

For Such is the Government of America

By HONORABLE HUGH M. MORRIS, Judge of the United States District Court of Delaware

LIBERTY, human liberty, liberty of body and mind, liberty under law made by the people, is the most valuable and precious thing in the world. For humanity to acquire it required centuries upon centuries of time. It required war after war from the very dawn of civilization until yesterday. It was brought about only by the pain, the torture, the death of countless thousands of men and women who asserted that men are by nature free and independent and who denied the divine right of kings or the right of government of any sort or kind to manacle and shackle at will the body and mind of mankind. The cost of liberty measured in material wealth has been beyond the comprehension of man. To secure and to make secure human liberty constituted the sole reason for the creation of the government of the United States. That government was founded upon the denial of the divine right of kings and upon the principle that the sole purpose of government is to secure the natural rights of man, his rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Should the American Government ever turn aside from that principle and make those rights wholly subject to its will and grace, the struggles of mankind throughout the ages to attain that which was first accomplished by America will have been in vain. America will have missed the goal of her destiny and the guns of the American Revolution will have marked but the last unclouded blaze of the final setting, and not the rising, of the glorious sun of liberty.

Force was the dominant factor in the governments of the world when Christ was born. Force was still the dominant factor when Columbus set sail on his voyage that was to result in the discovery of a new world. The lash, the thumbscrew, the wrack were the implements by which were subdued and stifled the longings of humanity for an environment and a government in which the human soul should be left free to shape, to make and to develop itself. Those were the instrumentalities by which the mind of man was imprisoned and his thought and actions made to conform to the code of conduct prescribed by the King. They were the devices of torture by which the asserted divine right of kings was so long upheld. Worshipping God according to the dictates of

one's own conscience and free speech marked the pathway to stake and scaffold. For all that humanity today cherishes as its greatest gifts there was neither thought nor hope. Reason had no seat in the realms of government. "The King wills it" was in all things an ultimatum from which there was no appeal. So strong were the bonds with which the mind, the soul and the actions of man were fettered and shackled that the discovery of a new world was required to weaken them. Three centuries of life in that new world were required to break them. But when Jefferson and his colleagues wrote at Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, into that immortal document—the Declaration of Independence—that all men are created equal and that they—not kings—are endowed by their creator with inalienable rights and that to secure those rights govern-

ments are instituted among men, humanity first stood at the dawn of its emancipation. Throughout the ages there had been no proclamation so bold, so daring, so fraught with human freedom, human opportunity and human happiness. That declaration was the crowning achievement of the American Revolution. By comparison, the mere separation of the colonies from the British Crown was but a local incident. When a few years later the new American Government was formed and made effective on a grand scale for the sole and only purpose of making secure those God-given rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, mankind emerged from its night of terror and darkness and stood at last under the life-giving

ON THE bench of the United States District Court for the State of Delaware sits a judge, an American citizen, who has perceived it his duty to add something more than judicial sternness to the proceedings by which foreign-born people become naturalized, in other words admitted into the temple of American citizenship. A staunch champion of the cause of a higher citizenship standard, Judge Hugh M. Morris has taken an active part in promoting and supporting the Americanization cause in Delaware to the end that the people of foreign birth may obtain a more thorough appreciation of the institutions of America before they formally pledge their fealty.

On a recent occasion when a large number of immigrant people had been admitted into citizenship, Judge Morris, in addressing the new entrants as "My fellow citizens", fashioned most feelingly into a brief welcome some of the cardinal principles in American citizenship, which he appealingly admonished the new citizens to cherish. To all citizens of adoption Judge Morris' talk to the naturalized citizens of Delaware contains the same appeal and the same admonition. Its reproduction in the United American is therefore self-explanatory.

—The Editor.

rays of the rising sun of freedom. No longer was the conscience of man to be directed and controlled by the state. Not again was the state to be master of man's purse, man's opportunities or man's soul. Government was to be in the hands of the people, and not the people in the hands of a government in which they had no part. No longer were the cries of humanity for justice, for freedom of thought and action to be denied by that prostrating answer—"The King wills it." Henceforth government should be what the people willed. The people were to establish their own rules of conduct. They were at full liberty to do as they

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