

C. C. GOODWIN, Editor
 J. T. GOODWIN, Manager
 L. S. GILLHAM, Business Manager

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The Country's Great Need

THAT was a very winsome speech made by Vice-President Sherman at Utica, New York, on Monday night. Its comparisons of our country with the assembled countries of the world was most graphic, showing that we expended more for schooling than the five great nations of the old world; how while our country had but seven per cent of the land surface of the world, industrially it was equal to half the world; that our people carry half the life insurance of the world; while one-third of all the revenues collected by the government is ours, our debt is but one-thirtieth of the debt of the world; how we all the time have 20,000,000 students in our schools, 17,000,000 of whom are in our public schools. In his opening he declared that every war our country had ever fought had had some exalted moral purpose.

We think it would be hard to explain that in regard to the Mexican war. True, in one sense, that was a war of defense; Texas had gained her independence and our country had annexed Texas to the union, for which Mexico began the war. The truth is, the thought behind the Mexican war was the addition of more slave territory and Mexico protested before the admission. However, looking over the history, it is a clear case that the war was an immense benefit to the world, and especially to our own country. The plan was to have the new territory slave territory, but when it came time for the admission of California, although a very large proportion of the convention that framed the constitution for the new state were men from the southern states, when the proposition was made to dedicate the state forever to liberty, there was but one dissenting voice. It was a clear case of where men's plans, no matter how well laid, are sometimes turned aside by the Unseen Power that rules and controls the nations.

There is in this speech of Mr. Sherman's only one disquieting feature. A nation so rich as ours, a nation so strong, a nation so hedged about by wealth and strength, a nation that can support 20,000,000 pupils in schools, ought not to have so many idle men as our country has, and ought to the more strictly enforce the laws.

The fault of our country is not in the masses of the people, not in the officers of the government, but it is that each community does not look carefully enough after its own interests. The strong men in each free state do not do all they should do to see that their part of the great republic is made secure, that the poor have work, that the very poor are looked after, that the children of the poor have a fair chance to prepare for the competitions of this old world.

It has grown to be a habit of the American people to trust everything to the government and to evade individual responsibility, when, in truth, that individual responsibility is what gives character to the nation. The president does not establish the nation's character, neither does congress; it is the strong men in every town which frame and give direction to public opinion, and

in that respect, in very many places, our countrymen are derelict, they do not perform all their duties.

Ours is a big farm, it is well fenced all around, the cultivation of many fields is perfect, but there are great tracts where weeds are permitted to grow; there are great tracts where the lands are not drained, where the utmost is not produced and where there are too many idle men for the good of the whole. Yet such speeches as Vice-President Sherman's are good, they arouse national pride, they are a notice to foreign nations how entrenched we are and how impossible any assault upon us would be; indeed, there is no strong power that could afford to have a difficulty with the United States lest their own people starve.

What would France do except it could obtain American food and textiles, and then, to pay for the food and textiles, by unnatural profits on the luxuries which France provides for our people? It is the same way with Germany, the same way, in great measure, with England—all in all, every other nation is second class compared with ours; and when England and France and Germany point to their thousand years of civilization, to all their treasures of art and architecture, and ask what we have to show, we can answer, "We have more to show for one hundred years than you have for your thousand, and the possibilities before us cannot be computed in any terms which you know how to employ."

Two years ago a private citizen of this city bought some land, started the erection of two great buildings, promised a third and fourth, and by his example gave an impetus to all the other business men of the town to try to make the town greater and more beautiful. That shows what can be accomplished by the efforts of one man. In the same way, on a moral plane, one man can inaugurate work which will bring the youth of the city to a more careful study of what they may do, what they may accomplish, what they should be responsible for, and in that way, a dozen men could change the tone of the whole direction of the 80,000 people in this city. And that is what this country needs, to have a few strong men in every town do their best. When that is done it will not matter so much about the government at Washington; it will not matter what the attitude of the outside world is toward us; we shall be on the up-grade to fortune, to honor and to a world-wide influence.

How Men Are Made

ADMIRAL EVANS during his present lecture trip to the Pacific; coast has repeatedly declared there never were better men than the crews of the ships 'bat sailed with him around South America to San Francisco. He said they were mostly farmers' boys from the old central west. Some of them had never seen a ship before they were put on those battle-ships and started on that voyage.

Other things being equal, it would be a good thing if every boy in America could make one voyage of that kind, because it is a new world, a new experience. For the first time some of those boys realized what it was to be an American citizen, and all of them comprehended for the first time the forces that are brought in subjection to make the defenses of our country.

A writer in the World's Work tells about the practice in gunnery in Magdalena bay. Some of it reads like a romance. A few extracts will not be out of place:

"The constant labor, combined with the daily handling of shells and powder, has given each man a wonderful physical development. Never has it been my fortune, even among professional athletes, to behold as many examples of physical perfection. Not only is every muscle modeled under the skin so that it ripples with a move-

ment; not only is that muscle rounded in the outlines of a Grecian statue, but it is full of blood, firm and vital and ruddy when unflexed. There is nothing of the knotty, stooped, desecrated strength of coal miners and the Farnese Hercules. Rather the type is that of full, rounded, elastic youth."

That shows what the exercise on board a man-of-war does for a youth; but it must be remembered that they were in perfect form when they went on board, else they would not have been accepted.

Of the shooting at Magdalena he says: "An old gun officer stood next to me one afternoon. He had been at this for a great many years. Furthermore, he was from another ship and was present merely as a disinterested spectator. He glanced at the waiting crew.

"'Excited?' he asked me. 'I am. It always makes me feel queer inside, just like before the whistle blows at a football game. And when you are the division officer it is something awful. You have been at it the whole year, yet when you signal to commence firing you are absolutely certain that nothing on earth could make that gun go off. When it does go off you are mightily surprised. After that you are all right.'

"Suddenly, with startling abruptness, the ship quivered to the sound of the whistle; the little group by the gun stiffened, the spectators drew a deep breath, the gun captain reached forward and surreptitiously patted the breech of the gun. He was an old time navy man, by the name of Riley, and he lived for but two things—his gun and shore liberty. On board ship he spent all his time, outside his other duties, in cleaning and dusting and polishing that gun, and at night he slept beneath it. He called it the 'Admiral Dewey.'

"The division officer's whistle was at his lips, his eyes were on the stop watch; he drew in his breath and puffed his cheeks. The thin shrill of the whistle was drowned by the clang of the breech as Riley threw it open. Almost immediately it clanged shut again.

"'Ready!' yelled the gun captain.

"Hardly had the first sound of the first part of the word left his mouth than the great yellow sheet of flame filled the universe visible through the narrow port. A crash filled the narrow space in which we stood. The great mass of metal plunged back and forward again in the recoil and its recovery. Riley's left arm had followed it. Instantly he tore open the breech for the eager shellman. The latter, having hurled his burden into the chamber, turned violently, fairly to collide with another man who stood ready with another shell. In that way twelve shots were fired, the first six in twenty-four and one-half, the second in twenty-seven and one-half seconds. Then abruptly silence fell. You could hear the beat of the engines and the surge of the water as it rushed past the ship."

The target showed that the "Admiral Dewey" had hit at the rate of 12.55 per minute. The average before this year was 7 1/2.

Reading it, one wonders what they would be doing on another ship at which those twelve shots in twenty-seven seconds were hurled. And just from the little description we can get an idea how changed must be all the thoughts of those farmer boys from what they were in their peaceful homes in the old west, with their quiet work at home and their sweethearts in the next house.

See to the Encampment

THERE come times in the lives of nations when their lives rest solely on the valor and patriotism of their sons.

Such a crisis was on our Republic from 1861 to 1865.

The fathers tried to do away with human slavery but did not quite succeed, but failing, the wisest of them predicted that the institu-