

THE FLORIDA STAR

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LOOKING BACK AT LIBERTY.

The world's progress in liberty during the hundred years that have elapsed since the French revolution completed its work of leveling human conditions is indicated by the situation in Europe today. All Europe took up arms to quell the uprising of the French masses at the closing of the eighteenth century. At the beginning of the twentieth century the governments and the peoples of Europe unite in wishing well of the struggles of the Russian masses to share the liberty which their civilized neighbors enjoy.

For many years, but more especially during the last few months, observers of events in St. Petersburg, Moscow and other centers of Russian population have recalled the situation in France from, say, 1785 to the overthrow of the monarchy. There is a parallel in the matter of land monopoly, in a corrupt or indifferent bureaucracy, in royal favoritism, in financial distress, in unequal privileges, in the abuse of one man power. A parallel in personnel as well as in conditions must exist in order to harvest the opportunities which the folly of rulers has placed in the path of liberty. Revolution was scething in France for years before the storm burst, and it took two years more to gain force. The times, the environment were against it. Kings hated it, and well wishers of liberty distrusted the methods of her newest apostles and champions.

Those who look for a true parallel of the French revolution in Russia may not be disappointed, but Russia is not France, and St. Petersburg is not Paris. However, since counterfeits of liberty take on different guises, so real liberty may appear in various forms. The Russian form when it dawns may surprise the world with the manner of its coming and by the largeness of its application. Civilization has made wonderful strides since 1789, and Russia has advanced at least a little bit.

HYSTERIA IN HERO WORSHIP.

Another popular idol just now has a tendency to imitate the rocket stick after the blazing stage is over and obey natural law. As side lights are thrown upon the Russian defense of Port Arthur General Stoessel's mushroom fame wanes. It is easy to clothe a supposed hero who is behind the veil with all sorts of picturesque qualities and to assume offhand that what he might be that he most assuredly is. When Stoessel himself comes out and sollects the public's kisses, figurative or real, it will be time enough to write him down as a no account hero. Meanwhile some of us should resolve to "sing small" on this hero business in future until the returns are all in and counted. Some misnamed heroes deserve to be summarily dropped from the pedestal of favor, and the Spanish-American war produced its share of this species. If the "glad hand" of the public is no longer in evidence in certain cases, it is the "hero's" own fault. But victims of public hysteria, like Dewey, for instance, should not be classed with mere povers and treated with neglect. Dewey did his duty at Cavite bay as thoroughly as Farragut did his at Mobile bay. Doubtless he was the most surprised American un-

der the folds of old glory when he awoke to find himself a Paul Jones, Perry and Farragut on the composite plan. There was a later awakening, as cruel as the first had been enchanting, yet Dewey had not changed meanwhile. The public had unloosed its charge of fix and was simply weary.

The calmness of military men over this hero business is often aggravating to laymen and smacks of cruel cynicism. But the cruelty is a kindness to the person most involved. The highest standard of the service is fidelity to duty. To be conspicuously faithful means simply that the opportunity is conspicuous and the man of the hour fortunate. It would be awkward for a commander to sloop over in official praise of some individual and then have the affair turn out very ordinary. The military rule adopted for general use would at least spare the public the charge of being now hysterical and again fickle.

THE EVERLASTING BYRON.

The present head of the London publishing house which boomed Lord Byron into his sudden fame, John Murray III., is quoted by the Pall Mall Gazette as saying, "There will be no final life of Byron, as you call it, as long as I can prevent it."

The Murrays have gathered a museum of Byron treasures, which are placed in a veritable Valhalla, editions of his own works in vellums and crushed morocco ornamented with gold and as dazzling as his most glittering conceptions having an alcove to themselves. On the walls are many portraits of the poet's friends done by the hands of his friends, and these rare presentiments have for companions the most celebrated paintings of Byron himself. The last portrait of Byron drawn from life is a crayon which shows him as fat as a lord, with the face of a genius.

Mr. Murray explains his attitude toward further exploitation of Byron's private life in print by saying, "There has been too much nonsense talked about the poet, and I will be no party to lending his papers and my collection to anything that tends to perpetuate that kind of a thing." The publisher is constantly besieged with inquiries concerning Byron, especially from American correspondents.

Many moons ago discussion was rife in this country as to why this people loved Japan more and Russia less or something to that effect in the crisis of 1904. The questions had various answers, some of which seemed premature, but at this date they strike a writer in the Revue de Paris as having been in the main correct. In this article our pro-Japanese sympathies are laid to three principal reasons—the disposition to side with the "under dog," racial admiration for "smartness" and a paternal pride in Japan because we opened that country up to western influence. Incidentally this writer points to our anti-Russian opinion. Perhaps that is the strongest reason of all. It is natural to take sides and to balance the merits of the case, and there is nothing about Russia which appeals to American sympathies. Russia gets no sympathy here, or next to none; hence it can easily appear as though Japan were receiving the lion's share.

The thirtieth business anniversary of the "first typewriter girl" is a reminder. Thirty years ago very eloquent tongues and pens were insisting that woman could never catch up with her manifest destiny without the ballot. But the voteless "new woman" has traveled so fast toward the desired goal that it looks as though she might at any time call a strike for the ballot and stop the wheels of commerce, industry and even society unless suffrage is granted. And it is far better to be in a position to command equality than to have to beg for it.

Britons note with envy that the United States shut out 8,000 undesirable immigrants last year. The London Globe says that this republic has ample room for continental riffraff, but that the government most rightly draws the line against paupers, diseased persons, convicts, the insane and imbeciles. These classes have proved an intolerable burden in England, and still they come.

An electrical saw for cutting down trees is among recent inventions described in the Scientific American. The trees are felled by burning through the trunk close to the ground with a wire heated by the current. It can be operated at a long distance from the electrical plant.

It is a mighty doubtful compliment to tell a man that he is a good judge of whisky.

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VETERAN CHIEFS FOR MILITIA. General Miles' appointment as adjutant general of the Massachusetts state militia is not an innovation in the sense that it may result in friction between two schools of military ideals. After the civil war many states appointed veteran generals to leadership in the militia. During the great coal strike of 1902 the national guard of Pennsylvania was directed by Adjutant General Stewart, and the troops in the affected region were commanded by General Gobin, both prominent G. A. R. veterans. It has been a matter of pride for the national guard in some states to be led by old soldiers and to acquire themselves well in the presence of critical officers. The good soldier wants the best training possible. He can get it from men who have been in active service. Good organization and good handling are fully as important to a body of troops as the quality of its personnel. Neither can succeed without the other, but perhaps the rarest things are good organization and leadership. If General Miles' regime only fixes the standard for the future of state troops the whole country may be benefited.

kept warm, they say. The thin back waistcoat is "the undertaker's best friend" and mainly responsible for the hacking coughs. A close fitting shoulder cape of flannel or other warm material worn next to the skin and covering the base of the neck is a good protection and can be fashioned so as to avoid clumsiness. Desevred Popularity. To cure constipation and liver troubles by gently moving the bowels and acting as a tonic to the liver, take Little Early Risers. These famous little pills are mild, pleasant and harmless, but effective and sure. Their universal use for many years is a strong guarantee of their popularity and usefulness. Sold by Red Cross Pharmacy, Titusville; Eau Gallie Pharmacy, Eau Gallie.

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