

# THE CONDITIONS FOR NATIONAL SUCCESS

"Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people". Prov. 14:34

SERMON DELIVERED BY REV. UPTON H. GIBBS, RECTOR OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AT LA GRANDE, SUNDAY, JULY 1.

Anniversaries are milestones in life's journey. As the years go by and they become more numerous, we look back and review the ground which we have covered. We see where we have made mistakes, where we have wandered out of the direct path, where we have fallen or stumbled, where our progress has been smooth and rapid, where for some time we have had a level road easy to travel, or again where we have met a steep and arduous hill, where the road was full of obstacles. Such reviews of life are valuable, if only we try to learn and master the lessons they teach. Our mistakes and failures as well as successes contain valuable lessons. We may rise to better things on the stepping stone of past failure as well as on past success. The value of history which is but a record of national life, lies not in the enumeration of various events as in the philosophy which underlies them. An event is an outward and visible sign of an outward cause. If the event be disastrous, we should find the cause in order that a recurrence of the event may be prevented. On the other hand, if it be one for good, we should ascertain the cause in order that the good may be continued. When we read in a nation's history of a revolt like that which caused the reign of terror and anarchy in France in 1793 or the present upheaval in Russia, we find the cause in both cases, to be due to oppression and excessive luxury indulged in by the ruling class. Further study of history shows this cause at the bottom of every similar revolt. We should therefore bear this in mind and watch indications lest a like cause bring about a like revolution in our midst. On the other hand, we find that nations have risen to greatness from obscurity, when their leaders have lived simply, and when the people were free and not oppressed but were justly governed. The Roman people were invincible when their leaders were taken from the plough and returned to the plough after having done their duty to their country; when the Senate was truly representative of the Roman people. But when luxury began to abound, and it was a distinction to a man that his houses, his banquets, his garments excelled those of his rivals, then the nation began slowly but surely to decline. Love of luxury beget licentiousness and urged the nobles to indulge their luxurious tastes and to oppress the common people. Someone had to pay the bills and the common people were made to furnish the supplies. The history of Rome, the history of Greece the history of any nation of which we have a comparatively complete record, amply illustrates what the text states; that "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

No nation has risen to enduring greatness except on the foundation of righteousness, by establishing and maintaining righteous laws, so that all classes in the nation enjoyed their rights. Sometimes a nation has arisen to seeming greatness by a disregard of righteous dealing, but sooner or later a reaction came and great was its fall. The story of Nebuchadnezzar has been repeated again and again. He rose to greatness by pride and oppression. "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?" he impiously and arrogantly exclaimed. But then there came "a voice from heaven saying, O King Nebuchadnezzar to thee it is spoken: The kingdom is departed from thee."

Let not a nation boast, let it not deem itself so powerful that it may do what it pleases irrespective of right or wrong. Wednesday will be another national birthday, and as we recall our national history, we may see clearly the truth of the text, that "righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." In those early days, who would have thought that the day was to come when America would be supreme in the world; when they should say to the proudest nations of

Europe "Thus far shalt thou come but no farther." This has come to pass, for the Monroe doctrine is now recognized and respected by the European nations. Many causes have brought about our rise and progress. The great fertility and extent of the land, the immense mineral deposits and extensive forests have enabled the nation to become rich. But chiefly the cause can be put down to the righteous foundation which the fathers of our country laid namely those principles enumerated in the Declaration of Independence, which declares as the inalienable rights of every individual that he shall have "life liberty and the pursuit of happiness" and "that to secure these rights governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." These were the ends which the leaders in those early days sought to further and achieve.

Their motto was that of the knights of old Noblesse oblige. Those in highest station sacrificed themselves for the common good without expectation of reward. These early days in spite of "insuperable difficulties and hardships were bright with promise because righteousness was in the ascendant. Men were fighting and sacrificing themselves and all they possessed for a righteous principle and the God of righteousness was on their side. Those days manifested the triumph of righteousness. Slowly but surely the righteous cause won the day and righteousness exalted the nation.

Back of all phenomena back of the whole universe there are moral laws and a moral Lawgiver and Governor who will uphold and vindicate the moral law with out respect of person. He puts down the mighty from their seat and exalts the humble and meek. No nation can break with impunity. His laws. The wrong may flourish for a season but all the time it will be breeding evils which sooner or later will come to a head and then follows an upheaval. Take for instance slavery. Although probably on the whole the slaves were well treated and looked after yet slavery is a sin against man. The man may be black, he may be deeply ignorant and requires to be treated as a child yet after all the image of God is stamped on him and the likeness of God can be developed upon him. He as a man "has the inalienable right of life liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Slavery may grant him life and in a measure the pursuit of happiness, but the slave has no command over his own person, he can be sold like a chattel and he has no redress. Here lies the sin in slavery it robs a man unjustly of his liberty and degrades him below the level of a man. This evil long continued became the cause of rousing men's passions until finally the integrity of the union was threatened and a long and bloody fratricidal war resulted which devastated the fairest portions of the land; and on account of which was sacrificed the flower of the nation's sons. It may be disputed that the question of slavery was the chief cause of the war but, if there had been no slavery there hardly would have been war. The question of states rights would probably not have arisen at least not in such an acute form. Slavery has always proved a curse to any nation practicing it. "Today our nation is stronger than ever but there are causes at work which are sapping the strength of and undermining the stable foundation upon which it rests. Excessive luxury is becoming more and more in vogue. The multi-millionaire spends thousands and thousands on mere fads. Living amongst the wealthy has overstepped the limits of decency in many instances. The banquets of Lucullus are being rivalled in cost and sumptuousness. The descriptions of the doings of this set read like those preserved to us of the Roman nobles in the reign of Nero. A Roman emperor for sport made a horse a consul an American gilded youth invites his friends to dinner with a baboon as chief

guest. Certainly the Darwinian theory received strong confirmation in this instance, for really there was little, according to the newspaper accounts, to distinguish between the monkey that apeled the guests, and the guests who apeled the monkey. If the newspapers are to be trusted, this is not an exceptional case. What does this indicate but allow moral tone amongst those in conspicuous places. And what must be the result but a class set who incapable of any healthy amusement, will turn to pass away the time. It is not surprising that there have been the gravest scandals among this class that husband and wife, growing tired of one another have not scrupled with the connivance of each other, to commit adultery in order to get a divorce, that they might legally change partners. Progressive divorce, as it has been well called, is getting more and more prevalent in this set. Let us remember that when the Romans began to be luxurious, they commenced to pass lax divorce laws.

Again excessive luxury demands immense sums to support it. Who has to do the work which earns them? The common people. Hence when they see this display of luxury paid for with money obtained by the sweat of their brows and exhaustion of their bodies, and for which they have received barely enough to support themselves and their families, no wonder they get dissatisfied and trouble ensues. Is it not a fact that alongside of all the ostentation and display of wealth by the millionaires the bulk of the people have only very moderate livings? Consequently there arises the temptation to live beyond one's income in order not to be too conspicuously outclassed. The man who earns \$100 a month, lives not far from him who receives twice that amount and tries to keep up socially with the latter. The other tries to emulate his neighbor who gets \$500 a month, and so it goes on. The result is, that embezzlement, forgery and fraud of every kind is, becoming most and more common and frequent.

During the past year many disgraceful business transactions have been exposed, referring to these in his convention address the Bishop of Connecticut said: "Greed of gain has superinduced a fatty degeneration from what was relatively the robust health of a former day. Men who have been respected are found to have departed far from principal and honor. There has been playing for high stakes with loaded dice and with utter unscrupulousness as regards opponents."

The situation then, presents many ominous signs. But the welfare of our nation is in our own hands. A band of peasants proved to the salt of the earth and saved Rome from being utterly consumed by its lusts. So if we guard against and avoid these evils, as far as ourselves are concerned we shall be exercising a regenerating influence for good. Evil communications corrupt good manners and the reverse is true namely that good communications improve bad manners. Above all we must remember, that no good can be accomplished except in accordance with God's laws. Our influence should be directed towards upholding and maintaining these. In this way we shall be doing patriotic service as much as those who shoulder the musket in the day of battle. Peace has its conflicts, victories and defeats as well as war. Often these are the more important in effect. Let us then, as good citizens who have the nation's welfare at heart, never forget that "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Teach this to your children and impress its truth upon them and it will prove a most valuable guide to their conduct in after life. Let them indulge to the full commensurate with precautions for the public and individual safety, in the tumult and the shouting which accompanies the celebration of the national day.

But above all, impress upon them how our greatness has been achieved and to Whom we are supremely responsible.

## NEVADA MINERS AT WAR

(Scripps News Association)

Carson Nev., June 3—Open war broke out in the Ramsey mining district a few miles east of here today. Armed men are entrenched on valuable mining claims, ready for open battle. Reinforcements and ammunition have been requested from Carson. The trouble arose over a dispute in the ownership of High Lodge, which was sold last week to Goldfield investors. Shots were exchanged last night and this morning a wagon with men and arms left to protect property owned by Carson residents.

### STOLE A RIVER

The feat of the man who stole a red hot stove is far surpassed in larcenous proportions by the people of Colorado if we are to believe the testimony adduced in the case of a Kansas vs Colorado which is pending in the United States Supreme Court, says The Irrigation Age; quoting an unnamed Kansas City daily "This testimony is mostly in the form of photographs taken as usual before and after the and the Kansans claim that these pictures demonstrate the fact that Colorado has stolen and carried away the Arkansas River.

The Kansans claim priority rights to this water. They have eight or nine big ditches which say were built before Coloradoans began to irrigate anything but their throats and these ditches used to be brimming full before Colorado swiped the water and turned it into ditches which were built in base imitation of the Kansans kind.—The Literary Digest

### MAY LIVE 100 YEARS

The chances for living a full century are excellent in the case of Mrs. Jennie Duncan, of Haynesville, Me., now 70 years old. She writes; "Electric Bitters cured me of Chronic Dyspepsia of 20 years standing, and made me feel as well and strong as a young girl." Electric Bitters cure Stomach and Liver diseases, Blood disorders, General Debility and bodily weakness. Sold on a guarantee at Newlin Drug Co.'s drug store. Price only 50c.

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**NOTICE OF RESTORATION** to Settlement, Entry, Filing and Selection of Lands within the former Baker City Forest Reserve, Oregon. Department of the Interior, General Land Office, Washington, D. C., March 28, 1906. In pursuance of the proclamation of the President of the United States, dated March 15, 1906, excluding from the former Baker City Forest Reserve, partly embraced in the Blue Mountains Forest Reserve, Oregon, the area described below, and restoring to settlement the public lands therein, notice is hereby given that the said public land will become subject to entry, filing an selection, under the usual restrictions, a the United States Land Office at La Grande, Oregon, on July 18, 1906: Township eight (8) South Range thirty eight (38) East, Willamette Meridian, the west half of the north-west quarter and the west half of the south-west quarter of Section thirty-five (35); in Township nine (9) South, Range thirty-nine (39) East, the west half of the north-west quarter and the west half of the south-west quarter of Section twenty-nine (29) and the west half of the north-west quarter of Section thirty-two (32).

**W. A. RICHARDS, Commissioner**  
Approved:  
**THOS. RAYN,**  
Acting Secretary of the Interior.