

## THE GLORY OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC

### The Science of Government The Hope and Dependence of the Human Race

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#### CHAPTER VI.

##### The Tribal Form of Government

The form of government then developed and which in a measure supplanted the family form and which was for a long time sustained, was, most likely, what we now call the tribal. It, in fact, was a development of a higher and a stronger form than that of the simple family government. It did not eliminate the family, but consisted of a union of families. The family remained the same and exercised its own individual rights. That is, such rights that it did not necessarily transfer to, and that were not taken by, the tribal head for the greater and better protection of the united families. It held the family in tact, but created a stronger body and a higher position in the world, and a larger sphere of governmental application. The most powerful and influential family head would, without doubt, take this newly created position.

Families, also, grew in the course of time by natural increase into tribes. This, of course, occurred in the event that the family remained during a long period free from incursions either for hostile intentions, or for peaceable settlements, in the undisturbed occupancy of their own possessions.

There were certainly two points of advantage gained in the progress of man by the development of the family form into that of the tribal government, yet without destroying the family mode of life.

The distinction, perhaps more than any other, that marked the difference between the family and the tribal form of government, was first, that while the family right extended only to, and over the possessions actually occupied, the tribal rights embraced the possessions of all the families within certain territorial limits which it established. And second, that it concentrated certain indispensable powers heretofore possessed and exercised by the family in the tribe. Thus placing the family in a much better situation for the defense of its possessions and the chastisement of its enemies. For the family possessions were now the tribal possessions, and the enemy of the family was now the enemy of the tribe. The tribe however formed became in the progress of time, through marriage and intermarriage, one blood and one people; and were one in language, one in thought, and one in its determined purpose, and in its undertakings.

It may be interesting to know that, more especially during the period of tribal supremacy, there developed and was established the pagan priesthood which afterwards and in course of time became an important class in all the ancient pagan nations. This priesthood was largely responsible for the introduction of many forms of practice that overwhelmed the world in superstitious and idolatrous worship. A system of worship that has required many centuries of the active efforts of a more civilized people to check, but which has not yet been entirely eradicated from the human mind, and still exerts a great and profound influence upon the affairs of mankind.

But to return to the subject matter: There was developed from, and out of, the right of possession by occupancy, the right of the ownership of all lands held by the tribe within the limits of its territorial domain. Hence the theory of paramount ownership in the government, which is still adhered to by mankind.

The tribes as a natural consequence increased in size and in numbers and eventually grew into larger and more compact bodies which constituted the most ancient cities and were the petty nations and kingdoms of the period. The marauding expeditions already noticed did not cease, but,

on the contrary, were carried on upon larger and more important fields of operation, and with the same fiendish cruelty and the same ruinous destruction. These nations and kingdoms were constantly engaged in invading, and seizing, and appropriating each other's territory and continuously plundering the inhabitants or else defending and repelling therefrom the invaders. It was forever turmoil and warfare among these petty nations and kingdoms of an old world out of which the great kingdoms and empires of antiquity were eventually created and established.

We find here the origin and source of human thought and deliberations that involved questions and subjects that have since developed into great and accepted principles which control mankind even now in their relations to each other, to the world, and to the Supreme Being. Principles that were so firmly fixed and established as to dominate mankind in its entire career. Principles that have produced the systems and methods of activity that now predominate in the world and bind humanity as closely to the powers that control as they did in the days of the ancients.

They may, in part at least, be recognized under certain classifications as follows:

First. That the head of the family is the unit of authority. And that this unit represents the form of authority in all established governments. Hence the king holds all the powers and exercises all the authority of the nation.

Second. That the priesthood was versed in supernatural affairs and was the promulgator of a definite knowledge of such affairs to men, which all the people including the king and the nobility were bound to heed and to obey.

It was by these and various other means employed during the previous centuries that the priesthood became permanently established and devoted itself and its followers to superstitious beliefs and idolatrous worship. These heathen priests reduced the people to a degrading degree of ignorance, and held them in a slavish serfdom to the governing classes. The people are still influenced by many of these superstitious beliefs and notions; and are still held in a firm grasp as dependent subjects of such overlapping dominant powers.

And third, that the rights to hold possession of land by occupancy was reduced to that of ownership by the tribe. And from this right has grown the theory of the ownership of land by the government which still continues to be the practice.

It was largely out of the priesthood relations of these early days that, notwithstanding much true knowledge came through them into the world, the conceptions of the false ideas of things produced in the human mind had their being. And their development through the ages that have since elapsed manifest themselves to us of the present day in the constitutional elements of our existence.

It is through the false positions held by them and the ownership of land then assumed that has, during the long period of time through which it has come down to us, and the many changes that have taken place, brought about and developed many of the evils and burdens which the human race has still to endure and from which it still suffers.

(To be Continued)

#### CHRISTMAS

Nobody knows when Christ was born, of course, and December 25 is simply an arbitrary date. The day has been variously fixed and celebrated on April 20, May 20, March 29, September 29, and quite generally on January 6. But Pope Julius in the fourth century had a careful inquiry made into the matter, and this resulted in the fixing of December 25 as the most likely day of the birth.

The cock crows for Christmas in England; in Italy the bees sing; in the Netherlands the cattle kneel; in Switzerland the sheep go in procession; to the Indian the deer

kneels; in the German Alps the cattle have the gift of language given them on Christmas eve; in Austria candles are put in the windows so that the Christ Child may not stumble as He goes through the village streets on Christmas eve; in Scandinavia all the shoes in the household are put together on the table, signifying that all the members are to live in peace and harmony during the coming year; a bath is also taken by every member of the family on the day before Christmas; in Norway a sheaf of wheat is placed on a pole in front of each house for the birds; in Peru every door of every house is open and hospitality abounds to the stranger as well as to the friend. And so in every land is there a different legend or custom celebrating the Christ's birthday.

Santa Claus is buried in Italy—that is, the man from whom we got Santa Claus. He was Saint Nicholas—an archbishop of Myra, in Lycia, who passed away on December 6, 342. He was supposed to be a holy personage of unusual attributes, with an especial love for children. In Russia this day is a church day; in France it is the grand fete day of children; in many provinces of Germany it is celebrated as a preliminary to Christmas; in the Netherlands it is the real day for gifts, with December 25 as a church day; in South Austria it takes the place of our Christmas day. Nicholas was abbreviated to "Klaas" by the Dutch, and from this our "Claus" is easily apparent. At Bari, on the southeastern coast of Italy, the bones of Saint Nicholas are interred, and on every December 6th thousands of pilgrims visit the tomb and great ceremonies are held. So, when children ask if there is a real Santa Claus, we can at least answer that there was!

The Christmas tree's birthplace is Egypt. The tree there used was the palm; and the ceremony was in full force long before the days of Antony and Cleopatra. The palm puts forth a fresh shoot every month, and Old-Year parties were given with a palm spray, with twelve shoots, symbolizing the completion of another year. The custom passed into Italy, where the fir tree was employed for the purposes of celebration; and its pyramidal tips were decorated with burning candles, in honor of Saturn. This festival, the "Saturnalia," was observed at the winter solstice, ranging from the seventeenth to the twenty-first of December. Then came the "Sigillaria," days for interchanging presents of figures in wax, like those on the Christmas tree, and, finally, the "Juvenalia," when men became "boys with boys," matroned turned children once again, and young and old indulged in the solemn romps with which the festival closed, and which used to mark our own old-fashioned festivities at Christmastime. Then the Christmas tree passed into Germany, but there still may be seen the pyramids which sometimes are substituted for the tree.

We were fined for keeping Christmas once. Yes, in America! In 1659 the general court of Massachusetts enacted that "anybody who is found observing, by abstinence from labor, feasting, or any other way, any such day as Christmas day shall pay for every such offense five shillings." This law held and was enforced for 22 years and even when it was finally repealed in 1681 the Puritans grew bitter and for years never recognized the day.—Exchange.

Many an artist thinks he is in hard luck if he isn't able to draw a cork.

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