

THE JOURNAL

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The Franklin Bicentenary.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS ago next Wednesday Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston. His bicentenary is being generally observed and the holidays have been declared on his birthday, it is worth remembering as much as that of any other American of the revolution. The farther we recede from the birth of the republic the brighter does the name of Franklin shine. Every incident of his career serves to sharpen our appreciation of the man who after the lapse of two centuries is more firmly entrenched in the position of "typical American" which history has awarded him.

Franklin covered more fields of thought and adorned more differing stations in life than any man of our nation. He was philosopher, diplomat, scientist, tradesman. The honored companion of scholars and the advisor of kings, he never lost his essential character of the homely, wise citizen, the "reliable man" of his community. Such a many-sided man is hard to treat in a brief review, but to sum up Franklin is not difficult. He was the embodiment of common sense and common industry. He never lost sight of the "do-able" in his missions for his country and his successes are attributable to energy and adaptability as much as to brilliancy.

"The Big Stick" and Peace.

PROFESSOR GOLDWIN SMITH, the eminent publicist of Canada, is not in favor of the "big stick." He does not believe that a carrier of the "big stick" is likely to walk so softly as if he were not so equipped. He writes to the New York Independent an article reviewing the circumstances attending the outbreak of recent wars, maintaining that the condition of preparedness for war tends to a cultivation of the warlike spirit. Indeed, he concludes that we are being "rebarbarized" by the maintenance of large armies and great navies.

He contends that the Crimean war was the result not of long hostility against Russia, but of the machinations of Palmerston, who had the means of war ready to back up his personal animosities and ambitions. The Boer war he attributes to the jingoists of England and the colonies. England is so strong on the sea that a conflict was narrowly averted when some Russian sailors, panic-stricken or drunken, fired on a British trawler, which they mistook for a torpedo boat, altho the relations of Great Britain and Russia had been such that nobody could have imagined, says Mr. Smith, that the Russian government could have intended such an assault. He also contends that there would have been no Spanish-American war if the Maine had not been blown up, and he is quite sure that that disaster was due to internal causes. On the instant the American people, who had equipped themselves with a better navy than Spain possessed, were aflame and the government was forced into war.

Citing these and other cases where preparation for war existed, Mr. Smith concludes that the "big stick" is a source of real danger and instead of being, as is often maintained, a protection against hostilities it is a powerful influence toward bringing them about. He argues that peace is to be secured by the reduction of armaments and by a reduction of armaments alone.

While it may be conceded that the possession of means of defense sometimes leads to the use of those facilities unworthily, the cure for such misuse lies not altogether in the destruction of the facilities but rather in the cultivation of a larger and more vital interest in international arbitration, which has already achieved great victories. Other powerful agencies for peace, not inconsistent with the possessions of strong means of defense, or of offense, if necessary, are international commerce, international financial co-operation and international co-operation and mutuality of interest in art, education, science and religion. When men of different nationalities and races have common interests that touch their senses, their hearts and their pocketbooks they are better safeguarded against any remaining warlike tendencies than by merely reducing their fighting machinery by mutual consent. Such a reduction could only be relative anyway.

People who become impatient of the law's delays should take a day off occasionally to consider their beauties. There is the case of Albert T. Patrick, for example, who was convicted six years ago of the murder of William M. Bice. The state of New York has been trying ever since to get him under the wire, but he has resisted by means of appeals until his lawyers have had time to prove that the old man died from natural causes. If it had not been for the facility of appeals Patrick would have long ago been killed for a crime which he did not commit and which in all probability was not committed at all.

Reports from Paris indicate that Lebaudy's flying machine has turned the trick and is navigating the atmosphere. The Debats states that the minister of war made an ascent recently. Unfortunately there is still some hydrogen gas used by Lebaudy. The Wright brothers in Ohio are flying without gas. We claim for the United States the first real airship.

Under no circumstances will Thomas W. Lawson offer himself as a doormat. Persons wishing to wipe their feet on Mr. Lawson will please stand on their heads.

Suppose President Roosevelt loses in his fight with the senate for government supervision of railroad rates—he probably will not, but suppose that he does—will the public blame him? Let the republican senate put that in its pipe and smoke it.

The Jury System.

PERENNIALY the question comes up whether there is not a better way to establish justice than by jury trials. So far as criminal indictments are concerned the public unquestionably clings to the jury trial, but as to civil suits involving intricate questions of law and requiring keen analysis of conflicting testimony, the question is fairly debatable. Those who would dispose of the jury system in these cases claim that lay justice is no more to be commended than lay medicine. We do not allow persons without certificate of previous cultivation to practice medicine on others, but we do call upon the ordinary citizen to leave his work and go to the courthouse to settle offhand a controversy involving perhaps years of puzzling transactions between firms or individuals.

If not the jury system, what then? A bench of judges passing on both law and the facts is suggested as the alternative. It is contended that judges learned in the law and schooled in the weighing of testimony would be far more apt to render a just judgment than a jury. There would be fewer delays, no mistrials and the right of appeal would be less apt to be resorted to if the judges spread upon their verdict a complete analysis of the evidence and a competent exposition of the law applicable to the case. Juries, it is contended, are "fixable." In the large cities there are organized gangs of jury buyers. Likewise there are unorganized gangs of professional jurymen. These prey upon the necessities of courts for jurymen and the extreme difficulty of catching and holding business men for this duty.

On the other side of the controversy there is a denial that a bench of judges would prove more satisfactory in the long run than a jury of laymen. Judges do not always judge righteously or accurately. When a case is appealed it is nine times out of ten because of some error of the judge in applying the law or ruling upon the admissibility of evidence. Comparatively few verdicts are set aside because the jury did not correctly interpret the facts. This would seem to weigh against the value of a bench of judges passing upon both facts and law. But under the jury system it appears as tho the judge must rule instantly upon any point of law raised by counsel whereas if the whole case were in the hands of a bench of judges they would certainly give themselves plenty of time to review the whole case before writing a verdict and might take occasion to correct their own errors on the trial.

But on the whole the jury system seems the safer. It brings the administration of justice closer to the people and it is the whole people who, after all, are to be depended upon not only to promote the general welfare but to establish justice. Judges have the right to set aside absurd verdicts; supreme courts have the right to send cases back for retrial. The purification of the jury system rather than its abolition would seem to be the public problem.

Senator McLaurin of Mississippi calls Governor Vardaman a "vile slanderer and despicable creature." When the senator goes home this variety of talk, even tho true, is likely to invite pistol music.

Irish Love Songs.

THE revival of Irish literature has called attention to an alleged lack of the personal and warm love song in the Irish literature, whether expressed in the Gaelic or English. The Scotchman is constantly addressing love-sick remarks to his mistress in praise of her person, her character, her station. He grovels at her feet or rises by a superhuman effort of will to declare that he will be worthy of her whether or no. The Irishman, on the other hand, appears to have an impersonal mistress, to whom he addresses stately and gallant sentiments which do not move. Often his mistress is Ireland disguised under a name of affection. His song then becomes a voice of patriotism.

While there may be some reason to think that the essentially personal and adoring love song does not prevail in the literature of Ireland, it is not entirely absent. It has been written by Parnell, by Lover, by Allingham. Samuel Lover wrote "Peggy in Her Low-Backed Car," describing the peasant girl going to market, who wins the heart of her swain, who thus describes his feelings:

I'd rather have that car, sir, With Peggy by my side, Than coach and four and gold gallop And a lady for my bride; For the lady would sit formin' me On a cushion made with taste, While Peggy sits beside me With my arm about her waist.

This is surely more comfortable and was a proper warning to Irish swains not to marry ladies who did not understand where a man's arm ought to be. Some of the Irish poets, however, are not quite so familiar. William Allingham wrote "Lovely Mary Donnelly," a love song in which the lover appears to have never gotten beyond the point of sighing like a furnace. In his final verse he practically dismisses her as impossible in these words:

O, lovely Mary Donnelly, your beauty's my distress; It's far too beautiful to be mine, but I'll never wish it less. The proudest place would fit your face, and I am poor and low, But blessings be about you, dear, wherever you may go.

If lovely Mary Donnelly was the girl she should have been to fit her beautiful face, she could not have resisted fidelity like this. These songs, however, fall far short of the wooing Burns has put into his songs, and which it is to be presumed are in the Scotch nature, for it must be borne in mind that many of Burns' songs are but improvements on old songs sung by the people before him. Is it possible that we must revise our estimate of the Irishman as invincible in love and war, and give first place as wooer to the canny Scot?

A plucky man with a shotgun defending the right of a struggling woman to the benefits of a fair contract for crude oil to operate an independent refinery at Niotaze, out of which the Standard Oil monopoly has sought to defraud her, is the incredible spectacle which challenges the attention of a people who boast that they live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. O shame! Where is thy blush? Shame is too mad to blush and it doesn't know what else to do quite yet.

A few cadets who have not been arrested for hazing are being boycotted by the majority. You get it whichever way you turn at Annapolis.

The earthquake that agitated Lincoln, Neb., was obliged to become a seismic disturbance before it shook Doc Bixby.

Excluding Contagion From Schools.

THE warning sent by the state board of health to school authorities should be given more than passing attention. They are asked to exclude from the public schools all teachers and pupils found to be suffering with tuberculosis. Under the circumstances no other action is practical, as the state board has neither the money nor the machinery to enforce such an order. It is made as a request, and rests with local school boards to make regulations accordingly.

Since medical science has proved that consumption is contagious rather than hereditary, the interests of humanity demand that the afflicted ones should not be commingled at close quarters with children and young people susceptible to contagion. No other course of action is rational. It has nothing of harshness either. The only chance for victims of tuberculosis is plenty of fresh air and sunshine, and confinement in rooms robbed of oxygen hastens the progress of disease from the incipient to the incurable stage.

Cases often progress for months or years before even the victim knows what is wrong. For the sake of the afflicted person, to say nothing of the rest of society, the approach of the white plague cannot be discovered too soon. For this reason an examination of every teacher and pupil in the schools is desirable, and such an examination must be made before anything worth while can be done toward barring tuberculosis from the schools.

Either the school authorities or the local health department may act, and either one or both together may provide for the examination. The order should be carried out with the least possible delay in all city schools.

Dr. Parkhurst voices his grief at the fact that the new police commissioner of New York swears. When he gets to thinking of the police department Dr. Parkhurst says "Oh phaw" or "fudge" himself.

Stickney on Rate Regulation.

PRESIDENT STICKNEY of the Chicago Great Western railway had lots of fun the other day in his speech before the Minnesota Municipal league with the investigation conducted by the senate last summer on the question of rate-making and government regulation of rates.

Mr. Stickney believes in government regulation. He is one of the few railroad presidents who are longheaded enough to know that government regulation is sure to come. He was not asked to appear before the commission and his well-known views on the subject will probably explain why he was not called for by that one-sided committee. He says, however, that he has had the report of that hearing carefully analyzed by "an experienced lawyer," who has prepared a brief of its contents. There is a strong suspicion that Mr. Stickney is the "experienced lawyer" himself, for it would take an experienced railroad man rather than an experienced lawyer to make the most out of that report.

He shows the inconsistency and absurdity of some of the contentions of the railroad men, citing, for instance, the claim of a president and traffic manager that government regulation "would result in stability of rates," and remarks that in his judgment and according to the testimony of manufacturers and business men generally stability of rates would be the best thing that could happen.

He cites the testimony of railroad financiers to the effect that government regulation would be disastrous to railway securities, and then he proceeds to comment upon the recent trend of the market, where in spite of a short money supply and almost unprecedented interest rates stocks advanced, many of them, to new high points right in the face of the probable passage of a rate regulation bill by congress.

He discovers in this report also a favorite bogie man who has done service for a great many years—ever since, in fact, the granger movement with its pressure for reduced rates began. The public has been told before that government interference in railroad rates is going to stop railroad building. This is an argument against rate regulation, and yet the very men who made that argument before the committee are, as Mr. Stickney says, planning to build more railroads during the coming summer than can possibly be accomplished with the labor which is likely to be available.

The substance of Mr. Stickney's remarks touch ing this regulation question may be found in another column today. In the same connection he paid a high tribute to President Roosevelt for his determination to make such a beginning as should establish the principle of government regulation.

Here is a railroad man who, along with a very few of his class, recognizes the fact that the real danger to the railroads lies not in the success of the president's policy, but rather in its possible failure.

The coalman feels this weather. "It ain't healthy!"

The Spirit of Graft.

CHICAGO has claimed to be practically free from graft, but unless Assistant Corporation Counsel Sutherland is mistaken, Chicago has been deceived. That gentleman has reported to Mayor Dunne that he has unearthed evidence to show that the city has been defrauded to the extent of \$5,000,000 in the last ten years on contracts for the construction of water tunnels and sewers and the purchase of machinery. This is a considerable sum of money even in Chicago, and the disclosures of Mr. Sutherland are interesting to the public.

The corporation lawyers' charges summarized are that the contractors decreased the thickness of the walls of the tunnels at the expense of the city; that the city pays for from three to five times as many wood slabs for tunnel construction as it receives; that large quantities of machinery purchased by the city have disappeared; that no record of the machinery thus acquired exists, and that the inspectors were under the influence of the contractors.

This is the meat of the graft business. The dishonest contractor always needs a friend on the inside and he looks for an inspector, poorly paid, the creature of a political system, whose tenure of office is uncertain and he shows where they can be mutually useful and nobody but the great big eyeless entity, the community, be the sufferer. "What is the constitution between friends?" asked Flannigan of Texas. What is the public between grafters?

The people of Chicago may have impure water from graft-made tunnels with walls which will not keep out sewage; children may die from typhoid; doctors may hurry in unavailing toil to save the stricken, but what of that? Nobody saw the inspector do anything. He did not do anything but turn his back and spit out his hand. The spirit of graft dies.

Men of Great Fortunes.

THE serious illness of Marshall Field has drawn attention towards a man, who, for his immense wealth, and real importance in the business world, is perhaps the least known of any of the captains of industry. In his own sphere he is very prominent, and his rank among financiers or capitalists, east and west, is high, but the public, reading from time to time of the doings of the moneyed men—who break into publicity thru gigantic schemes of combination or consolidation, thru manipulation of prices in Wall street, or thru the airing of family affairs that might better remain under cover—hears very little of Mr. Field. This is because he is primarily a merchant. The growth of his fortune has brought about identification with various interests thru investment, but it was as a merchant that he made his name, and he has never departed from the quiet conservatism that is characteristic of the class.

It may surprise some readers to know that Mr. Field is one of the very richest men in America. Indeed, Harper's Weekly recently put him third in a list of ten men whose aggregate wealth is two billion dollars. These names were John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, Marshall Field, W. K. Vanderbilt, John Jacob Astor, J. P. Morgan, Russell Sage, James J. Hill, William A. Clark and William Rockefeller. This list may not be correct, either in personnel or in order of precedence. There are men of enormous wealth who do not appear. Yet it is probably fairly accurate.

There are three thousand men in New York city who are rated as millionaires, some of whom are multi-millionaires. It is roughly estimated that five thousand men in the United States have combined fortunes aggregating fifteen billion dollars, or over one-fifth of the entire national wealth.

Of late there has been much discussion of the honesty of wealth. It is difficult to discriminate, but the Field fortune might be picked from the list as perhaps more nearly representative of honesty in its upbuilding than any other. There is a current contention that every aggregation of wealth that runs to many millions must necessarily be dishonest. If this be entertained, all names might be classed alike, but it is hardly fair. There would appear to exist a very decided difference. The Field millions came from the good old-fashioned dry goods trade, altho they have now grown away beyond the confines of that business. They do not stand for the ruthless crushing of struggling business enterprises, the manipulation of speculative markets, or beating around the law by illegal practices. If any discrimination is to be made, the Field name would certainly take precedence over at least three others on the list, with reference to honesty of acquisition.

When considering the matter of the danger of great fortunes, it should not be forgotten that ours is not the country of closest holdings. The Rothschilds still outrank any family in the world. There are individual fortunes in our country, probably larger than the individual fortune of any one Rothschild, but that family is still rich beyond any comparison in the world. In France alone the Rothschilds combined are rated at the equivalent of two billion dollars, but this has not been wholly a bad thing for France or a menace to her prosperity.

All the Missourians wanted from H. H. Rogers was a few kind words.

Real Reform in Football.

THRU the amalgamation of the old and new football rules committees will come the demanded reform in the play. Football legislation has been taken from the hands of the old committee representing Yale, Princeton, Harvard, Pennsylvania, Cornell, Annapolis and Chicago and placed in the hands of the newly organized body. This adds to the rule-makers the representatives of Minnesota, Texas, Dartmouth, West Point, Haverford, Nebraska and Oberlin. The new committee has fourteen members and all of them are pledged, in some way or other, to bring about reform.

The National Interscholastic Football conference, called by Chancellor McCracken, went on record as favoring an open game, elimination of rough and brutal playing, an efficient enforcement of the rules and a general clarifying of all hazy points in the playing code. The old rules committee members were told just what the new members were pledged to and they were admitted with an understanding that these changes were desirable.

The Minnesota representative on the rules committee, Dr. H. L. Williams, who is generally acknowledged to be a master of the game, attended the conference at New York to urge his ideas for reform and received a respectful hearing. So strongly did he plead for sane changes in the game that, with the assistance of the West Point delegate, the conference was turned from an anti-football movement to a thoughtful move for reform. It was a clever performance on the part of the Minneapolis man and was rewarded by the convention with an appointment to the new rules committee and the chairmanship of that body. Now that the consolidation of the old and new rules-makers has been brought about, the Minnesotan will play no small part in the future handling of the game.

Dr. Williams' ideas of football reform were given in The Journal a few weeks ago. He believes in the appointment of a regular staff of officials, the penalization of brutal playing by the immediate removal of the offender and the awarding of two points to the side offended against. For a repetition of rough tactics, by the same player, the gopher coach would award the two points as before and suspend the offender from participation in college play for one year from the date of the second offense. This remedy is not drastic to the teams but it is very severe upon the individual.

Football will be reformed by the new rule-makers, but all of its virile points will be preserved. Western football enthusiasts owe much to Dr. Williams for his action in coming to the front, in the height of the hysteria, and winning what looked to be an unfriendly conference over to his point of view and bringing about reform thru diplomatic action, and by friendly co-operation with the former governors of the game.

"I never assume too much," says H. H. Rogers. However, if the supreme court opens Mr. Rogers' firmly set jaws with a legal pry it may appear that he assumed too much in declining to give the courts any information about the trust business.

The Hon. Cato Sells of Iowa, discussing "triumphant democracy" at the Jackson Banquet, drew more people than a trapeze performance in the streets.

A correspondent has dug up the fact that Emperor William has never taken the trouble to be crowned. Probably he does not want that uneasy feeling.

With the Long Bow

"Eye nature's walks, shoot folly as it flies."

An Argument Against Killing Our Aged Folk in the Interesting Experiences of Mrs. Mary Greenhouse of Pennsylvania, Who Recently Died at the Ripe Age of 106.

Mrs. Mary Greenhouse of Apollo, Pa., died last week at the home of her son, Joseph Hartley, in Sebring, Ohio, at the age of 106 years. For twenty years she had been almost blind and her memory also had been failing for years. Recently, however, she recovered her vision and memory and again learned to read and write. Altho over 100 years old, she would read aloud to her grandchildren.

This coming back to the world in extreme old age is a most interesting phenomenon of mind and one worthy of serious thought. We should never kill our old folks until we are perfectly sure of what we are doing.

The kindness of Mrs. William Astor enabled Miss Mary Noonan, an aged seamstress, to gratify her life's ambition to live for a few days as a "grand lady." The seamstress, when she retired from active duty to her little home in New Jersey, cherished the hope that before her death she might be able to live in luxury just for a week. When this crowning desire was finally satisfied by a week's visit as Mrs. Astor's guest, Miss Noonan's joy was boundless and she spent her last days in telling her experience to her neighbors. This aim does not seem a very high one, yet we smile indulgently at the old lady and her little foolishness; and possibly the Maker of the universe may be equally charitable.

"My good woman," asked a clergyman of a venerable lady, "as you look back over your long life, what do you find has brought you the greatest satisfaction?" "My victuals," was her prompt and candid reply.

Will Chamberlain of the Vermillion Republican likes boys, but he fears that the modern luxuries breed feebleness. He says:

"Why, only the other day we heard a chap of 20 or more, with scraggly whiskers itching for the barber's steel, refer to his honored sire as 'papa.' That tired us frightfully. What's the matter with 'father'?"

As it is Sunday today we may, perhaps, be pardoned for speaking of the most serious choir trouble of the past year. This pleasing affair was offered the public in several acts by the pastor and members of the North Woodward Baptist church of Detroit, and the Journal of that town, from which we sadly draw our information, treats it most ably in a long and wise editorial which we endorse.

The youthful pastor of the church, Rev. Mr. Bennett, startled his congregation on the day before Christmas by announcing his resignation. From the pulpit appointed for worship he discussed the details of a very ordinary church choir row, details which are usually left to be elaborated at the business meeting. He had come among them "without spot or blemish," he said, but the flare-up over the choir was the last straw and he was convinced that he must retire.

"Some day," he added simply in conclusion, "you may know that a man of God has been among you."

Then the pastor proceeded to demonstrate the "sincerity of purpose" with which he resigned by beginning a frank lobbying movement to persuade the church to decline to accept the resignation. The meeting at which the issue was decided will go into Detroit's ecclesiastical history as one of the most perfunctory. The pastor presided and in order apparently to make it certain that his parishioners would know that a man of God had been among them, evoked a variety of gavel rule usually confined to close legislative or political assemblies. "Lie," "liar," "hypocrite," were some of the epithets employed.

The Detroit Journal speaks highly of the pastor and of the church but it proceeds to deliver this neat little lecture. It costs you nothing to read it, and may we entreat you, friends, to ponder upon it: "Not only good preaching and enthusiasm and high aims and moving ambition are needed in the pastoral relation, but profound discretion and vast tact and diplomacy, are needed not less, let us say, in the Baptist than in other denominations. It's a lesson that has to be learned by some of us, and if Mr. Bennett has learned it, he has a career of great usefulness before him."

Brethren, if there is going to be a church row, and you scent its approach, if you will all step one side, or refuse to talk about it or hear its details and everybody let the other party do the fighting, there won't be any fight.

If you can only refrain from talking about it and meantime search the scriptures. But is this possible? Even in our higher moments we sometimes doubt.

THE NECESSITY FOR ACTION

Kansas City Journal. The revolution in the Isle of Pines seems to have created a little excitement in Cuba as in the United States. The Havana government didn't even take the trouble to spank the noise-makers.

BAD PLANET FOR THE CHU-CHU

Detroit News. Further discoveries as to the elaborate system of canals on Mars lead us to believe that the transcontinental railroads have little influence there.

ARGUMENTS OF AN IDEALIST

When Shakspeare sat a-making plays He browsed in books of old romancy; "The same as me," as Kipling says, He "lifted" scenes which struck his fancy From tragedies of fading fame He borrowed bits of conversation, Yet gave no credit to the same, This wasn't theft—'twas "adaptation."

When Francis Drake upon the "Hind" Observed a foreign treasure gallery, He didn't spare his wealthy find For sentimental shilly-shally. He made the captain toe the plank, And when the cargo's confiscation Was done, his crew remarked that Frank Was rather good at "adaptation."

When William longed for England's isle, Till night and day he pined to hook it, He launched his Norman hosts in style, Landed on Albion—and took it. And soon he set a Norman snob On every acre of the nation, Till Piers the Plowman called the job A clever case of "adaptation."

So, land of mine, why should I feel That our owa times are out-of-jointed? Should public frauds or trusts of steel Render me sorely disappointed? Nay, the some senatorial pig Sprawl fatly over our infraction, To call hard names were all in vain— All graft is merely "adaptation." —Wallace Irwin.