

Saint Mary's Beacon



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JOB PRINTING
BILL HEADS LETTER HEAD
ENVELOPES STATEMENTS
INVITATIONS HANDBILLS BUSINESS CARD
POSTERS CIRCULARS PROGRAMS
LEGAL BLANKS, ETC.
CITY PRICES

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We extend a special invitation to our friends and the general public during this shopping season to give us a call and examine our stock and get our prices before buying elsewhere.

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Our Stock of Dress Goods, Waist Goods, Dry Goods and Notions generally are right up-to-date and the prices are the very lowest. In fact there is not a better stock to select from in the South.

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Draftsmen design these patterns.

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are as good as new, and have never needed repairs—never need attention of any kind, except an occasional coat of paint.

Storm-proof Fire-proof Lightning-proof

Don't buy that roof for the new building, or re-roof the old, until you have examined the Cortright Metal Shingles.

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Arthur F. Turner,

LEONARDTOWN, MD.

Registered Plumber and Gas-Fitter. Get his estimates for your Bathroom Outfit.

April 12

Fr. LaFarge's Address

At 11 A. M., on October 20th, at the Demonstration of The Holy Name Societies.

The Rev. LaFarge, Dependent of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry.

"CHARACTER, THE BASIS OF PATRIOTISM."

"I must say, too, that I appreciate more than I can very well find words to tell, the splendid cordiality of the invitation which so surprised and delighted me, and of the reception which you have so kindly given me. But I dwell on the pleasure because, in declaring why the magnificent spectacle of this great audience of Catholic men fills me with pleasure, I declare a good which is of inestimable value.

You gentlemen represent an element which is diminishing in our civilization. Yet without it there can be no civilization. You stand for principle. Principles are the heritage of the human race. Generation does not fall heir to generation by propagating mere flesh and blood. Lands, houses and money are not the link between present and past. It is the heritage of ideas that unifies history, and you are here to represent the ideas that unite us with the best of all time, the spiritual heirloom of the centuries. I do not mean that our epoch is not prolific in ideas as such, in plans and schemes, and vast variety of information; but we are losing the great root-ideas of life which enlightened our forefathers as to their true interests and moved them to seek them.

"But how can that be," someone will say; "is not our own time alive, as never was the world before to its social and political evils? And is not the whole country discussing plans to reform them? To such a one I will answer: 'It is one thing to be alive to the evils of the time, another to possess the principles with which to reform them.' All over our country there certainly is a growing sense of the evils of our society; the increasing immorality and lawlessness, the disruption of families, the unjust exploitation of labor, the needless misery in which so many of our bread-winners are forced to live and countless other abuses. Yet the sources of the evil are not understood. Why not? Because to understand the sources of social evil, one must appreciate the true interests of man; and men do not appreciate their true interests unless they have true principles.

"If Professor X" really believes that to give each man a two-story brick house, a garden, front porch, hot water, five-foot shelf of books, a thousand a year, and a few other conveniences will remove from us all temptation to crime, intemperance and divorce, then Prof. X, simply shows that he has not the right principles for solving the social problem of the day, no matter how great his enthusiasm may be. And what we want are the men who have those principles; and gentlemen, you are those men.

"A man of principles or a man of character—which is the same thing, for character is only principle made effective—is a man who understands his chief interests, and can be depended upon to seek them. And if his principles are lofty, or his character noble, he will understand that the chief interests of his fellow-man coincide with his own and he can be depended upon to seek his brother's welfare, in the very pursuit of his own good. To be a useful factor in society a man must have both qualities; he must have the spiritual education to know what is his own and his brother's welfare and the loyalty to act upon his knowledge.

"Plenty of people nowadays are anxious to remedy the evils that I have mentioned. Social workers spring up on every hand. Our magazines and even our newspapers express sympathy for every form of misfortune. Hundreds of thousands gather to hear discourses on 'Men and Religion' from ladies and gentlemen who tour the world in their quest for reform. Remedies innumerable are suggested, and legislative-pass laws unheard of in former ages.

"These good people are ready and anxious to seek their neighbor's welfare, but they fail and discredit themselves. Why? Because they lack the first qualification of a useful character. They have cast aside the principles which are the spiritual heritage of Christianity; they

cannot understand the true and chief interests of their fellow-man and so are powerless to help him.

"But more numerous than these well-meaning but misguided workers are those who lack the second qualification; those who cannot be depended on to seek their neighbor's welfare—no, nor their own true good either—whether they understand it rightly or not. The cry today is for men of loyalty, men who can be depended on; not for brains, talent, ingenuity, wit, these can be found everywhere, but for that solidity of character which is founded on true wisdom. Far and from the uttermost coasts is the price of it. We do not look for record-breakers to run our trains, but for men who will realize that on the precaution of an instant depends the lives of hundreds. It is the incapacity of our servants that wrinkles the housewife's brow with care; it is their lack of steadiness, the fact that so few can be depended on even for the smallest service. We look for food that is not adulterated, for banks that will not fail, for police that are incorrupt.

"And this cry becomes more insistent as the interests at stake are more vital and more in jeopardy. I will lend any boy my pocket knife, but I will entrust my typewriter or violin only to the man who knows the value of those articles, and will not abuse them; and my business I will put only in the hands of a man of incorruptible integrity. Not brains but character, is the crying need of the business world of today.

"There are plenty of clever boys hanging around Wall Street," said an experienced New York broker to me a few years ago, "plenty who are shrewd and apt; but you must search far to find one who is reliable"—in other words a bow of character. You remember the striking answer which the late Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan gave when his examiners questioned him as to the true basis of credit. He did not look for wealth he said, in the person to whom he would advance large sums of money, but integrity of character; and he would give credit to a man of character who was penniless, if I interpret his words rightly, where he would refuse it to an unreliable millionaire. I will not put my life itself, nor the life of one of my family in charge of a physician who is a theorist or a dreamer; nor will I entrust that supreme temporal good to a man whose integrity has even for a moment been questioned. The interests guarded by the doctor or lawyer are too vital, too easily endangered to be entrusted to any but men of soundest judgment and unquestioned loyalty to their clients' need. If the witness on whose testimony depends my reputation, dearer to me than life itself, is a true Holy Name man, I know that he is guided by a principle which brands a false oath as the vilest of sins, and bids him shed his life blood rather than wreck his soul and his neighbors' fair name by the unspeakable malice of perjury. And if the judge on whose decision the interests of thousands of Christ's poor may depend, is a Knight of Columbus, we know that his noble order has taught him the inflexible principles of justice, and looks to him to fulfill it.

"What must be the clearness of vision and the steadfastness of loyalty demanded, when not the comfort, or the temporal welfare, or the lives, or the reputation of an individual are at stake; no, not alone the welfare of a single city or state, but of a whole country? When the welfare is endangered by powerful and world-wide enemies—the means of defense are inadequate, when all depends on the foresight, the ability, and the character of one man, one among millions? Genius and talent alone will never avail in the situation. There is need of the invincible strength of the spirit—that strength which must be yours, honored Sir Knights and men of the Holy Name Society, because on you depends the welfare of your country; and by the manhood of our Catholic men will she stand or fall.

"Do you feel unequal to the task? Do you think that I exaggerate the need of character? Remember that centennial which you recently so gloriously celebrated; these pageants and demonstrations prepared with such skill and taste by your learned historians and enthusiastic organizers! What is it we venerate in Perry's centennial? Not so much the genius of the man as a naval commander, his exceptional talents, which we cannot emulate, as the character, the nobility of mind and

heart, which we can and should emulate.

"Perry, of course, was a genius. His great natural gifts held up to the world's gaze, traits that are found in many a nature as noble as Perry's, but which being less gifted, remain obscure. Our moral beacon lights must be raised on a high foundation, not to be greater in the sight of God, but to serve as visible guides for man. Perry had a brilliant mine to start with, a mind naturally calm, far-seeing, yet capable of rapid insight into most difficult situations.

"Then he had a cultivated home-circle and a good, old-fashioned education to develop that mind. Contact with his father, Captain Christopher Raymond Perry, gave the highest degree of vocational training, as we call it now, training in his future profession as a naval officer. Long before he had ever heard of Lake Erie, he had chased his imagination many a British squadron out of old rockbound Narragansett Bay, past treacherous Breton's Reef and the towering cliffs of Block Island. There were no faulty nerves in that rugged constitution, toughened by sun and south-westerly winds. His temper was equable, he was naturally enterprising and courageous. But what use is the most perfect tuned instrument unless there is a spirit to control it.

"It was not Perry's poise and disposition that made him a leader even in childhood, and gripped to him the hearts of his fever-stricken seaman. The mind and will which so mastered what was noblest in his comrades was just that by which Perry was Perry; for where is the heart so generous that it can guide itself by mere sentiment? The most robust bodies, the steadiest nerves will wreck themselves if left to their own impulse. Animal courage makes no heroes, and if our courage come merely from instinct, we are likely to prove 'cowards on instinct,' like Flagstaff.

"Perry's prowess was based on principle; and being a man of principle he was alive to the fact that the chief interests of his country were at stake; her position among the powers belittled, her very existence as a nation threatened. He saw, moreover, the relations of these vital interests of his country to him; for he knew that only the formation of an American navy could clear our name on the high seas, and that alone could liberate Harrison's army and set free the shores of the Great Lakes from the British yoke and the Indian tomahawk. But he saw, too, that the success of that navy would depend in great measure on his own exertions, and that it was his duty to perfect himself and his men by study, and by drilling in time of peace. Here at Erie he saw that the very existence of the lake squadron was totally in his hands. He saw that reliance was to be placed first and foremost, not on his shipwrights unless he instructed them; not in his guns, unless he himself trained the men to fire them; not on his men, unless he himself drilled them in the manual of arms, preserved them from total exhaustion by overwork, practiced them in seamanship and gunnery, provided them with every article for every emergency.

"He saw that neither time nor tide, wind nor weather, sail nor sweep, grape nor cannon-ball, gunner nor officer, would avail anything, would be saved from utter destruction and a disgrace that would drag down our whole nation unless inspired and controlled by the courage and forethought of the commander. But our country knew that in Perry she had a man who not only knew her imperilled interests, but would be loyal to them; and she echoed the words with which Commodore Chancy wrote to him to come to Erie: 'You are the very person that I want for a particular service in which you may gain honor for yourself and reputation for your country.'

"Our country knew that in Perry she had a man who so feared the shadow of disloyalty that he hesitated even to mention the fault of the man who nearly insured his defeat on Lake Erie, lest it might cast a stain on the fair name of our service.

"Obedience is the essence of loyalty, and for Perry obedience was supreme. Even in that agonizing wait for men here at Erie he would not overstep the least rule of respect in writing to his superior in command. He appealed passionately to men, to the 'Give men service and I will acquire both for

and for myself honor and glory in this lake, to perish in the attempt. Conceal my feelings; an enemy within striking distance, may be ready, but not men enough to them.' But not a word of claim; no 'a breath of glory' obey your bishop and your and the Stars and Stripes the more glorious by you to your Church. Obey your country, and her name and you will be true and worthy of the name.

"But does loyalty to avoidance of treachery—does it not mean sacrifice? Is it one thing to

Erie built a sandbar, but to nothing; of wagon-tires without blood masts out of a sea of masts; of seamanship, sea-maltiamen, sea-hands. He was not by his flagship, but to battle to hunt for stand by. He was to of all when fever-wasted he was to read 'Victory' what 'spelt 'Defeat.'

"Opportunity for Perry meant duty. Harrison campaigning against the British on the Thames river meant for him, Perry on Harrison's right hand. He could not dally on a riverbound gunboat when there was a horse ready for him to charge into battle. In a word Perry saw all interests that were dependent on him, and was ready for all exertions in their behalf. Out of such a heart springs not only matchless courage, but the flower of Christian manhood, divine charity; and it is charity that makes Perry not only a hero, but a knight. It was spirit of the old Knights of Mal and St John that prompted Perry in his care for the sick and wounded after the battle; in his generosity to the British commander, Commodore Barclay, which inspired the brave old warrior to the toast, 'Commodore Perry, the gallant and generous enemy.' Chivalry gave him his scrupulous regard for the ranking of his fellow-officer, whether it was a question of his promotion or theirs; and kept his own heart from bitterness when attacked by the malign sting of jealousy.

"Such a loyalty cannot be supported by any mere earthly considerations. To have a worthy view of the individual we must see a lofty idea of man; but to value the divine in man, we must, above all things esteem loyalty to God. Not instinct, not respect for men's opinions, not the quest of the praise of posterity, the love of self-perfection, not devotion to mere humanity, not all the warmth of patriotism will suffice it we do not live for God. Man is made for God; and all that man is, is made for God.

"Perry's character—his patriotic principles and his loyalty to those principles—was founded on something more than human. He was a religious man. He was not a Catholic, because he had never been taught the fulness of the Christian message; but he cherished the great fundamental truths which Devonshire forefathers had inherited from their Catholic ancestry; the supernatural truths which Protestant teachers transmitted as best they could to the makers of our country, but which now are evermore and more left to be defended only by the Mother Church as she taught them to the two great Catholic constitution makers of Maryland and has taught them even from the beginning. To those first principles he paid tribute in the supreme moment of victory, when he claimed his triumph not for himself but for 'Almighty who has been pleased to give to the arms of the United States a signal victory over our enemies on this lake.'

"It was this steadfastness of virtuous principle, as much as the victory itself, that so moved his age-granfather, Judge Freeman Perry when the wording of that same message was read to him and in last year's anniversary Perry's words were probably his own, when he said: 'I will acquire both for