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WELCOME!

Liberty Enlightening the World.

THE STORY OF THE STATUE.

The Origin of the Great Idea, and How It Was Carried to Fruition.

Bartholdi's colossal statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World" is to be regarded not as a mere personal gift or the outcome of individual impulse, but a popular token of the unbroken friendship of the French nation for the United States, during the latter's first century of existence, and an earnest of the continuance of the same friendly relations in the future between the two great Republics of the Old and New Worlds. France is the only nation to which the United States owes a distinct debt of gratitude. Louis XVI was the first monarch who had the moral courage to step out of the ranks of his royal order and recognize America as an independent State. Of the influences that carried on the revolutionary war to success, the French alliance was a large and decisive element. The troops furnished by France during the revolutionary struggle amounted to over thirteen thousand. The vessels furnished by the same Government for the naval service of the young republic are set down as 45 ships of the line, besides frigates. But money was even more necessary than men or vessels at certain periods of the contest, and when the exchequer of Congress was empty and the paper issues had ceased to represent any positive value, loans were advanced by the French Government amounting to seven millions of dollars. Nor was this all, for we find another account of three ships despatched from France to this country, laden with military stores, including 200 pieces of artillery, 4,000 tents and clothing for 30,000 men. Add to this the moral effect of the French alliance on the struggling Americans and on the European despotisms, the diversion of the war of France with England created in our favor, and we can realize the decisive influence exercised by France in the establishment of our national independence.

THE ORIGIN OF THE IDEA.

It was to commemorate the friendship of the American and French people that the great statue was undertaken. M. Bartholdi relates the circumstance of its origin; One evening, twenty years ago, he was dining at the residence of M. Laboulaye, whose life-long friendship for the United States and whose influence in preventing Napoleon III, from interfering in our affairs during the late civil war are well known. It was a gathering of men eminent in politics and letters, and the conversation having turned on international relations, some one remarked that gratitude could not exist among nations and added that France, for example, could not count on the remembrance of the past to retain the friendship of the United States. Laboulaye argued that the American nation had more sympathy for France than any other European nation, bas-

ed upon the remembrance of the community of thoughts and of struggles sustained with common aspirations. There was in the struggle for American independence, not a simple service rendered to a friendly nation, but a fraternity of feelings a community of efforts and emotions; and when hearts have beaten together friendly feeling always remains among nations as among individuals. The political action of the Government of France, and even the treaty of Versailles, might not be popularly known in America, but Lafayette was, and if a monument were to be built in America as a memorial of their independence, he should think it very natural if it were built by united effort—if it were a common work of both nations.

These remarks of M. Laboulaye were eagerly listened to by M. Bartholdi and remained fixed in his memory. Five years passed by; the Franco-German war came, and Bartholdi was in the Army of the East. While superintending the reception of some arms and munitions just arrived from America, he says he heard with pain the officers of the vessel speak of the demonstrations in the United States in favor of Germany, but he was told that these rejoicings of German-Americans were an expression in favor of a United Germany rather than an exhibition of hostility towards France.

BARTHOLDI'S VISIT TO AMERICA.

The war over, Bartholdi could not go to his native province of Alsace, held by the Germans. Paris was in the hands of the Commune and civil war was raging. He resolved to take a journey to withdraw his mind from the painful impressions through which he had passed, and the idea came to him to visit America. He visited his friend Laboulaye, whom he had not seen for so many dolorous months, at Versailles, and there met a number of distinguished men whose sympathies towards the United States were well known. They again talked of American sentiment, of the shipments the Americans had made to France and the diverse opinions that prevailed in America. Laboulaye again declared his views, and added that without any doubt there would be at the one hundredth anniversary of the independence of the United States a public demonstration of affection for France. "Go to that country," said he to Bartholdi, "You will study it; you will bring back your impressions. Propose to our friends over there to make with us a monument, a common work, in remembrance of the ancient friendship of France and the United States. We will take up a subscription in France. If you find a happy idea, a plan that will excite public enthusiasm we are convinced that it will be successful in both continents, and we will do a work that will have a far reaching moral effect."

It was in these convictions of M. Laboulaye that the germ of the monument of the French-American Union was found. Bartholdi started for America and on the way formed some

conceptions of a plan of a monument. But it was not until he entered the magnificent harbor of New York that the definite plan was made clear to the mind of the artist. The superb spectacle inspired him and he exclaimed to himself; "Yes, in this very place shall be raised the Statue of Liberty—grand as the idea which it embodies, radiant upon the two worlds."

M. Bartholdi made a five months' artistic tour through the United States, from the East to the West and from the North to the South, painting and designing and finding acquaintances everywhere. He met Longfellow, Sumner, Grant, Peter Cooper, and a number of other notable men in every sphere of life, and received everywhere such encouragement that he returned home assured "that when they should begin the carrying out of the idea in France the United States would second them, and that the draft drawn by Messrs. Laboulaye, Lafayette, Henri Martin and their friends upon American sentiments should not be protested."

THE MEETING AT M. LABOULAYE'S.

On his return M. Laboulaye called a meeting of his friends at his house. Bartholdi imparted the results of his journey, his impressions, the welcome he had received, the co-laborers on whom he could count, and presented the plan of the monument he had made. Henri Martin, whose place has recently been filled in the French Academy by DeLesseps, speaking of this meeting in an official address, said:

"It was needful for us to discover a thought in harmony with the object to be attained. The artist presented it to us in a form that bore the stamp of genius. He had conceived the celebration of the anniversary of independence, applying it to a sublime phrase which sums up the progress of modern times: 'Liberty Enlightening the World.' M. Bartholdi proposed to represent this great idea by a statue of colossal proportions which would surpass all that have ever existed since the most ancient times. We adopted this plan with enthusiasm. A committee was organized. Artists, public men, constituted bodies, general councils, municipal councils and chambers of commerce associated themselves together in the enterprise, and the movement which had started from so modest an origin became a genuine national demonstration."

The plan of the French-American Union, the society which has undertaken the carrying out of the colossal Statue of Liberty, was not launched upon the public till 1874. Up to that time it had been organized, the means had been prepared and the first models of the statue had been made. Subscription lists were circulated throughout France, bearing at the head the following, prepared by M. Laboulaye:

"The monument of independence will be executed in common by the two peoples associated in this fraternal work, as they were of old in establishing independence. In this way we declare by an imperishable memorial the friendship that the blood spilled by our fathers of old sealed between the two nations. It is the treaty of friendship which should be signed by all hearts which feel the love of their country."

This appeal met with a ready response. The birth of the work was celebrated on Nov. 6, 1875, in the Hotel of the Louvre, by a banquet which was attended by illustrious representatives of the arts, letters, press and politics, from both America and France: Ministers, Deputies, Municipal Counsellors, Generals, savants, academicians, and authors of all shades of opinions and politics assembled to assure the success of the project. To give at that time in America an idea of the magnitude of the work the right hand of the statue was executed in its colossal proportions and sent to the Exposition at Philadelphia. Bartholdi at that period returned to the United States as

a member of the French jury to the Centennial Exposition, being authorized at the same time by the French Government to superintend the inauguration of the statue of Lafayette, which was presented to the City of New York in acknowledgment of the sympathy New York had testified to France by her numerous shipments at the time of the sufferings caused by the siege of Paris.

THE RESPONSE FROM AMERICA.

The preparatory meeting was organized at the Century Club, New York, upon the call of W. M. Everts, S. D. Babcock, John Jay, W. H. Wickham, William H. Appleton and Richard Butler Secretary. At that meeting a committee was organized and a memorial was addressed to the United States Government asking approval for what has been done and concerning the site of the monument. Congress on the 22d of February, 1877 voted in favor of accepting the gift of France and setting apart Bedloe's Island for the site, in terms most flattering to the work and to the French nation.

The head of the statue was executed for the Paris Exposition of 1878. The following year all the funds necessary for the execution of the statue had been obtained. On Oct. 24, 1881 the anniversary of the battle of Yorktown, all the pieces of the frame work and of the base were put in place. Minister Morton drove the rivet of the first piece that was to be mounted.

The statue was nearly finished in 1883 and it was for some time left exposed to view in Paris. On June 11, 1884, Prime Minister Ferry, at a great dinner given by Minister Morton to the committee of the French-American Union and to the Ministers of the French Government, declared that he wished the government to associate itself in the undertaking and announced that the statue would be transported to New York on a State vessel under the official banner of France. The official presentation of the Statue to the Minister of the United States took place July 4, 1884. The presentation was made by Count de Lesseps, the President of the French American-Union, who had succeeded M. Laboulaye, lately deceased. M. de Lesseps said he was handing over to the United States this great artistic monument, the gift of France, to which have contributed by their votes 180 cities, forty general councils, a large number of chambers of commerce and of societies, and over a hundred thousand subscribers. He concluded by saying: "This work, Mr. Minister, is the product of enthusiasm, of devotion, of intelligence and of the noblest sentiments which can animate man. It is great in its conception and in its realization. It is colossal in its proportions, and we hope that it will grow still greater through its moral worth, thanks to the remembrance and the sentiments which it is to perpetuate. We commit it to your care Mr. Minister, that it may remain forever the pledge of the bonds which should unite France and the great American nation."

We do not recommend "Bile Beans" to cure all the ills human flesh is heir to, but we know they are superior in every respect, as cathartic and corrector of the liver, to pills and liquid liver regulators. One "bean" is a dose. They do not gripe, sicken the stomach or weaken the system. Try them once and you will never be without them. Sold by druggist and medicine dealers at 25 cents per bottle.

NOTICE—In another column will be found an article in which all (whether they will or no) are interested. Neglecting to read it may prove a very serious as well as an expensive affair. We refer to the advertisement of Prickly Ash Bitters. A knowledge of its merits and the benefit you or your family may derive from using it will save not only health but many dollars otherwise expended in "Doctors bills."

Counterfeiting a Valuable Article.

The publisher of the Madison County Record, writes from Huntsville, Ark., as to the effect of Brown's Iron Bitters on his wife. Mr. Daugherty says, "My wife has been using the Bitters for some months; the effect in her case is remarkable." He also writes that owing to counterfeiters and imitations, it was difficult to get the genuine article. That difficulty has now been remedied; imitators have been exposed and put to flight. There are elsewhere Brown's Iron Bitters can be had of all the respectable druggists at a dollar a bottle.

Losing Their Grip.

Says the Alexander Town Talk: It is hard for those who have long exercised unlimited power to see the sceptre about falling from their grasps. Since the shameful unseating of Gov. Nicholls before the expiration of his term, the majority (?) of the Democratic party has had things its own way. Feeling secure in their tenure of power and believing that the authorities in Washington would bow to their wishes and make Federal appointments as they directed Gov. McEnery away back in March, wrote the President a kind of patronizing letter, in which, among other things, he says, "we do not ask that those who are opposed to this (State) administration" should be excluded from office. In other words he was willing to allow the minority a few crumbs and did not wish the traitors too severely punished for their opposition to "the (State) administration." This would have been quite generous, if there had not been a selfish motive behind it. Messrs. Justice and Burke also representing the "majority ring" as they call it, wrote to the President likewise, and "let the cat out of the bag." They gave a reason for making some appointments from the "minority ring" that the dissensions of the party must cease, otherwise the State would become a prey to mixed rule. In other words, if something is not done in the way of throwing oil upon the troubled waters, the people of all parties at the next election in one big wave might sink the "administration" ships. While putting on a bold front they were evidently uneasy, and they showed even in March a little method in their generosity.

Since these letters were written it has become as plain as the writing on the wall, that Mr. Cleveland does not exactly coincide with the views of his eminent advisers. Perhaps he has other sources of information and has discovered that the State administration does not represent the majority of the party. The will of the majority can be defeated in an election for delegates to a convention by ways that are dark, and the weaker can be made to appear the stronger side. The true majority claim that they did not have a fair showing else Ogden or Nicholls would be the Governor to-day. Of course they are not satisfied nor will a few crumbs from the table of the White House satisfy them. They want the existing abuses in the State done away with.

Mr. Cleveland is a fair minded man, and it may strike him that as the "majority wing," the other members of the Democratic family ought to have a little showing. Whatever the cause may be, it is evident that the "administration" has not yet captured Washington, and is losing confidence in its own over-weening powers. It is whistling to keep up a courage which, like that of Bob Acres, is fast oozing out of its fingers, ends.

Gov. McEnery says in his let-

ter that he wants none but straight-out Democrats put in to office. That's right. And he wants bolters left out. And that's right, too. The idea of bolting seems to be ever present to these people's mind; it pursues them with the persistency of Banque's ghost.

We are straight-out Democrats; the Reform wing is the true majority wing, and cannot be ostracised because we refuse to throw up our hats for the administration of Gov. McEnery. We stand on the Democratic platform of reform and retrenchment, and are opposed to all abuses and monopolies. We do not intend to bolt either, nor make terms with the Republicans. If any of them choose to repent of their sins and vote the Democratic ticket we can't help it; men have a right to vote as they please.

The administration has lost much of its prestige. It does not like to appear bereft of all influence in the distribution of Federal patronage. It would be keeping up some show if it were even allowed to place its hand on the rope that hoists an anti-administration into office. It would like to be let down easy.

Mr. Cleveland is said to be about ready to make changes in the Louisiana Federal offices, and there is evident uneasiness in the administration papers. We ask no more than that he should clean up the Republicans and appoint good men and true Democrats in their places."—Alexander Town Talk.

Mr. Town Talk, we would like to know how you would have any office to quarrel over, if you crush out the "Ring." Take away their detestable "Returning officers," and sweet-scented commissioners, where would you stand? You better pet that ring for it is your only salvation.

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