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The Washington Anniversary

NEXT TUESDAY will be the anniversary (177th) of the birth of George Washington. The other day Woodrow Wilson declared that the people of New York City could not produce another Lincoln. He might have added, New York could not produce another Washington.

He grew up without much of any schooling, he never could spell correctly, he took some elementary lessons in surveying. From the first he was an athlete and a horse tamer, from the first the sound of fife and drum were music to him. So when the militia was formed, by natural selection he was the captain. He was, moreover a woodsman; he knew all the habits of the wild game, and further back, the habits of the wild savage.

So when a French-Indian war came on, and Great Britain sent an accomplished officer with a command to down the trouble, Washington went along with his militia and, when approaching a dangerous point, near where Pittsburg now is, he ventured to say to the English general that the appearances of things ahead were bad, that he should not venture further without first sending out some scouts to reconnoiter, and that educated fool, disdainful to receive advice from the backwoodsman, threw his men into what proved to be an ambushade and he and many of his soldiers were killed.

In that moment the spirit of George Washington shown out. He was everywhere in the fight, he had five horses shot from under him, he saved the remnant of the command. So that when the time was ripe for this nation to be born, instinctively congress turned to him for a leader and for the coming seven years, against all hardships and against all dangers, he guided the shabby army and wrought out deliverance to the land.

Then he was made President when he might have been made king. He served eight years as President, served until the constitution was formed and a free government fully established, and when he was called the whole world was thrilled with sorrow, and the great Corsican, who was then in the height of his power in France, ordered a state mourning and that all his officers should wear crape for thirty days.

The secret of it all was the character of the man. He was a man among men, he looked out sharply for his own interests, but above all other men around him, what was good for native land was what he determined to have, and so profound were his convictions on this subject that fine scholars acknowledged his power, men in every walk of life acknowledged his power; he was the strongest character of his day; the influence he left behind his country still retains and the flag which was first baptized in blood over him has become the symbol of liberty the world round.

Next Tuesday wherever there is an American colony there will be memorial services, wherever an American ship is tossing on the sea a solemn salute will be fired in his memory. When he began his work the settlements of our country consisted of a little fringe along the shore of the Atlantic; today 90,000,000 of Americans over the whole continent, will hail his name in remembrance, and it will be so to the end of time with every return of his birthday. The men of the United States will send all halls to his memory and that memory will be an inspiration to every real American on sea or on land. No American army and no American fleet will ever go into battle without calling on his name.

From nothing, by his character he won immortality, a distinct place in the list of great men, and one of the chief secrets of all his life was that he loved his country better than himself, and from boyhood up he held his fortune, his honor, his life itself, as but belonging to his country and subject every moment to his country's commands.

Schools of Patriotism

IN A RECENT speech Secretary Root expressed a fear that our country was growing so great, and filling with so many conflicting interests, that bye and bye it would break of its own weight. The thought of some has been that to reconcile interests where states conflict, the power of the Federal government should be increased. The president has advocated this in messages and speeches. And that there is doubt where state authority should stop and Federal authority should be paramount, has often been seen of late, in the decisions of the higher state courts and the supreme court of the United States. And often decisions are rendered by a bare majority of the bench, a pronounced minority dissenting. This is evidence of great unrest in the highest spheres, as though men most capable of declaring the law were in grave doubt. Secretary Root seems to think there should be more careful work on the part of state legislators, higher work; that only the ablest men should be given places in state legislatures. If this could be done we do not see how it could cure any present wrong, for that would but give a more pronounced tone to state prejudices. A strong man, who is a gifted lawyer and an old legislator, has made all the rumpus in the California legislature during the last month. He has been the voice both of the more timid conservatives and of the solid element; of the men who dread the coming of Asiatics because of the menace their coming in great numbers would be, and of the other class whose minds are filled with the spirit of boycott and violence.

Our thought is that a higher patriotism is the one thing needed. How can that be fostered?

The states give all the children free schools; free public schools, and in some of the states free high schools are added. Minors are supplied with free school rooms, books and teachers, these pupils accept as their right, and in these schools as a rule, there is very little patriotism taught, and few of the studies are calculated to give children any special knowledge of the great, benign government above them, or how it is different from the governments of other countries.

We believe the generosity of the governments, state and national should go a little further, but as it advances there should be a change of the rules. We believe the high schools should be reserved for such as in the public schools show their worthiness to go higher, and that in those schools a new text book should be added, in which by questions and answers, the principles of our government should be made clear and the difference between our own and every other government shown.

Then, we think, every state should have a state university into which students could only enter on merit. That it should be as free or expensive to the students as the public schools, but that every student would feel that he or she was

there as reward for honest work in the lower schools, and feel that they are wards of the state and that not to do their best would be a disgrace to them and a wrong to the government that gave them the opportunity to advance. Students for this school should be nominated by the governor on the recommendation of the state and county and city school superintendents. To graduate from such a school would make any young man a patriot. In the same way the general government should have a university; its students in the same way to be selected from all the states, not by congressional appointment, but on merit alone. The influence that would go out from these universities would, after twenty years, hold the country together and make the men of every state feel that to be an American citizen was greater than to be a king.

The Fleet and Its Lesson

THE FLEET is in touch with native land by wireless, and if all goes well, before the present week is over the big ships will be in port or close off the coast.

When they pulled away from Gibraltar, the correspondents said that the ships were in better order than when they left Hampton Roads, and that the discipline, or at least the efficiency, of the crews was correspondingly greatly improved. If anything was needed they were ready at the sound of a gong to spring to their places and to promptly and swiftly perform any duty. In that respect the navy of the United States is a model for the schools and for business men in the conduct of their affairs, to imitate. It is good for the people generally to imitate for it has behind it simply the idea that every man should do his very best that followed by the people for a generation, would make of the American people the foremost among the races of men. There is so much time lost in idleness; so many men are satisfied with indifferent work; so many thousands of men do not try to bring out the best that is in them. Boys shirk in school, men shirk at their work; thousands assume that they can shirk and still obtain the reward which is only honestly due to perfect performance, and when there is shirking then there is a resort to a pretense that the thing is well done, which is a cheat.

More than half the people live their lives through and pass on, when half of what was good in them and which by honest work they might have brought forth, dies with them. The work of the navy is good for such men to imitate.

Admiral Evans, who took the fleet around South America to San Francisco, in a speech at the annual banquet of the Geographic society, his theme being the navy, among other things said:

"My education in life has been along the lines of doing what I am told to do without answering back. Therefore, when the President ordered the Atlantic fleet to go to California, I did not ask him why he wanted it to go. I doubt if he would have given me a satisfactory answer if I had."

In that sentence the key of the navy's efficiency can be found. Continuing the admiral after saying the ships were in perfect order, said:

"Now, about your men. The men we are getting now from the middle western states are the best material that ever put on a blue shirt, and the best material that ever put on a blue shirt