Declaration of Independence, adopted by the Continental Congress of the thirteen original United States of America, on July 4th, 1776, ushered in a new era in government—the dispensation of human liberty. The message which it bore has been accepted by all the peoples of the earth save one. Every great state of the world, except the two which embrace the Germanic race, is now in form and in spirit and in fact democratic. Autocracy's last stand is Germania. And mighty hosts are now battling to eradicate this last vestige of tyranny, and to make all mankind free.

May not democracy at this critical hour call upon those among the German people who love liberty to assist in this great cause—and to subscribe to a Declaration of Independence which, imperfectly paraphrasing a perfect model, might read something after this wise?—

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundations on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience has shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government and to provide new guards for their future security.

Such has been the patient suffering of the German people, and such is now the necessity which constrains it to alter its former system of government. The history of the present emperor of Germany is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over this race, and dominion over all men. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world: He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has set his will against the will of the people and denied them the privilege of suffrage and the benefits of representative government, rights

inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has restricted the liberty of conscience and made ecclesiastical as well as political officers dependent on his will for the tenure of their office and the manner of their functioning.

He has kept among us in times of peace huge standing armies, draining the resources of the people and withdrawing labor from productive enterprise.

He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to the civil power, protecting them by immunity from punishment for any arrogant brutalities which they should commit on the inhabitants of the country.

He has abdicated government among us and essayed to reign by right of Divine authority.

He has assumed to speak for God.

He has plunged us into bloody war for conquests without our assent and without consulting our desires.

Secretly conspiring with others to compel a pretext for war.

Seeking by lying evasions to shift the blame to opposing statesmen.

He has wilfully violated the most solemn compacts made with neighboring people.

Has invaded their peaceful provinces, plundered and pillaged and laid waste their lands, destroyed their edifices and treasures of art, levied tribute upon their cities, transported their men into enforced servitude, committed horrible butcheries upon their populace, debauched their women and made beasts of the sons of our mothers.

He has waged war with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy unparalleled in the most barbarous ages and totally unworthy of the head of a civilized nation.

His policy of studied ruthlessness has been pursued upon land and sea and has been extended to include the commerce of neutral and friendly nations.

He has resorted to the use of gases, whose poisonous fumes dealt death to noncombatants as well as to opposing soldiery.

He has dropped explosive bombs from the air upon unfortified cities, killing the unoffending inhabitants.

A great steamer, primarily and chiefly a conveyance for passengers and carrying more than a thousand souls, who had no part or lot in the

conduct of the war, has been torpedoed and sunk without so much as a challenge or a warning and men, women and children have been sent to their deaths in circumstances unparalleled in modern warfare.

Citizens of neutral states have thus been wantonly murdered by his order.

He has not restrained his mercenaries from directing their instruments of destruction against transports and hospitals succoring wounded and maimed, which are made inviolate from harm by every dictate of justice.

He has sought to embroil neutral powers and set them upon one another in war, to divert their interests from his own depredations.

He has sent his spies among them. Perpetrated outrages with fire and dynamite upon their industries.

Incited unrest and dissatisfaction amongst their people and conspired against their internal peace.

He has by these operations brought upon us as well as himself the anathemas of all the world and set upon us the armies of more than a score of nations, who are foresworn to conquer and destroy the menace of his expanding power.

He has imposed untold hardships upon us, destroyed our credit, wrecked our industries, exhausted our substance, reduced us to the point of starvation and dire want, causing pestilences and diseases to spread among us and our race to deteriorate and be threatened with extinction.

He has sacrificed millions of our best manhood upon the battle field and filled our land with helplessly crippled and maimed persons—all in furtherance of his lust for world dominion.

His promises of peace have gone unfulfilled; and his vaunted victories have proven futile to relieve our miseries.

In every stage of these oppressions, our mouths have been dumb with fear, while our hearts have cried out with entreaty and protest.

The awfulness of our plight and the horror of his crimes have rendered the burden of our silence unbearable.

A prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

We, therefore, the people of the German empire, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in His

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