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TAKE NO BACKWARD STEP!

A publication called "Life and Health" is advocating the abolition of State governments and the consolidation of all into one national government. It asserts that, "Experience has proven our system of State government to be fallacious," and that, "It was more appropriate for the times in which it was adopted, and is not suited to the present era of progress."

We do not think the project is likely to obtain much favor except among a few theorists and agitators, whose minds are searching after and proposing something different to the existing order of public affairs. It is true that conditions have changed very greatly since the organization of this republic. Means of communication have been established which draw the several States closer together and almost annihilate distance. The railroad, the telegraph and the telephone have worked wonders in this direction, and there may be less need now than there was then for the divisions into local governments, each to some extent independent of the others. But to abolish them would be such a radical revolution that it is most improbable that such a scheme would obtain popular favor.

Certainly the local politicians and office holders would oppose it vehemently. And we see no real necessity for the change. While there are some variations in the laws of the States which conflict with others, and especially those relating to marriage and divorce, that need harmonizing and modification, yet in the main a similar purpose inspires them all and the object in view is the public welfare. Notwithstanding the ease with which intercourse between distant States is had, there are conditions peculiar to each which require local treatment and measures adapted to them, which can only be devised and executed on the spot.

All that is needed for the regulation of national affairs is in the power of the national legislature. Congress is endowed with sufficient authority for all general purposes, and the executive and judicial departments have ample jurisdiction in their respective spheres, to make the laws of the land effective, and maintain the dignity of the United States as one of the great powers of the world.

The very genius of our governmental system is in the union of independent commonwealths, having common interests but also separate and individual concerns. It differs in this respect from the old republics which flourished for a time and then went to pieces. We believe the American idea is far better than that of the old world, in the establishing and maintenance of popular government. Let each State keep up its own autonomy for the special good of its own constituents, and let the Union of all the States be perpetuated for the welfare of them all, for national renown and progress at home and abroad, and relations with the nations of the world.

By this means the prestige of our great and growing republic will be upheld, and each section of the public domain will be governed within itself according to its own special requirements. That is according to the heaven-inspired Constitution of our country, which may be amended as occasion demands by the voice of the people that gave the authority by which it was framed. It is no castiron instrument, fixed for all time, but yet it is not so elastic that it can be stretched out of due form by any whim of political schemers, nor be changed at all except by popular agreement.

A movement to abolish State governments for the merging of all into one old-time republic thus revolutionizing the entire plan of our splendid system, would not be beneficial to its "life and health," but would be a giant step towards monarchial institutions, and a signal for the downfall of that liberty which the fathers gained by valor and blood, and of which the United States are the champions among the kingdoms and peoples of the whole earth. Let us maintain our freedom, local and national, and extend it as far as possible to every land and clime!

FOR HUMANE PRINCIPLES.

Miss Helen Matthewson, of Denver, Col., an officer of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals, and secretary of the Humane Educational society of Colorado and Wyoming, is at present in this city in the interest of the benevolent work of these societies. Her intention is to endeavor to interest prominent ladies and gentlemen here in the cause of humane education specially. Later a meeting will be called, if possible, and the subject discussed.

The lady speaks with enthusiasm, and interestingly, of her work for the triumph of humane principles. The so-called humane education—an education that aims at training children in kindness to one another, and to all God's creatures, originated in England eighteen years ago, and the effects are said to be marvelous. In the schools in the east, such training is also given now, and it is hoped the effect will be similar, in reducing the number of crimes and criminals, and produce happiness among the children of men. Miss Matthewson speaks of her own experience in Denver, where at one time there were bands of boys infecting certain portions of the city. She went among them, and was at first stoned and insulted. Gradually, however, she gained their confidence and affection, and now many of them are active workers for the humane society.

As for children, she says, it is a most incredible how many are brutally abused all over the country. Many little ones who have lost their parents are tortured, mutilated and crippled by inhuman stepparents. No less than 800 such little martyrs have been found and provided for in Colorado, by the society.

This gives some idea of the work in which the lady is interested. The laws here relating to such subjects are certainly not enforced as they ought to be. What is everybody's business is nobody's business, and therefore it happens that much transgression of the humane laws goes on without prosecution. Utah, we are told, is not in the front ranks of the procession, as far as kind treatment of animals is concerned, though children, we believe, are taken good care of. It ought to be. The Prophet Joseph set a brilliant example in this respect, as in so many others. If his teachings were followed, peace would reign not only between man and man but also between man and animals.

TWO STORM CENTERS.

There are at least two dangerous storm centers in the world just now. According to reports Japan is mobilizing her forces, and the opinion is said to prevail in Russian circles in Tientsin, that an outbreak of hostilities in the far east is inevitable, and imminent.

From eastern Europe, the reports are also disquieting. A Berlin paper is informed that the Bulgarian war office has called out 20,000 reserves and ordered two batallions to the Turkish frontier. The Frankfurter Zeitung states that the Turkish government has decided to immediately order 100 quick-firing guns from the Krupp works, and the Daily Telegraph's correspondent at Vienna says the belief prevails there that Bulgaria intends to send an ultimatum to Turkey.

Thus it appears that war clouds are descending simultaneously upon the eastern parts of Asia and Europe, with threatening aspects. There may not be any connection between the two, but if Russia must go to war with Japan, it would be to her advantage to have Great Britain occupied elsewhere. Perhaps it is hoped, by threatening to let the war dogs loose over the Balkan, to compel Great Britain to neutrality while the conflict over Manchuria is on. The ways of diplomacy are mysterious.

THE PALACE OF PEACE.

Mr. Carnegie is the recipient of letters of thanks, from the Czar of Russia and the Queen of Holland, for the munificent donation of a million and a half for the promotion of universal peace. Other monarchs and presidents ought, in behalf of the nations they represent, to send similar messages. For the erection at the Hague of a palace of international arbitration means to the world what a government building means to the community. It is a symbol, and the abode, of a power greater than personal hatred and revenge. It is a promoter of peace, and peaceful methods among men. Mr. Carnegie has erected a great many monuments that will perpetuate his name among coming generations, but this building at the Hague towers over them all, and it will outlast them all, for the peace idea is one that belongs to the future.

That the mere reduction of armies and navies would, as the Russian ruler thought, make wars less frequent, may be doubted. It is probable, on the contrary, that the present system, by which a large war means an enormous expenditure and utter ruin to the defeated party, has a restraining influence on war lords. But this "guarantee of peace" is, itself, almost as bad as war. It is ruinous, economically and morally. A court of arbitration, with the general public opinion behind it, would be a far better guarantee of peace. And there are already many signs of the formation of such an opinion. A war between this country and Great Britain, for instance, would by many be looked upon as almost a civil war. And lately a strong desire has arisen, both in England and France, for an arrangement by which all differences between these two countries shall be arbitrated. It is well understood that the two countries are bound together by so strong commercial interests that a breach between them would be a calamity of almost inconceivable magnitude. Such considerations make for peace, and the erection of a palace of peace will further strengthen the causes that are at work for the suppression of the reign of military terror.

It is curious that the hopes and expectations of the first half of the last century appear to have utterly failed in realization. Then it was thought that international lines of communication, international commerce, and other common interests would speedily render the world a great brotherhood, in which international boundaries would almost disappear, and national colors would lose their importance. This now appears to be a deception, if the world is viewed in the light of the military glory that emanated from the Bismarckian period. But this is only passing. It is true enough that never before was there so much time and money spent on engines of destruction, as in this age; but it is equally true that never before were there so many influences at work for peace, both visible and invisible. That the latter will prevail is certain. The press of the world should be converted to the truth in this matter. Among the newspapers are some great champions of peace, and they are doing a great work for humanity, but as a rule the papers are promoting strife instead of peace, by constantly opening old sores and constantly reproducing the most exaggerated and offensive language used by politicians and agitators, thus exaggerating the importance of such expressions. Fake rumors are also spread, maliciously calculated to cause strife. All this is evil, from the evil one. The press needs conversion, and as those who control it become aware of their duty, the work for peace will be hastened on. There is no more powerful influence for good than the press, when used in the right cause.

GOOD WORD FOR THE DEAD.

Both before and after the assassination of Servia's unfortunate royal couple, so much bad was said about them, that it is truly refreshing to see a word of eulogy from one who claims to be well informed. A writer in the Westminster Gazette, says both Alexander and Draga were maligned by press reports sent out through foreign channels. He claims that the malcontents in Servia were few, and confined to jealous women and disappointed army officers. He says, as quoted in the Literary Digest:

"King Alexander has been persistently described as a weak, peevish youth who did not know his own mind, ugly and uncouth in appearance, almost a debauchee. Queen Draga has been interpreted to us as ill-born, old, and (what does not always follow) perhaps no better than she should be. Now, whatever the king was, no one who ever saw him could question his strength of character. The only symptoms of unpopularity ever discernible were aroused by his unflinching zeal to carry through whatever policy he deemed best for the nation. He was a party leader as well as a monarch, and he was convinced that his policy alone could assure the national salvation. He may have been wrong, but that is no excuse for his assassination. In any case I will stake my soul that he was sincere. His honesty is surely indorsed by his refusal to countenance criminal conspiracies in Macedonia. If Prince Ferdinand had been equally firm, he might have been less prosperous and popular, but he would have secured supererogatory satisfaction from his conscience. Queen Draga was descended from a hero of the war of independence, and ranked with the best Servian aristocracy. Her first husband treated her badly, and she passed through a time of tribulation when she had to earn her own living after his death. Her unfailing good-humor, her wit, her beauty, and her charm conquered all hearts. Soonest of all, they conquered that of the king, who was content to quarrel with his parents, to risk estrangement with his subjects, and to place himself at variance with all Europe for her sake. Their devotion was pathetic and inspiring."

Colonel Snowden, formerly United States representative in that country, takes a similar view in The Independent. He says the allegation that the late king was a "degenerate," comports ill with the character of one who at 17 planned and carried out a successful plot, and at 14 was regarded as one of the mathematicians in Servia. He adds: "When I saw him there was nothing whatever in his conversation or demeanor to justify the hostile impressions recently given to the world by his enemies and murderers." Alexander Obrenovich deserves well of history, he says.

If this is true, it is all the more incumbent upon the civilized world to mete out justice for the foul crime at Belgrade. It is true enough history bear witness to as foul crimes unavenged in other countries, but civilization is more advanced than it was when the thrones of Great Britain and France were bespattered with royal blood. Besides, who was there then on earth to interfere as the avenging angel? Who had the power to do so? In the case of Servia it is different. It would cost either Russia or Austria less to take a hand in the Servian affairs and set them right, than it cost the United States to stay the murderous hand that spread devastation over the island of Cuba. If the will is there to do right, the power is there.

A bird in the bush is worth two in the hat.

The undigested securities are being regurgitated.

Of the making of trusts there seems to be some end.

While every rose has its thorn every thorn does not have its rose.

For the remainder of the week Denver will Endeavor to be good.

Having a safe in a vault does not necessarily put banking on a safe basis.

Kansas is burdened with prosperity. How much better than to be burdened with mortgages.

Paleontologists never make any bones about telling of the skeletons of strange animals they have known.

The walking delegate is master of the situation when it comes to ordering men to quit their situations.

The wise man forseeth the automobile and hideth himself, but the foolish one passeth on and is pulverized.

The Shamrock III is said to be good at reaching. If she can reach far enough she may seize the cup.

A San Francisco firm tried to corner the bean market and failed. The consequence is it is now a has been.

Judge Lynch must be traveling the circuit just now, for he hasn't held a session of court for several days.

The unions and the contractors are playing a waiting game. Both will win if they will only "Wait till the clouds roll by."

In the international revolver match the Americans beat the French. This is but natural, Americans being proverbially handy with the pistol.

So far Kaiser Wilhelm is ahead of King Edward in the matter of entertaining Admiral Cotton, and the officers of the American squadron.

Already the politicians have begun scheming for 1904 and the year after. Let them remember that the best laid schemes of men and mice gang aft agley.

History records no such instance of "from grave to gay, from lively to serene," as some of Leo's remarks are during his fatal illness. He jokes with death itself.

"The devil lurks in the sodawater fountain," says Dr. Wiley of the Agricultural fountain. But that isn't the name usually given the ingredient.

City Chemist Harms found the only foreign substance in the milk furnished him for analysis to be dirt. All housewives, and they are not chemists, find that every morning in the milk they buy.

Young Ted Roosevelt came near upsetting the whole secret service system by coming home by an infrequented path and nearly reaching the house before he was discovered and halted. It is highly improper for a mere lad to catch a presidential guard off guard.

As yet the President has not received the B'nai B'rith petition and feels rather annoyed over the delay. Such things should be handled while hot to be effective for nothing is harder to warm over than indignation grown cold. The B'nai B'rith people have delayed so long, that much of the popular indignation has cooled very perceptibly. If it cools entirely they will have themselves chiefly to blame.

TO THE LYNCHING QUESTION.

New York World.

Race prejudice is not a Russian monopoly, and we are unfortunately open to an easy retort from any country that we undertake to instruct in tolerance and humanity. Still, an American wrong does not make a Russian right. The enlightened public opinion of the world ought to be exerted upon us and upon Russia alike when its pressure is needed. Official intervention in the affairs of a sovereign nation may be resented, but the moral intervention of mankind is always admissable and wholesome.

Kansas City Journal.

What the negro is chiefly concerned about these days is not so much the right to vote as the right to die a natural death.

Chicago News.

Last week a few more desultory moves were taken in court toward bringing ex-Lieut.-Gov. Tillman of South Carolina to trial. Not being a colored man, the people of that state are not alarmed at the prospect of a delay of justice in his case.

Springfield Republican.

In short, the lynching bee in this country is to some extent a by-product of our popular form of government. Under despotism, where rulers are not responsible to the people, and local sentiment can be defied with impunity by an official, there would be very little hesitation in mowing down scores of a mob in order to defend the honor of the law and maintain legal authority. In accordance with this principle, the effort is often made during violent strikes to secure from a distance police or soldiers as little amenable as possible to local influences. State militia is considered better than local police, and the regular army a great improvement on the militia.

Savannah News.

So far this year there have been 13 lynchings in the United States, seven in the South and six in the North. Of the Southern lynchings one victim was burned near New Orleans, five were hanged and one was shot. Of the Northern lynchings three victims were burned—at Belleville, Ill., at Joplin, Mo., and Wilmington, Del.—one was beaten to death at Pittsburg and the others were hanged.

Columbia State.

The firebrands have never gained a single point for the negroes; have never won them a friend, nor advanced them one inch industrially, morally, intellectually or politically—quite the reverse, in fact—yet the advice of the conservative men of the race is never taken if there is a big-mouthed dunce to prance and yell.

Wheeling Intelligencer.

Of all the ill-advised suggestions to the colored race, the advice to arm and defend themselves is the most unfortunate, and it is surprising and startling that such a suggestion should come from the spiritual teachers of the race. If the negro would be respected he must reform himself.

Kansas City Times.

The difficulty of convicting and punishing women for the crime of murder seems to offer a logical explanation of the growing frequency with which they take human life. Of course, to a chivalrous and sensitive mind there is something dreadful in condemning a woman to the gallows or even to imprisonment for life, but the life of a man who is slain by a woman either from motives of jealousy, injured pride, insulted affection or plain cupidity is just as fully beyond recall as if he were killed by one of his own sex. There is not the slightest difference in the moral complexion of homicide, whether committed by a man or a woman, and the question of gallantry and sentiment is not supposed to enter into the treatment of criminals—though unfortunately for the security of human life, it does.

Weak Hearts

Are due to indigestion. Ninety-nine of every one hundred people who have heart trouble can remember when it was simple indigestion. It is a scientific fact that all cases of heart disease, not organic, are not only traceable to, but are the direct result of indigestion. All food taken into the stomach which fails of perfect digestion ferments and swells the stomach, puffing it up against the heart. This interferes with the action of the heart, and in the course of time that delicate but vital organ becomes diseased.

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