

Chief Justice Lamar

CHIEF Justice J. R. Lamar, who died in Washington on Sunday last, was a very great lawyer, a most lovable man. The Lamars have a great hold upon the people of the south. They are a brave, most sensitive race. They carry the courage of their convictions with them always, and by nature can best win when the trial tests at once their high pride, their chivalry and courage.

A wound upon what they hold to be their honor is worse than death to them. Not one of them has been a money maker, and their struggles immediately after the civil war was pathetic to those who knew and loved them.

"Honest John Allen" of Mississippi was wont to tell with great glee how on one occasion he met the elder Lamar and said to him: "Senator, I have a beautiful Alderney cow which I want to present to you, and I will have the animal driven over to your place this morning."

At this Lamar drew himself up and said with great dignity: "Mr. Allen, do you forget that I do not accept presents." "Not at all," said Allen. "When you receive the cow you will kindly make out a note payable at your convenience and return it by the man." This was done with due formality. "Has he ever paid the note?" was asked of Allen. "Of course not," was the reply. "The contract was that he should pay at his convenience, and tell me if it is ever convenient for a gentleman to pay a note!"

Chief Justice Lamar was eminent in his profession, and he would a thousand times rather suffer a wrong than to wrong another.

His nature was so lovable and his ideals so high that men and women alike revered him and held his acquaintance as one of their treasures.

His death is a great shock. The all hails and farewells to him will be choked with tears.

Pan-American Rhapsodies

A STRAINED effort has apparently been made to magnify the importance of a Pan-American union among the republics of this continent. We confess to a doubt about any great good coming of it. The Latins and Americans are not good mixers and we can easily imagine a time when it might be a most costly alliance for our country.

Suppose some of those were to become involved in war with some European power which threatened to take the state by conquest. We would be bound to interpose and that might involve the necessity of fighting, perhaps, three thousand miles from our nearest base.

In that event our country would have the bulk of the fighting and the expense.

Brazil has some good soldiers; the old Portuguese strain is of fighting and looting stock; Argentina could raise quickly a fighting army for there are perhaps three hundred thousand Irishmen in that country; the men of Chili are a brave, strong race, for their experience has been very much like those of the men who settled our eastern coast nearly three hundred years ago. But the purely Spanish states of Spanish-America—all save Chili—would not be much help in case of war.

They would be much as were the people of Spain when Wellington went there to drive back Napoleon's forces. The sour old Iron Duke was obliged at last to tell them to keep out of the way and not hamper his own army when it was being entertained by the French. It is good to fraternize with all those people, but so far as we can see, no great advantages can come through a closer walk with them.

The Glorious World

WHEN Copernicus traced out the plan of the solar system and established the order of the planets to their central sun, he must have been half overwhelmed by the majesty of his discovery. But we receive notices every day that the sublime machinery is still working. The worlds are moving without a jar. On their golden axes the worlds are turning; they are making the journeys of their mighty orbits and there are no mistakes—nothing is forgotten. It was planned that when the earth, exhausted through bearing the harvest, should have the curtains drawn and be given a long sleep, there was to be no forgetfulness. The sun from his far wanderings was to be recalled each year; he was to send his beams to the earth to thrill it and plant the flowers beneath the snow. A little later, the hardy birds were to begin to meet and discuss their plans; then the migratory birds and the first buds were to appear, and with each day's advance the sun was a-blaze earlier and earlier above the mountain tops and was to linger longer and longer each evening.

The machinery is still in perfect order. Already the light remains for us to board the cars when the dinner hour draws near; the robins will be here now very soon. There is no break in the mighty order; the planets, the morning and the evening stars are all pursuing their sublime voyages and could a picture be made carrying but a trace of the splendor and glory of it all at the

sight of it the hearts of men would throb faster and a reverence for the magnificence of it all would fill their hearts.

Time To Call a Truce

IF those who make the laws in Europe are judges of human nature they will have urged the commanders of the armies in the field to engage in active warfare all along the battle lines during the holidays. For sometimes it is more dangerous to permit soldiers to rest and think than to have them engage the enemy in real war.

What if those fighting machines in Europe called armies, should stop and recall the Christmas trees, the Christmas carols, the Christmas gifts of old and then ask themselves why all this desolation and death were permitted, what would the answer be? What if they were to continue the questions and ask themselves what has been gained by the last year's sacrifices, who could answer them?

They look across the bloody trenches at the foe and are forced to acknowledge that except that their countries are at war, they would be glad to go over the fraternize with those men, rather than to be killing them. Then they think of wives and children and sisters and sweethearts and little brothers to whom the Christmas can bring no cheer because they are not with them.

That makes a dangerous situation. Under such a strain men are liable to become mutinous.

It is better to engage them in actual warfare than to give them the quiet to think.

Are not the rulers anxious to hear a call for peace from some potential source?

We are sure that it is time for the neutral nations to move; we believe our own government should take the lead in sounding the call to the other neutral powers to send their delegates to the Hague and combining with them, prepare a call and ask the warring powers to sound a truce and submit their claims to see if an adjustment cannot be reached.

Germany is soon to float another war loan, this one for \$2,500,000,000. Her chemists must have learned how to make synthetic money as well as synthetic food.—New York Evening Sun.

There are more than 250,000 corporations in this country, according to figures compiled by the Federal Trade commission, of which more than 100,000 have no income whatever. Those must be good corporations.—New York Tribune.

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