Character and Mission of American Republic

Brought Forcibly to Attention of the Public in An Able Thanksgiving Sermon.

THE REV G. D. SMITH, D. D.

Following is the beautiful sermon delivered by the Rev. G. D. Smith, D. D., pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church, at the Clarksburg union Thanksgiving services:

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.—Ps. 33, 12.

We have reached the day set for Thanksgiving. We welcome the return of this national holiday. Born in brave, devout hearts, disciplined by privations we know not of, until they were thankful for anything, it grew to be a national custom. It is a beautiful idea. It is fitting that we should gather here today in the quiet of this little temple to sing and pray and give thanks. When we think that all over our land today in every city, town, village and hamlet congregations throng the churches as we do to give devout thanks to God, it gives inspiration to our own service and we are reminded that we are not of and for ourselves, but a part of a whole nation of worshippers whose God is our Lord.

American Idea.

A day of Thanksgiving is an American idea. It is highly fitting that a nation that has been so strongly led by the hand of God should observe such a day. It seems that God reserved America for a special purpose. He concealed it for centuries, and when it was discovered He paced up and down the continent warding off the nations for a hundred years, until He sifted them, that He might find a people who would build for Him His ultimate nation on earth.

America is the last continent that can be founded in our planet. The poles have been reached, and practically every foot of our globe has been explored, and there now remains no continent to be discovered. America was God's last chance to found a model nation on earth. We would expect Him to guard well His opportunity.

God has not reserved America as a Paradise for pleasure seekers; nor a camping ground for gold hunters. This was to be a wide domain where merit and manhood should have a chance, and conviction and conscience should have no restraint, and when Roger Williams, Lord Baltimore, Oglethorpe and William Penn come together with the Puritan, the Heugenot and the Hollander, God threw open wide the gates of the continent and said, "Well let them in to build a nation on a new plan, that shall stand as a pattern for all the earth." Old empires had settled in such grooves of tyranny and oppression that a fair degree of liberty was not to be dreamed of. Never could humanity under those ageworn systems throw off their shackles and be free. It was to America that the world must look. Here old questions were to be reopened and have a new hearing; here was to be the ultimate adjustment of all the finer principles that concern our race; here the burdened and oppressed were to come and find a sure retreat; here God's model nation was to be built whose torch of liberty should dazzle the world.

Rights of Man.

The foremost nations of history have left upon the world the impress of a special idea. There is Judah with her religion; Egypt with her monuments; Greece with her sculpture and art; Rome with her military power; but when we turn from these to America we find her glory rests not in her monuments, though they almost reach the clouds; not in her military genius, though she has given the world a Grant and Jackson and Lee; but in that which will live on when her monuments shall have crumbled and when military genius shall no longer have a field for action. For she has demonstrated the great question of the ages in this, that the inalienable rights of man. And as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are best secured in a "government of the people, by the people and for the people." That's the one great achievement thus far. But

"Time makes ancient good uncouth,
They must upward still and onward who would keep abreast with truth."

What's the next step in the forward movement? What shall be our next great achievement for humanity's sake? Our Declaration of Independence says, "We sold as a self-evident truth that all men are created equal." Perhaps human equality is the next great achievement. Equality of opportunity. Defending the weak against the strong; guarding the individual against corporate wealth and power. Some think this consummation is drawing nigh. May be so. Surely it is not long to be delayed. But I mention at least two great achievements that will probably precede this one. First, that we will now do for world peace what we did for world liberty. The nations of Europe are but foaming waves in the whirlpool of war. Who shall speak the "peace be still" to the troubled waters? Who shall loosen the grip of war? If God is to depend on human agencies, again, America is His last chance. There is no other left to whom He can turn.

Militarism vs. Peace.

The minister is God's prophet. He must stand on the watch towers and interpret God's providences and the striking events of his time. I confess that I never have had as hard a time to give a hopeful interpretation as in the last few months. I have been preaching optimism for twenty years, but now in the midday light of the gospel the nations that have taught it best, and shared most in its blessings have suddenly lost their balance, and plunged into a mad slaughter like a drunken mob in the street, rivaling the most barbarous ages, and all about nothing. There has been no issue, no principle at stake. But now as I stand on the walls of Zion, and hear it asked "what of the night"? I begin to note the gray dawn of the morning. While millions of men rushed wildly into the conflict without an issue, God Almighty has come forth with an issue. For now in our time it seems the final struggle is to be, and for all time it is to be decided whether autocracy and militarism or peace is to be the goal of the nations; whether the man who slays a million or the man who stays a plague shall be called the greater; whether the flower of the nation's manhood shall be sent to slaughter or to build homes and rear families; whether a few tyrannical bigots shall plunge the whole world into war to feed their own pride and ambition, or whether the people shall rule. We may pray for peace or we may not, we may pray for this side to prevail or the other, but be assured that the God of the nations will not be disinterested. Excessive snows drove Napoleon from Russia wih a heavy toll; a shower of rain lost the battle of Waterloo to Napoleon and saved Europe. A storm at sea crushed the Spanish Armada and saved infant Protestantism in England. Be assured that the God of the rain and the snow, the wind and the waves will see to it that the adverse winds of fate SERMON—GALLEY TWO .. .. will beat heavily enough against the wrong side to defeat it.

We speak of this war setting civilization back fifty years. So it would seem from man's standpoint. But what if within ten years the sea is cleared of every battleship and every armored vessel put in the same class as a pirate ship, and stationing great seige guns be put on the same plane as pistol toting. What if at the end of this conflict no sanding armies are left to menace the peace of Europe, no further war debts to be created, we will see that God can make the wrath of man to praise him, and that this awful conflict was but a short cut to certain world peace.

Since America is the only human instrumentality left the Almighty to work out such a consummation, my earnest message to America is "In time of peace prepare for war." And do it quickly. Emergencies may arise, a crisis may come any day. The other day the bow of the battleship Tennessee was fired upon and we did not know but what we were the next nation to be drawn into the conflict. What is some deadly mine would send one of our ships down? I wonder if we would be caught napping and thrown off our guard as we were when the Maine went down in Havana harbor? I wonder if we would kindle the fires of revenge, and adopr such an ill becoming slogan as "Remember the Maine."

"When I say "In time of peace prepare for war," I mean not in a pagan, but a Christian sense. The great war is a terrible rebuke to the pagan idea that the best way to prevent war is to prepare for it. If that be true then the best way to prevent drunkenness is for an old toper to get hold of a few dimes, gather up a few chums, enter a saloon, watch other men drink, get the old fumes in his nostrils and thus prevent a drunk. No, we will not prevent war by building bigger guns, and increasing our armies and navies, and giving every citizen military training and throwing around the nation the environments that suggest war. But by emphasizing all these things less and the arts of peace more.

Nations must learn that their power does not consits so much in the size of their guns or the skillful use of mind and sword, but in the right use of mind and heart. It is "righteousness that exalteth a nation," and the preparation for war that I plead for, is the preparation of the gospel of peace, and that we put on the breastplates of righteousness. Then we shall have a self-possession, a patience and forbearance that will be equal to the emergency of war. War struck from the slave his shackles of iron, but it could not free his mind from the darkness of ignorance and superstition, and no sabre stroke or cannon shot could strike down the gloomy wall of sectional prejudice. But a little heart power, the spirit of forbearance and concession through two generations has practically solved the question that war left unsolved.

The nations of Europe are but reaping their own folly. They have been engaged in building a modern Babel. Each has been trying to build a little higher than the others, and they have come to a confusion of tongues, and the confuesion of the earliest is no more pathetic than the confusion of the latest Babel. All heavily projected institutions from the earth upward are doomed to failure. Man knows not the awful distance he must span in building up into the heavens where he can be safe and free. Man must learn that the power that can save him is not the power projected from the earth upward, but that power projected from heaven downward. From Clarksburg to Pittsburg is the same as from Pittsburg to Clarksburg, but man with all his learning and attainments must learn that the distance man has to travel from earth to heaven is infinitely farther than the distance God has to travel from heaven to earth.

We have the habit of boatsing of our institutions, and our civilization. We have flounted it forth in every political and patriotic address. It is hurled from every lecture platform. "Our civilization." Well it seems that "our civilization" is a little too much ours. We boasted that our civilization had brought universal peace very near. But now we find that our civilization must walk through the fiery furnace, and wade through rivers of blood before it comes to the throne of universal peace.

When a nation of people became drunk with their own pomp and pride; mad with their greed for power; enslaved by their wild ambition, and God delivers them over to themselves, it is the direst calamity that ever befell a people. God has delivered the nations of Europe over to themselves. Yet we would not stand and say, "Father, we thank Tree that we are not as other nations are," but we would smite upon our breasts and say, "God be merciful unto us." We have seen our foremost nations grow mad and insane, and plunge into wholesale slaughter. We are reminded of the frailty of humanity. We will no longer boast. Rather would we humble ourselves in deepest contrition before God.

"God of the nations known of old,
Lord of our far flung battle line
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
ominion over palm and pine,
Lord God of hosts be with us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget,
If drunk with hight of power we hold,
Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe,
Such boasting as the Gentiles use,
Or lesser breeds without the law
Lord God of hosts be with as yet
Lest we forget, lest we forget."

May not God use America in lessons on world peace as He did in world liberty? Germany subdued France in 1870, wrested from her two provinces, and two billions of dollars indemnity. But what else did she get? She got the hatred of France, the jealousy of all Europe, and now she has nearly the whole world on her back. Would it not be of much significance if in this war Germany, the most highly military power in the world, suffers the most, while America without army or navy or national defense as Europe would think, continues to enjoy all the blessings of peace and prosperity?

Let America hold up before the world the Prince of Peace. An Illinois politician standing at the grave of Abraham Lincoln was conscience stricken as he thought of his unjust and dishonest measure he by the help of paid lobbyists had gotten through the legislative committee. Standing there with the statue of "honest old Abe" looking down upon him he fell out with his own dishonest bill and resolved to recall it. So let us rear a statue of the Prince of Peace. Yonder in New York harbor stands the statue of the Prince of Peace with world. Let us rear beside it the statue of the Prince of Peave with his outstretched hands saying "Come unto me." If not literally, let us rear the statue in our national life, in our national ideals that the world may see. Let them see Him pressed by the mob, yet saying to Peter, "Put up thy sword." Were it well to do so "I could pray the Father and He would yet send me more than twelve legions of angels." What is no more than twelve? One angel came down on the Assyrian army and slew 185,000 in a night. What would that little mob have amounted to in the hands of 120,000 angels? Christ was conscious of His resources yet He declined to draw upon them. Let them see Him bruised and bleeding on the cross, and yet not a feature of His face showing a sign of impatience, and only a "Father, forgive them" for his murderers. Let them see Him, "who when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered He threatened not, but committed himself to Him that judgeth righteously," and it will take the fight out of them. They will fall out with bloody tyrants and crave war no more.

A Saloonless Nation.

The second great national achievement I need only to mention, for it comes to your minds before I can mention it, the dethroning of King Alcohol, and "a saloonless nation in 1920." If America shall play the part in the adjudgment of world peace as we hope, and in the same decade wipe every saloon from our land as we believe she will, it will make our times auspicious with great achievement.

"We are living, we are dwelling
In a grand and awful time
In an age on ages telling
To be living is sublime."

Of course we have our usual blessings to be thankful for. Bountiful harvests, home, friends, church and school, but I think of some that are very special. This is a great time to hold a Thanksgiving service. This is the first Thanksgiving day we have seen with no saloons in all West Virginia. We give devout thanks for this. And of the seven states that voted this year five went dry and enlisted in the prohibition column. We give hearty thanks for this. And while nearly the whole world is at war, we are at peace, we give profound thanks for this. What shall we render unto God for all His benefits unto us? Would that every gift would suggest the Giver. Would that every benefit would awaken the question, "What shall I render?" Paul says, "Render unto all their dues; honor to whom honor, custom to whom custom, tribute to whom tribute." Jesus said, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Ceasar's and unto God the things that are God's." What shall I render unto God for all His benefits unto me? I will take the cup of Salvation, I will call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all the people."

SOCIAL

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and a guessing contest were diversions of the evening, a prize being awarded the successful contestant. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess.

Thirty Club Dance

One of the most brilliant and attractive holiday dances given by the Thirty Club was the Thanksgiving evening assembly held in the ball room at the Waldo hotel from 9 to 2 o'clock Wednesday evening. The guests were received on the second balcony promptly at the appointed hour by the patronesses, Mrs. Henry Haymond, Mrs. John W. Brown, Mrs. Richard T. Lowndes, Mrs. James J. Duncan, Mrs. Charles E. Lamberd and Mrs. George P. Leatherbury.

At 10 o'clock the doors of the ballroom were thrown open for dancing, and a charming selection of dance music of twenty numbers was beautifully rendered by the Cadenza orchestra until 12 o'clock when an elaborate supper with ices and coffee was served in the large dining room at small tables.

A charming program of music and song was rendered by the orchestra during the serving of refreshments, a special feature was two vocal solos rendered by A. G. Smith, which were greeted with enthusiastic applause by the many guests in attendance.

Quite a number of out of town guests enjoyed this first of a series of holiday dances by the Thirty Club, and the brilliant and artistic settings of "our own Waldo" formed a fitting background for the many charming and handsome costumes worn by the girls and women of the "smart set."

Among the out of town guests were Mrs. Abel, whose husband is of the United States army; Miss Eleanor H. Blackford, Miss Mildred Simmons and Miss Smith, all of Parkersburg; Miss Emmons, of Huntington; Miss Katherine Burns, of Parkersburg; Mr. Jarvis, of Pittsburg; and Miss Blanchard, of Pennsylvania.

Formal Opening

The Empire Laundry Company has issued the following announcement and invitation:

Tuesday evening, December 1, 1914, from 7:30 to 10:30 in our new laundry, we will have an opening, to which yo uand your friends are cordially invited.

The plant will be in full operation in order to give you an idea how your clothes are handled in a modern laundry.

Souvenirs Music.

Birthday Party

Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Wagner gave a pleasant birthday party in honor of their son's sixteenth birthday. Games were the principal amusement of the evening. Refreshments were served. At a very late hour all departed wishing him many more happy birthdays. Those present were Misses Beulah Titchnell, Fannie Wiseman, Emma McCormick, Carrie Ridgeway, Maude Wiseman, Hazel McCormick, Viola McKowan, Marie McCormick and Byron Cowgil, Marion Hart, Boyd Wiseman, Melvin McKowan, Esker Burrough, Dave McCormick, Willie Hart, Alvy Burrough and Masters Lee and Wade Wiseman.

PERSONALS

A. J. Garrett, of Hepibah, was here Saturday evening.

Wesley L. Steel, a prominent Salem citizen who is widely mentioned for sheriff of the county two years hence, was here Saturday evening.

Miss Eleanor H. Blackford has returned from Fairmont, where she spent Thanksgiving with friends, and is now a guest of her grandparents, Colonel and Mrs. Henry Haymond.

Claude Martin has returned from Cumberland, Md., where he spent the Thanksgiving holidays with his parents.

Miss Jean Linville has returned from a visit to relatives in Grafton.

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A nice line of furniture for every member of the family. Buy your gifts here, and save money. Our furniture merits your fullest confidence, regardless of the low price at which it is marked.

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gives you the easiest of easy payments, based on a cash basis. Investigate this popular system of merchandising.

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THE D. M. OGDEN CO.

Time To Get Some New Draperies.

Now is the time to get new hangings to brighten the home during the holiday season, and for the winter ahead.

Nothing gives the home so much cheer as pretty, soft overdraperies and portieres.

We will come to your house and submit samples and prices, and will make your curtains and put them up for you.

We carry the famous Orinoka Sunfast line of Draperies, made in America, and can furnish materials to match any shade of wall paper or any scheme of decoration. We carry the entire sample line of the Orinoka Mills fabrics, and every yard is guaranteed sunfast. Come in and let us show you thees goods.

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A Furniture Sale to fit your Pocketbook. Each piece refinished in our large, tiry work room, making it as good and sometimes better than new at half the cost to you. Come in and we can convince you. The following items tell of big values:

Let us move one of these fine Side Boards into your dining room for $6.00

Others $10.00, $12.00 and $15.00.

Round Dining Tables, new $10.00

Old fashioned, comfortable Rockers with Carpet seat $3

Golden Oak Dressers with large glass $6

Iron Beds, white, blue, pink, green or brass finish $1.50 up

Dining Chairs, separate or in sets, each 50c

Singer Sewing Machines—every one guaranteed $4 to $35

Springs—woven wire or coil $1

Only new mattresses sold with these beds.

Heating Stoves, Ranges, Ovens, Washing Machines, Kitchen Cabinets, Kitchen Tables, Pans, Dishes, Canned Fruit, Folding Beds, Couches, Davenettes, Cupboards, Wardrobes, Chiffonieres, Mirrors, Baby Beds, Library Tables, Go-Carts, Office Furniture, Incubators, Bed Spreads, Comforts, Pillows, Books, all at half you pay the other fellow.

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