

SPEECH AT SCHLEY BANQUET

"THE AMERICAN PIG; THEN AND NOW," WAS THE THEME

Of Judge Henry M. Furman at the Banquet Given to Admiral Schley in Dallas Last Night—Speaks of Southern Heroes.

The other day the Ardmoreite informed its readers that Hon. Henry M. Furman of our city had been invited to Dallas to participate in the ceremonies arising from a visit to that city of the Southern hero sailor, Admiral Schley, and deliver an address at the banquet given in his honor. Judge Furman acquiesced to their wishes, and last night to the honored guest and the vast assemblage present Mr. Furman said:

Mr. Toastmaster and Gentlemen:—Men are what they think; the heart is the treasury and storehouse of the tongue. Action is the result of thought; the expression of sentiment. Public sentiment is but the crystallization of private sentiment. In the history of the American continent we have a most forcible illustration of the controlling and far-reaching effects which ideals have upon the actions of men and the destinies of nations. The first Europeans who came to America were Spaniards. They thought only of themselves; their ideal was selfishness; their controlling passion was greed for gold. They did not come to teach, to elevate, to build up; they came to destroy that they might thereby enrich themselves without thought or care as to the rightfulness of their conduct. With sword and fire they conquered, plundered and enslaved. After the passage of more than five centuries, behold the blighting effect of their ideals not only upon Spaniards but also upon Spanish American countries. The first Europeans who came to what is now the United States were Englishmen. They were not prompted by sordid, selfish motives; they came that they might enjoy the privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of their consciences and might enjoy the blessings of liberty. Their ideal was to improve, to teach, to develop, to build up. The result is that we have the grandest type of citizenship and the noblest civilization that the world has ever seen. The difference between the Spaniards and the citizens of the United States grows out of the difference in their ideals. The inevitable effect of the Spanish ideal was to produce bigotry, intolerance, haughty disdain and contempt for others and an utter want of power to understand and appreciate unselfish action based solely upon considerations of humanity and justice.

Judging from the standard of their ideal it was incomprehensible to them that the people of this country were disinterested in demanding that Spanish tyranny and brutality should cease on American soil. Being themselves full of arrogance and having no regard for the rights of others, they could not understand that the only motive which prompted the American people was a desire and determination that justice should be done. So it was but natural that they replied to our humane and reasonable demands with sneers, taunts, insults and outrages. In a spirit of vain glory and overconfidence in themselves and of contempt for the useful pursuits and high purpose of our people they branded the Americans as a nation of pigs and bade us defiance. They made the fatal mistake of regarding our peaceful character as evidence of incompetence and cowardice rather than as resulting from our devotion to the principles of liberty and right. But when the conflict came they found that our devotion to principle was equalled by our strength and courage. Instead of driving a nation of pigs, as they had foolishly boasted that they would do, they discovered to their dismay and ruin that they had aroused a nation of eagles and lions. Cervera can testify that the famous loop made at the naval battle of Santiago by the lion of the tribe of Judah, our loved and honored guest, was a veritable eagle's swoop.

Mr. Toastmaster, in the light of the conflict through which we have gone, the man—it matters who he may be—who questions the courage and devotion of our soldiers and sailors or the genius of our military or naval commanders, by so doing brands himself as a fool or a knave, and may be a good deal of both. While we glory in our achievements, let it always be understood that we love peace rather than war. Conscious of the integrity of our purposes, proud of the patriotism of our people and the strength of our government, we are neither jealous, envious or afraid of any power on earth. On the contrary we desire to

cultivate the most friendly relations with all nations; we bid them all God speed and challenge them to enter with us into a contest, not with the arms of war, but in the useful and noble pursuits of peace. If fight we must, fight we can and fight we will if it takes the last dollar of our money and the last drop of our blood. But peace with honor is the earnest desire of our people. It is inconsistent with the principles of our government that we should become conquerors of nations or butchers of men. Ours is the high and noble mission of laboring for the advancement of civilization, the uplifting of humanity, the supremacy of law based upon the principles of liberty. We teach that there is no rightful aristocracy save that of the heart; no valid patents of nobility save those that have been signed by the hand of God. We are not ashamed of our character being that of a working people. On the contrary we take great pride in it. It is written in the Bible that every man should "rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God." By divine command the law of labor is the price of joy—the necessary conditions of progress and development. Mr. Toastmaster, there are peculiar reasons why the people of the South should take especial pride in the part that they took in our war with Spain. Before hostilities began, the Spanish minister at the court of Austria declared that if the United States dared to interfere with Spanish misrule in Cuba, Spain would land an army in the South and revive the Confederate states. In substance and effect this was equivalent to saying that we of the South were insincere in our professions of loyalty to the Union, and that all that we needed was an opportunity to renew hostilities against the United States government. This was an infamous slander on our people. While we lost our property in the war between the states, thank God, we did not lose our honor. When we said that we accepted the results of that war, we did so in perfect good faith. To doubt our statement is to charge us with the basest perfidy. Spain received her answer for this insult in the deeds of Hahnemann, of Wheeler and of thousands of other noble men from the South. We are proud of all of the great men of our country, it matters not from what section they come. Their achievements constitute the common heritage of American glory. We delight to honor them all. But let the truth be vindicated. The names of Southern men are written in the fairest pages of our history. Every star in the field of blue, upon our flag, shines more brightly on account of Southern honor, Southern patriotism and Southern genius; every stripe in its folds is of a deeper crimson hue on account of Southern blood shed in defense of freedom. Let it be repeated over and over again so that it can not be forgotten that the leading champion for liberty in the days of the colonies was a Southern man—Patrick Henry; the Declaration of Independence was written by a Southern man—the immortal Thomas Jefferson; our Independence was gained under the leadership of a Southern general—George Washington; the constitution of the United States was largely framed by a Southern statesman—James Madison; by common consent the greatest judge who ever sat upon the supreme court of the United States was a Southern jurist—John Marshall; the British were put to shameful defeat at New Orleans by a Southern general—Andrew Jackson; the great Monroe doctrine, which has become the settled policy of our country, was promulgated by and takes its name from a Southern statesman—James Monroe; the war with Mexico was gained and "old glory" was planted on the walls of the palace of the Montezumas by a Southern general—Winfield Scott; the final blow which wiped from the sea the naval power of Spain and caused her to become a suppliant upon her knees was delivered by the Southern eagle—Winfield Scott Schley. This is a brief statement of our record. Its contemplation thrills our hearts with pride and inspires us with the loftiest patriotism. If this is not our government, then whose government is it? We have no regrets to express or apologies to make for any differences that may have existed between us in the past. Neither are we asking or expecting any regrets or apologies. It was simply a family affair, a difference among brothers. We differed like men; we fought like men; we settled our differences like men and by the aid of the Eternal God we are going to live up to that settlement like men. While we would not change our record if we could, yet, we are as loyal to the Union today as any other section is or could be. The prayer of the South is that—as long as the winter's snow shall fall upon the grand mountains of the North; as long as the summer's sun shall shine in the lovely valleys of the South; as long as the English language shall remain the tongue of freedom, may this country be

one and indivisible; one in name; one in sentiment and one in a common and glorious destiny. It matters not what our differences of political opinion may be—above all we are Americans. Our sentiments are expressed by the poet when he so sweetly sang: "There is a land of every land the pride—Beloved by heaven o'er all the world beside. Where brighter suns dispense serene light And milder moons imparadise the night. A land of beauty, virtue, valor, truth, Time tutored age and love-exalted youth. The wandering mariner whose eye explores The wealthiest isles, the most enchanting shores Views not a realm more beautiful and fair Or breathes the spirit of a purer air. For in this land of heaven's peculiar grace—The heritage of nature's noblest race—There is a spot of earth supremely blest, A dearer, sweeter spot than all the rest, Where man, creation's tyrant, casts aside His sword and scepter, pageantry and pride, While in his softened looks benignly blend The sire, the son, the husband, brother, friend. Here woman reigns, the mother, daughter, wife, Strew with fresh flowers the narrow way of life, While in the clear light of her delightful eye An angel guard of love and graces lie. Around her knees domestic duties meet And fireside pleasures gambol at her feet. Where shall this land, this spot of earth be found? Art thou a man, an American, look around And thou shalt find, how'er thy footsteps roam, That land thy country, that spot thy home."

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