

infringing upon this principle. The American people must stand united in keeping the public school of our land free from strife and dispute. It must remain the Crucible that burns out the dross of false standards and intolerant ideas, germs of wrong home-environments. Only in this way will America's public school be able to send forth a generation inoculated against these mental diseases and rendered capable of defending American's cardinal principle of freedom.

#### AN IMMIGRANT'S DECLARATION OF INTENTION THAT IS WORTH EMULATING

FOR THE purpose of enlightening the alien American residents of English birth who are so proud of their native land that they consider it more or less a humiliation or at least a matter of condescension to forswear their allegiance to the king of England and become citizens of America, the United American takes pleasure in presenting the following frank statement made by the prominent English author, Major A. Hamilton Gibbs, who recently arrived in America as an immigrant to this country:

"I am convinced that America is the only country to live in during this generation. England is no longer what it was and the strong ties which it once held for its sons are fast dissolving. The era of the new world has actually come and the new world opens up bigger opportunities."

That's mighty fine, old chap!

Put 'er right there, Major Gibbs. In the name of Uncle Sam, you are thrice welcome, because you have given us to understand that you have come to take your part as an American as soon as you can qualify. You are not the first immigrant who has come in that spirit, but it is rather unusual to have one make such an open declaration of intention on the threshold when he steps off the boat and advances to take his place among the rank and file of the American people.

Britishers, who are still in the rear, should begin to feel differently about this matter of choice in citizenship and feel an urge to emulate Major Gibbs.

The name of Gibbs is an honored name in Great Britain, the major's brother is Sir Phillip Gibbs, another distinguished citizen of that kingdom. Perhaps there is little in a name, as names go, but inasmuch as Uncle Sam keeps a good record of those who take a definite stand for him, there is a reasonable assurance that the spirit which prompted this immigrant to make the quoted statement will characterize his efforts to back it up in unswerving loyalty and fidelity until the name of Gibbs has been accorded a place of honor in Uncle Sam's citizenship annals, a guarantee of faith and a credit to the country in which it originated.

#### DIAMOND DEPOSIT ON VALLEY FORGE FARM

WITHIN a stone's throw of the Continentals' camping ground at Valley Forge a foreign-born farmer is said to be living over a diamond deposit.

Eight years ago Morris A. Barr brought his wife and daughter to America. He bought a little farm near the spot where Washington's troops spent the winter of 1777-78. Mineral water springs yielded

him a comfortable living. One day while digging a basin for his springs Barr spaded up sparkling white sand. The sun flashed brilliantly from dozens of little stones. Barr called his friends.

Today his eleven-acre farm is visited by thousands of tourists who come to view the historic field nearby. Marshals Foch and Joffre came to see his place and took away as gifts some of the gems. Among the tourist have been geologists and mining engineers. They have explained the "diamond farm."

The Barr home is built between two knolls, part of a ridge that encircles Valley Forge. The knolls are extinct volcanoes. Centuries ago they erupted and threw the sparkling sands and stones into the valley between them.

Diamonds, garnets, topaz, moonstones, sardonyx, sapphires, jasper stones studded with obsidian, jade, black opals, tiny golden and greenish berries, crystal quartz, lapis lazuli, moss agate and even the Labradorite have been dug from the white sand pit. None of the stones having been cut or polished, their value remains uncertain.

And Barr who stubbornly refuses to mine the gems, says:

I would spoil my springs. This mineral water is too valuable to risk on a diamond mining gamble.

And so the Valley Forge volcanoes retain their jewels.

In the Barr farmhouse is a huge fireplace, hewn from a giant boulder taken from the pit. Glinting chips and rough specimens of all the above named stones are imbedded in its surface. Thousands have seen and marveled at these deposits of rare stones.

#### DIGGING UP A BIT OF ANCIENT HISTORY TO PROVE OR DISPROVE ITS AUTHENTICITY

AN ANCIENT church in Southwark, a parliamentary borough of the city of London, is to be torn down. Incidentally an old tale related for centuries is to be tried as to its merits.

The old house of worship is the St. Olav's Church which is said to have been erected centuries ago and dedicated to the memory of the Norse king Olaf who, having become converted to Christianity, devoted his life to destroying paganism and planting the sign of the cross in the Northlands. Some time after his death he was canonized in recognition of his work in advancing the cause of the church and as a saint his name has lived through centuries and been attached to churches and chapels in Norway and in England and his memory eulogized in stories and folk-songs down to the present day.

London "Answers," reiterating the story, tells how Harold who obtained the sobriquet "Hare-foot," and was the son of king Canute "the Great," successfully connived to become the ruler, though his half-brother, Canute "the severe" (Harthacanute), was entitled to the crown. He died at Oxford in the year 1040 and was buried among the kings in Westminster Abby. His successor, the half-brother whom he had cheated out of his rights, is related to have sought vengeance upon his deceased predecessor and relative by removing the body from its resting place and after having had the corpse beheaded, ordered it thrown in the Thames. A fisherman found the body which, accord-