



Hero-Worship and Patriotism.

Hero-worship is the happiest characteristic of the American people and is the greatest safeguard of the Republic. It is the fuel that kindles and keeps alive the eternal fire of patriotism; the incentive to do and dare for the protection of those principles of freedom and institutions of liberty that have amalgamated a vast multitude of polyglot people, individually sovereigns of their own destiny, into a great and all-powerful nation; that he who fights for his country becomes enshrined in the hearts of seventy million people as a hero, a mortal above mortals, is a magic power that develops all the manhood there is in the soldier and makes the American army and navy invincible—the initiative of victory.

The potential power of the Republic of the United States is perhaps greater than that of other nations, for, each individual comprising the social fabric, by his independent sovereign will, elects to stand shoulder to shoulder with his fellow citizens for the perpetuation of a national unity that is compatible with individual liberty. The responsibility for the maintenance of national supremacy rests not with rulers and an aristocracy, but directly with each individual citizen. The guarding of this prerogative is a sentiment that permeates the man, an eternal fire kindled in each breast, a fanaticism more inspiring than the cry of *Allah* to the Mahomedan, a potential force that fires the blood and possesses the soul; that makes each soldier, whatever his condition, rise in the full stature and grandeur of exalted manhood; that quenches fear, steadies the trembling nerves and leads to unexampled deeds of valor. As every American would equally have risen to the occasion, had the opportunity come to him, his heart beats in unison with that of a hero, his soul becomes exalted as he recalls the glorious deeds; his pulse quickens at the sight of their author, and he esteems it a privilege to "kiss the hem of his garment." Hero-worship is a sacred privilege with the American people. The names of heroes are household gods and inspire all men to deeds of glory. Such a hero is Admiral Dewey.

Home, the Conquering Hero Comes.

No American hero ever received as great an ovation as that which awaited Admiral Dewey upon his arrival in New York harbor. The true greatness of the man's character was exhibited by the modesty with which he received the plaudits of a grateful people in the hour of his triumph. In every act, in every movement, in every word spoken, the admiral exhibits the beauty of character and sweetness of disposition which has been his chief characteristic since he has been in the public eye. With what unostentatious dignity does he bear his honors.

The naval parade in New York harbor, assisted by the yacht clubs, was a pageant more brilliant than anything ever witnessed

in the United States. Over two millions of people flocked to New York to welcome the hero of Manila bay. The whole American people would like to have been there.

In reviewing Admiral Dewey's great achievements they are found to be beyond criticism. His entry to Manila harbor and naval battle between the two fires of the shore batteries and Spanish navy was in many respects the greatest naval victory in history. His tactful management of affairs and great devotion to duty during the interim between the naval battle and the landing of the American army, his firm and unyielding attitude when the attempt was made to intimidate him, are all matters of history, and admiration of his great achievements are not confined alone to the American people, but are shared by other nationalities, as is instanced by the most cordial receptions tendered him in the Mediterranean upon his homeward voyage.

One of the most trying features of Admiral Dewey's situation, at Manila, was his perfect isolation, being 5000 miles from his base of supplies. Dewey's promptness in breaking through red tape was first exhibited when war seemed a possibility with Chili, by his buying coal, an act that would have subjected him to courtmartial if it had not been ratified at Washington. He did the same thing in Hongkong when anticipating the declaration of war and sudden orders to move on Manila. When the orders came he was prepared to move at once.

The four principal elements that contributed to the greatness of Admiral Dewey were promptness, almost fool-hardy although well-considered daring, undeviating devotion to duty through a tedious year and a half under the scorching rays of a tropical sun, and to statesmanship.

Dewey as a Presidential Possibility.

Admiral Dewey's statement something over a year ago that he had no political aspirations by no means carries with it the assurance that he is not a Presidential possibility.

Where a man has become to such an extent the idol of the people it is difficult to predict or even estimate what might happen; yet it is an historical fact that the United States has never elected its greatest men to the Presidential chair. James G. Blaine could not be president, neither could Daniel Webster. But this relates more particularly to statesmen in the political walks of life.

After the Revolutionary war, the victorious General Washington became the first President. General Jackson was elected after distinguishing himself by quelling the troubles in New Orleans. Taylor became President after the successful termination of the Mexican war, and Grant was elected after quelling the Rebellion. Thus it seems that only greatness achieved at arms is rewarded with the highest office within the gift of the people.

The reasons for this palpable inconsistency are easily traceable. A great statesman is usually far better equipped mentally and by his training to fulfill the duties of President than the soldier, yet he has ever been denied simple justice by the American people. To rise to political greatness the statesman must wade through political mire to his exalted position in the eyes of the people. In this rocky and uncertain road to greatness, the politician must neces-

sarily have made many enemies and aroused the jealousy of his fellow politicians. Could Blaine have come before the people he would have been elected by a vast majority. But his political enemies were powerful enough to prevent his nomination. These difficulties do not lie in the path of the soldier. He is usually no politician at all. The jealousy he may have created is in the army or navy, which are non-political factors. Through the hero-worshipping propensity of the people, such a man will run well, and he is eagerly put forward by the politicians. If history is to repeat itself, Admiral Dewey should be the next President of the United States.

It is significant that in answer to all interviews the Admiral has never positively stated that he would not be a candidate for President. His reply to the question has usually been, "Oh, I am not in politics." In the navy it is usual in toasting the head of the nation to simply drink to the *President* leaving out his name. On his homeward trip Admiral Dewey changed the toast to Mr. McKinley, our next President. This seems to be straining a point. At all events Dewey will get the Republican nomination if he wants it. Only a flat refusal to become a candidate can prevent it. Even then, if Mr. McKinley and Mr. Reed line up for a fight in the convention and produce a deadlock, the scene which made Garfield President may be reenacted. One man in the Chicago convention persisted in voting for Garfield, in spite of his refusal to be a candidate and earnest protestation against the vote being recorded. With each successive ballot the single vote was recorded, and when the stampede came it settled on Garfield as the dark horse. If Admiral Dewey's name comes before the convention in any way, it is likely to cause a general stampede, in spite of the machine and federal patronage. Therefore, Admiral Dewey may be regarded as a Presidential possibility, in spite of everything. His wonderful display of statesmanship and back bone after the battle of Manila, prove him to be well fitted to occupy the Presidential chair.

England and the Transvaal.

Every day war between England and the Transvaal becomes more certain. It is not to be expected that

President Kruger will wait until England is prepared for war, and the news that Boers have invaded Cape Colony is daily expected. In this event the British troops are almost certain to sustain a series of reverses before reinforcements can arrive. The Boers are terrible fighters, and the army of 12,000 men now in South Africa cannot stand against them.

The Orange Free States are standing firm in their allegiance to the Transvaal, and propose to put 10,000 men in the field to aid President Kruger. This, it is estimated, will bring the Boer army up to 35,000 men. Therefore, England's preparation for an army of 50,000 men will prove inadequate to cope with the situation, especially if the Boers invade British territory. Although the British army will out-number the Boers, a large force will be required for garrison duty, and it is doubtful if the English can put more than 35,000 men actively in the field. If so, the odds are in favor of the Boers, as it is generally conceded that they cannot be whipped unless opposed by greater numbers.