

any year; and the bars should not be let down until we are reasonably caught up with the assimilation of the foreign born already here. But the most vital part of the process of assimilation is the cultivation of friendly unity between the country and the newcomers. Those to whom we open our doors are entitled to our welcome and the welfare of the Republic demands that we bind them to us by the ties of common aims and sentiments.

An American citizen, of all the inhabitants of the world, must recognize the value of mankind as such, and eliminate racial prejudices from his mind and heart. The most impressive of war posters contained a long list of foreign and outlandish names—but the list was headed "Americans All" and was taken from the rolls of the United States army. Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington, born of negro mothers, were two of the finest Americans in history. Michael Pupin, world famous scientist, was born in Slavic Europe, but we are proud of his genius and of his loyalty to his adopted land.

Let us refuse to join in the shallow sneers and destructive scorn toward our new neighbors and citizens-to-be; on the contrary, let us remember that the richness of our national stock and the abundance of our human resources owe much to immigrants, mostly poor and often unlearned, who came from far-off lands.

Hold fast your faith in democracy; that means faith in people, in men and women. There are too frequent whisperers that all the intelligence is concentrated in two per cent or ten per cent or thirty per cent of the population. That has been the traditional theory of autocracy and oligarchy; it is the same as the divine right of kings, for certainly God would appoint only the wisest to rule! But alas for the system, for sometimes the king turned out to be a fool after all, or advised by fools; and even when he was keen and shrewd his subjects sometimes suffered the more by reason of his ambition and unscrupulousness. Napoleon was certainly not feeble-minded, yet France bled at every vein and agonized in every nerve in penalty for his measureless greed of conquest. No one is so stupid as to deny the immense range of human brain-power; but if it were ten times as great, it would not affect the truth expressed so aptly by Lincoln when he said "No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent."

Don't forget the Declaration of Independence; the constitution can be amended; not so the Declaration; it is for all time. It contains the basic principle of all modern democracy; honestly and resolutely applied it will save the Republic from both tyranny and anarchy; it has destroyed the oppression of kings and alien parliaments; it will avert the domination of a class, such as now seems to prevail in unhappy Russia.

But the principles of the Declaration cut deep into the every-day life of peo-

ple; we have a nation of over a hundred million human beings, and the Declaration embraces them all; the stupendous task of American politics and economics is to make good what the Declaration promises, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for the whole hundred millions. The best conditions of the past show a mere handful of free men, riding upon the backs of great masses of slaves, of serfs, of poor and ignorant laborers, who were the hewers of wood and drawers of water for the more fortunate. Your country is absolutely the pioneers in even proposing to extend freedom to all; and therein lies all her greatness, both now and forever. Alas that so many of her people are blind to this truth, even among the most favored and cultured classes; so many seem to see the greatness of America in her industries, her trade, her wealth of material resources, her dominance in the finances of the world; all these have been held at other times by other nations, which did not even pretend to be champions of liberty.

If you are like other educated Americans you know little of the true history of your own country; set to work now and correct this great fault. First let me beg you to familiarize yourself with the lives of the greatest of your fellow citizens; read the lives of Washington and Lincoln, and study their characters, the details of their political action, the deep convictions that governed their conduct and held it true to righteousness even when they had to sacrifice personal desire and private advantage. Dig out of its obscurity that personal letter which the Father of His Country wrote to his people, and read it as a message to you, which bears still upon the welfare of the Republic; note how he then warned his people against the curse of party spirit, and look out on America today bound hand and foot by party spirit, and delivered over to inefficiency, fraud and the ravages of fraternal strife.

Above all set up in your hearts a living image of the Messiah of American democracy, Abraham Lincoln, who was kind to everybody and every living creature; who hated oppression and loved freedom; who was yet keen as a sword in logic and hard as steel in resolution. Learn the meaning of those

words of his biographers, the two men who lived in his presence throughout his official career,

"This fastidious, inflexible, and inconvenient morality was to be of vast service hereafter to his country and to the world."

If any man in history may be trusted to define democracy that man is this same Lincoln; I give you his definition in his own words, and commend it to your study; take it with you and reflect upon it; it will serve as well as anything you can find as a measuring rod for Americanism, especially to detect the existence, if such there be, of the wonderful essence of 100 per cent Americanism. Here it is, in Lincoln's habitual simple style:

"As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. That is my idea of democracy. What differs from this, by the extent of that difference, is not democracy."

But let me warn you that if you should take this seriously, its consequences might be almost as serious as taking the Sermon on the Mount seriously. It might turn out to be part of that "fastidious, inflexible, and inconvenient morality" described by Nicolay and Hay. But the man who has never denied his own desire or ambition, to the end that some other man might be more free, does not even know whether he has any democracy or not. He may merely be a parasite upon freedom, drawing from its life-giving currents to feed his own selfish comfort and satisfaction. Beware of such false citizenship, for it is all about you and wears fair garments.

Carry with you the spirit of Lincoln's most prophetic words, uttered for the perilous times over which he ruled so nobly, but even more fit for our own momentous days:

"The dogmas of a quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. First we must disenthral ourselves, and then we shall save the Republic."

African natives work in pairs pulling passenger carts, while a single man pulls a Japanese jinrikisha

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