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The Days Demand.

DR. J. G. HOLLAND.

God give us men! A time like this demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and
ready hands.
Men whom the lust of office does not kill:
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
Men who possess opinions and will;
Men who have honor; men who will not
lie;
Men who can stand before a demagogue
And damn his treacherous flatteries with-
out winking;
Tall men, sun-browned, who live above the
fog
In public duty and private thinking.
For while the rabble with their thumb-worn
creeds,
Their large professions and their little deeds
Mingle in selfish strife, lo! Freedom weeps.
Wrong rules the land, and waiting Justice
sleeps.

Four Epochs in the History of Our Republic.

BY B. O. FLOWER.

Four great epochs stand out in bold relief since our fathers protested against a foreign yoke. They may be summed up as follows:

- (1.) Tyranny of a foreign power, or taxation without representation
- (2.) The tyranny of the money power, or the baleful influence of the United States National Bank in American politics.
- (3.) The conflict of a nation half slave and half free, or the slavery of the African race.
- (4.) The fierce battle of a plutocracy entrenched by special privileges against the wealth-creators of the nation, or the depotism of acquired wealth over the masses who create wealth.

In the first conflict we find England and the "respectables," or the "Tory class," arrayed against the people. John Hancock and Samuel Adams were, in the eyes of conservatism and the upholders of injustice cloaked in law, traitors and criminals deserving death. So also were Washington, Jefferson, and Franklin, and the battle was fought with fearful odds against the patriots who fought for justice and a larger life; the great power of England and her hired Hessians were in the front, the Indians were in the rear, while the country was honeycombed with Tories at home. Yet, armed with justice and compelled to accept serfdom or the desperate alternative of war, the

little band of freemen conquered the allied powers and the mercenaries who fought against them.

The second great epoch was the struggle of the National Bank, or monopoly in the circulating medium. The bank had, octopus-like, extended its tentacles around Congress and the press. The hour was crucial in the history of the nation. Republican institutions were in peril, and in the supreme moment of need a man came forth, *a man from the people, who could not be bought*, not even by the great National Bank which controlled the treasure of our government. The war between the sturdy patriot and the money power was almost as desperate as the struggle now being waged by the wealth-creators and the trusts, the monopolies and the gold magnates and their minions today. In speaking of this battle of giants, the scholarly ex-congressman, George Fred Williams of Massachusetts, in a recent address uttered these pertinent remarks:

"In 1832 there had been erected in this country an enormous and overpowering influence in the monetary force of the country known as the United States Bank. It handled all the treasure of the government. It had the power of issuing notes, and in 1832 when Andrew Jackson was again to be a candidate for the presidency, the president of that bank, the great banking king of that day, the Pierpont Morgan and the greatest Belmont patriot of 1832, Mr. Nicholas Biddle, went to President Jackson and reminded him that he, Mr. Biddle, had the power to defeat him for re-election.

"He had given out that that bank was watching over and caring for the interests of the people, the finances of the country could not survive, and he reminded Andrew Jackson—and how familiar this proceeding is today—that his bank, by its control of credits through the country, could control the business men and regulate the nominations of all the candidates in the coming election, including the President.

"Jackson is reported to have made this answer to Mr. Biddle, and I

may be pardoned by a sensitive public if I use President Jackson's exact words: 'If your bank can make and unmake presidents, governors, and congressmen, that is a d——d sight too much power for any one man or institution to hold. And if you bribe congress to re-charter your bank, I will veto the new charter.'

"Then the fight was on. Then a mighty power began to gather its forces just as it is gathering them now. The newspaper press turned against him and went for the bank. But President Jackson had something to say concerning the newspapers at that time. On July 10, during his canvass he wrote these words concerning the press: 'The fact that the bank controls and in some cases substantially owns, and by its money supports some of the leading presses of the country is now clearly established.'

The struggle was relentless. On the one side was incipient plutocracy or a new oligarchy of wealth which controlled the press and to a large extent intimidated business men, but the instincts of the people were with the *unmortgaged patriot*. His triumphant election marked the overthrow of the bank, with its immense possibilities for evil, as a monopoly of the medium of exchange; and though the experiment which followed was not well matured and like many other experiments in free government could not be said to be satisfactory, the defeat of the octopus, which had already grown so powerful, arrogant, and unscrupulous, saved the republic from an evil more to be dreaded than the sword of a foreign foe.

The third great epoch was the culmination of a long-waged struggle of a government half slave and half free. The north deserves no particular credit for being free. Indeed New England generally, which in early days was most industrious in slave catching and trading, and at a later day Boston and New York, were swayed by cupidity far more than conscience, even though these cities had far less direct interest in maintaining