

DRAFT RIOTS RECALLED

Threats Of Conscription In English Army Revive Memories Of Civil War Conditions.

The great draft riots in New York City are naturally recalled by the efforts to force England to adopt conscription and by the threats that if this is resorted to there will be strikes, riots and, in fact, political and social revolutions.

The draft riots in New York were a terrible experience, but they did not compel the Government to abandon its purpose.

NEW YORK.—The draft riots in New York City, which began on July 12, 1863, and continued with increasing violence and bloodshed until July 16, were caused by the military conscription or drafts of that year, which had been denounced by Democratic leaders and their followers. It was declared to be unconstitutional by these leaders, because, as they maintained, military service was due only to the States, and dangerous, because it was liable to absorb the State militia and civil officials into the Federal service.

The provision that conscripts might evade service by the payment of \$300 caused great dissatisfaction among the rank and file of wage-earners, who asserted that the conscription act on this account was a class measure, which shifted the burden from the rich to the poor. Governor Horatio Seymour, head of the Democratic party in the State at that time, sent an agent to Washington to urge a suspension of the draft on the ground that its enforcement, in the inflamed state of the public mind, might provoke trouble.

On Saturday, July 11, the drafting began at the offices of the Provost Marshal, Captain Jenkins, the more important of these being in the Ninth district, at Forty-sixth street and Third avenue, one of the strongest Democratic quarters in the city. Names of citizens were placed in a wheel and drawn by assistants, the first names being drawn up to the assigned quota for each district, being the conscripts. The drawing was witnessed by large crowds, but there was nothing in the quiet attitude of the mob to indicate the scenes of violence which were to follow the resumption of the drawing on the following morning.

The list of 1236 names drawn in the district was printed in the New York Herald and other newspapers on the following day, and this being Sunday, the conscripts, many of them of the poorer class, were urged by their leaders to resist and, if necessary, to arm themselves for their own protection. Large crowds gathered in the vicinity of Cooper Union and at other points in the city, and the movement of the following four days was secretly organized. On Monday, July 12, when the drawing was to be resumed, crowds of conscripts called at various factories and workshops and succeeded in inducing thousands of workmen to leave their employment and to lend their aid to the success of the revolt.

The Opening Gun.

The drawing had just begun under the supervision of Captain Charles E. Jenkins, the Provost Marshal, at No. 677 Third avenue, at 10 o'clock in the morning, when a stone was thrown through the front window striking and painfully injuring a reporter. This was the signal for a general assault, and in the next instant the place was invaded by a crowd of several hundred men, who wrecked the furniture, beat several deputies and then set fire to the building. The flames spread with rapidity, and the tenants above narrowly escaped with their lives in the excitement that ensued.

Although the firemen arrived soon after the fire started, the crowd prevented them from using the hydrants until the fire was beyond control. The city was destitute of militia, nearly all of them being in Pennsylvania, and the few garrison regulars and marines were under separate commands. It was impossible on this account to bring an organized body with deciding power against the rioters for the time being, the result being that the mob increased in numbers and its operations became more general.

Mayor Oprey issued an appeal to the rioters to disperse, but no attention was paid to this command. The mob began to pillage and burn property in various sections of the city, and in this work thieves and ruffians joined willingly. Fifty marines, sent to disperse the mob of more than 20,000, fired blank cartridges at the crowd in East Forty-sixth street and were routed and chased through the streets by the rioters, many of whom were women and children.

The policy of the crowd being changed to aggression, a squad of policemen sent out by the Mayor to disperse the mob was put to flight, and one of the policemen was killed. Negroes who chanced to be within the zone of disturbance and who were charged with responsibility of the "Black Republican War" were beaten and several stoned to death or hanged on lamp posts. The colored orphan asylum in Lexington avenue, near Forty-third street, was invaded by the mob, its contents thrown into the street and the building set on fire and destroyed.

Mob Arms Self.

The old Bull's Head Hotel, in Forty-third street, near Third avenue, was pillaged and burned. The mob then proceeded to an armory at Twenty-first street and Second avenue, which was defended by a small body of men, who made valiant resistance, killing five of the crowd and wounding several others. The crowd broke its way into the building, however, and, after appropriating a large quantity of arms and ammunition, set fire to the building and left the scene. An hour later two private dwellings in Lexington avenue were pillaged and burned.

During the afternoon Mayor Oprey, after a conference with Major-Generals Wood and Sanford, issued a proclamation calling upon the rioters to disperse and calling upon all law-abiding citizens to be sworn in as special deputies to preserve the peace. Despite this, however, the rioting proceeded with unabated energy. The



Group Of Rioters Marching Down Second Avenue. Courtesy of Lurie's Weekly, 1863.



Escaping Rioters Surprised By The Police.

Tribune building was invaded by a large crowd and the lower part of the structure was badly damaged. After several rushes by the police the crowd scattered and the building escaped demolition. The Herald building was protected by an armed force. The building in Broadway in which the Provost Marshal's office was located was burned by the mob and there were numerous clashes with the police in which several persons were killed and injured. How long the rioting would have continued that night is problematical, but at midnight a fierce storm swept the city and forced the mob to disperse. In commenting upon the events of the day, the New York Herald said editorially in its issue of July 14:

"There was a serious disturbance in the city yesterday, arising out of the prosecution of the draft in the Eighth and Ninth districts. A good deal of violence was manifested throughout the latter part of the day and much excitement prevailed among all classes of people. The formality of drawing names from the wheel, which was received in the Ninth district on Saturday with apparent indifference, took a different aspect yesterday, the inhabitants displaying a resolute determination to resist it. The stores in many localities were closed; the cars and stages ceased running. It was

Rioting Proceeded Unchecked.

Although the military forces and the special police were on duty, the rioting proceeded vigorously on the following day, Tuesday, the 15th. In retaliation for his proclamation calling upon law-abiding citizens to aid in putting down the rioters a mob attacked Mayor Oprey's residence in Fifth avenue and did considerable damage before it was driven away. Immense crowds gathered on Fifth and Sixth avenues above Thirty-fourth street and they marched here and there, doing consid-

Drift Rule Suspended.

A report that the draft was suspended was spread, but this had little, if any, effect, in allaying the disturbances. Answering the appeals of business men of this city, the War Department ordered the immediate return of the New York militia serving in Pennsylvania. Even this announcement did not halt the violence, which continued in every part of the city until late in the night. The Seventh Avenue Arsenal was threatened for a time, but the armed force in that structure was

The French Money Lender.

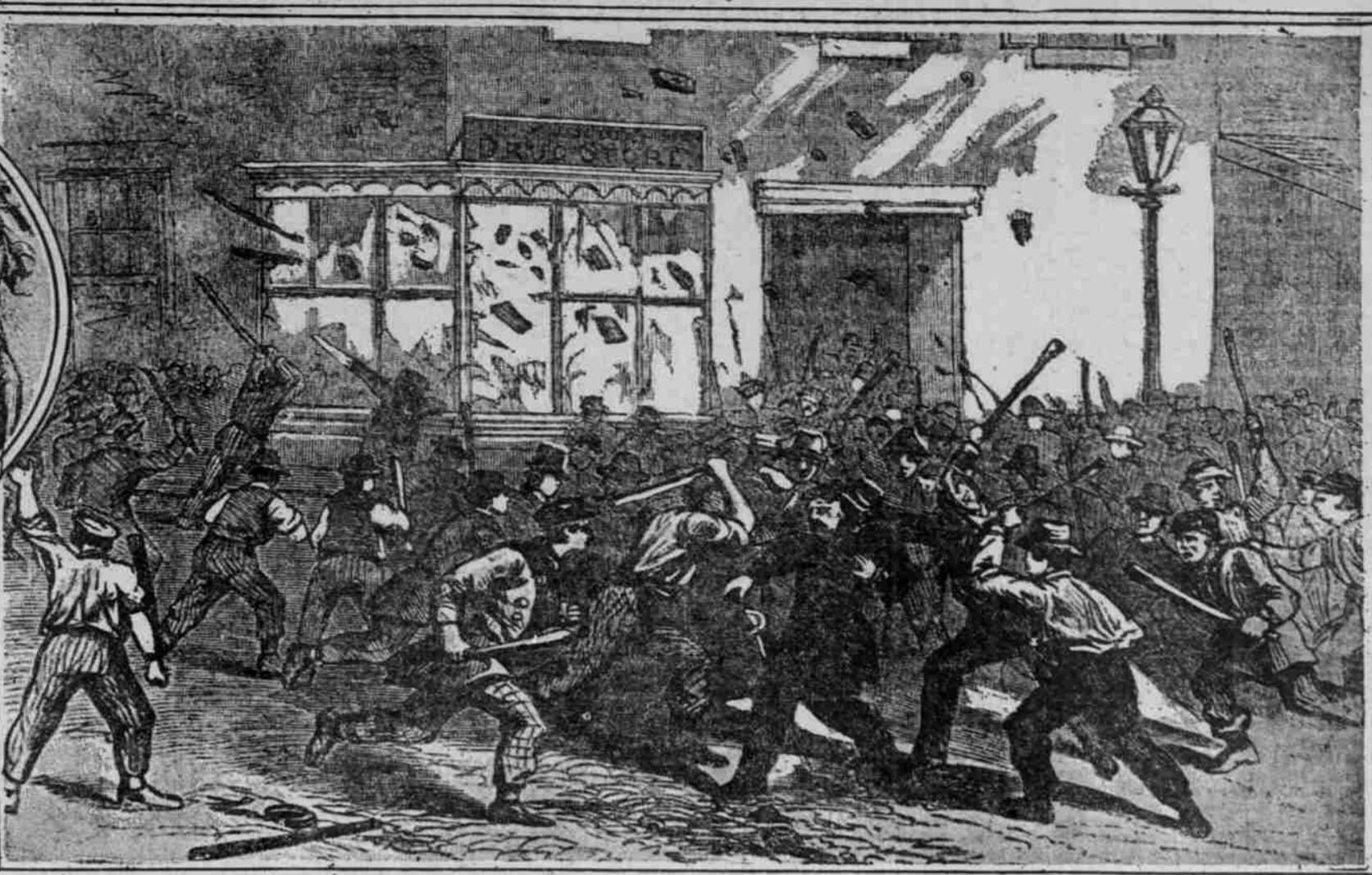
clean. He gives us plenty of time for reflection, and, best of all, he doesn't forget that he was a boy himself once." Captain Welles has written extensively on naval training school work and is considered an authority on the schooling of the apprentice seaman. His views on the subject embrace a humanitarian attitude as well as a technical knowledge, and the best example of the work he has done at Newport is summed up in the title bestowed upon him by his family—"Father to Thirteen Hundred Boys."

Order and discipline, however, cannot make a sailor. No rule book can "im-bue the young idea with a true eye for shooting well," if the saying can be revised. And the coming of Captain Welles to Newport Training Station was the needed touch to "humanize" the boy hopper—to make something more than sailors out of "recruits."

Captain Welles has inserted his own virile personality into the station life at Newport until the lads who have to go "before the mast"—though dreading the punishment which is sure to come—know they will be given the square deal always. The lads at the station know that the commanding officer has "gone to the front" for them in the high places more than once. They know that the big, straight-backed gentleman sitting in the commandant's chair on the "island," as the station is called, is their "friend at court."

Captain Welles despises to talk about himself. He is about as informative as to what he has done and is doing with his great boy family at Newport as an owl. However, his reticence is confined only to himself. He has plenty of people about the station who are willing to tell of his work and his accomplishments, especially the men under his command—the rookies out of which he makes "firg-class fighting men."

"He's given us a rest room and a library," said one of the embryo sailors. "He's fixed it so that every man leaves the island after his six months' apprenticeship has been served with enough money to take a nice fortnight, who look as they live—clean,



Brutal Murder of Colonel H. F. O'Brien, Near His Residence, July 14.

erable damage to private property. While some 20 negroes had been murdered on Monday, it is estimated that more than 30 were slain on the second day of the rioting.

The Seventeenth ward was blockaded throughout the day by armed rioters and quarters given up by the residents were sacked and burned. Lieutenant Wood, with 150 regulars from Fort Lafayette, dispersed one mob of rioters after firing a shell into the crowd, killing 12 persons and wounding 15. The railroad tracks of the New Haven Railroad were torn up for a distance of one block, a soap chandler's shop was destroyed and many other acts of violence were recorded. Colonel O'Brien, in command of the Eleventh New York State Volunteers, after dispersing a mob at Second avenue and Thirty-fourth street, was injured and entered a drugstore to obtain medical aid. The crowd stormed the place, dragged Colonel O'Brien into the street, hanged him to a lamp post and dragged the body through the streets, mutilating and trampling upon it.

Governor Horatio Seymour arrived in the city during the afternoon, and, finding his proclamation ignored, he placed the city under martial law. Assaults upon private citizens by the rioters continued throughout the day, and the mob became so threatening that nearly all of the public buildings as well as private business houses filled with rich goods, were guarded by armed forces. In the rioting several women and children were slain, and in an effort to restore peace Archbishop Hughes issued an appeal to the Catholics in that mob to cease further rioting. The Twenty-third precinct police station and the Weehawken ferryhouse were destroyed by fire. The home of Postmaster Wakeman was pillaged and burned, and Brooks' clothing establishment was sacked by the mob.

The surrender of the management of the city by Mayor Oprey to the hands of Governor Seymour seemed calculated to allay the excitement for a time, but later developments showed that the passions so foolishly aroused were not to be so easily appeased. Indeed, they rarely, if ever, are under circumstances such as have thrown our city into a turmoil for the past few days, but we opine that the intelligence which we publish today that Governor Seymour has received an assurance from Washington that the draft has been entirely suspended will allay the popular excitement, and that reason and good sense, which have always characterized the citizens of this great metropolis, even under the greatest incentives to violence, will serve to restore the city to its accustomed peaceful condition, and put an end to scenes which every one must deplore."

Forty Persons Killed.

Rioting began early on the morning of Wednesday, the 15th. A crowd of 2000 persons had gathered at Eighth avenue and Thirty-second street at 8 o'clock, and it was moved to action when a negro who had been insulted by one of the crowd drew a revolver and fired upon the man. He was instantly "armed and hanged" to a lamp post. The crowd then started to destroy the homes of negroes in the vicinity, and they were engaged in this

too formidable for the rioters, who did not dare venture an open attack in the face of the odds against them.

In commenting editorially upon the events of the day the New York Herald in its issue of Wednesday, the 15th, said:

"The disturbances which so violently affected the ordinary quietude of the metropolis on Monday were renewed yesterday with somewhat more alarming indications than on the preceding day, inasmuch as there was no attempt made by the authorities to continue the draft, and there was, therefore, less substantial cause for the popular indignation. Nevertheless, the people did not at all abate their violent demonstrations. Up to a long time past midnight the fire bells gave notice that incendiarism was progressing here and there throughout the entire city—in the lower as well as the upper wards. There is no doubt that the condition of affairs yesterday was most dangerous, and calculated to excite much alarm for the safety of property and life."

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work when Colonel Winslow, in command of a detachment of infantry, with a howitzer, reached the scene. Refusing to disperse, the crowd attacked the troops, and Colonel Winslow ordered the howitzer to be discharged, with fatal effect, 40 persons being killed and scores wounded.

The persecution of negroes in other quarters continued, and three were hanged, while many more were severely injured. Mobs threatened the gas-houses and the situation became so grave at noon that General McClellan offered his services to Governor Seymour in any capacity in the hope of bringing the rioting to an end. Alarmed by the violence, residents left the city by thousands, and there was an exodus of frightened negroes to neighboring States. The arrival of the militia from Pennsylvania during the day awakened public confidence in the speedy cessation of the riots. Governor Seymour, in his headquarters in the St. Nicholas Hotel, held hourly conferences with Mayor Oprey and civil and military men of prominence throughout the day.

The New York Herald, in commenting upon the scenes of the day, said: "There was little abatement in the display of violence manifested by the excited people throughout the city yesterday. Notwithstanding the order of the Mayor announcing that peace had been restored scenes as violent and more bloody than on Tuesday were witnessed in various parts of the city. The people seemed more desperate than ever, and the military force employed, though strong, was repulsed in different localities. Under these circumstances the effusion of new blood and the destruction of property were very great. The excitement was intense, and was undoubtedly alarming and appalling."

"Now that the draft has been entirely suspended, there does not seem to be any reason why those who felt themselves aggrieved by its enforcement should lend further aid to the disturbers of the peace, and thus give color to a movement which must necessarily resolve itself into a raid upon private property and individual rights—the natural tendency of such an ebullition of popular excitement in all great cities, such as we now witness. Wisdom, moderation and the voice of reason may avert a spirit of revenge by presumed sense of wrong and fostered by success and the flood of passion, which always carry the masses to ex-

cesses which are to be, and no doubt will be hereafter deplored equally by those who inflict the suffering and those who suffer."

The rioting continued on Thursday, the 16th, but it was observed that the crowds had thinned considerably and that isolated bands of criminals prowled about the streets in search of plunder. The disturbances in the Twenty-fourth Ward continued until nightfall. One woman was shot dead at her door, and there were other casualties in other sections of the city.

Frequent Clashes.

There were clashes between the rioters and militia in First avenue near Twenty-third street, several persons being killed and wounded. The New York Herald commented upon the situation in its issue of Friday, the 17th, as follows: "In many districts of the city yesterday the disturbances were almost allayed. Law and order seemed to prevail to a greater extent than of any time since Monday last. The stores which were reopened, the stages and cars were again in motion and the city generally resumed much of its wonted peaceful aspect."

"In a few localities, especially in the Eighteenth and Twenty-first wards, there was a considerable resistance to authority, and many lives were sacrificed, but the vigor of the military power brought to bear upon the excited people proved too much for them. Not only were a number of arrests made, but several persons were shot down by the soldiery in the houses from which they attacked were made. This summary mode of treating obnoxious individuals had the necessary result of subduing resistant multitudes to a great extent, although at the cost of much blood."

"The situation in New York City on Friday, the 17th, was quiet and affairs were normal. The New York Herald on Saturday, in commenting editorially upon the events of the day, said in part:

"The aspect of the city yesterday presented a marked contrast to the excited and despondent state of the preceding portion of the week. Whatever of popular feeling may have pervaded the masses seemed to be in abeyance, for there was no external demonstration to be observed."

"During the day three regiments arrived from the east of war to sustain the authorities in the preservation of the peace should their presence be required. General Harvey Brown has been superseded in the command of the military and General Canby has taken his place and will henceforth direct the employment of the troops wherever necessary in carrying out the conscription law, which it is decided by the Government to enforce. An order from Colonel Fry, Provost Marshal-General at Washington, received yesterday, states that the draft was not suspended at any time, and directs the Provost Marshals to continue wherever practicable, promising at the same time that they shall be amply sustained by the military power of the Government. It will thus be seen that conscription will go on wherever it is in progress all over the country."

"As we have said of war to sustain the past few days was entirely abated yesterday. Let us hope that whatever may transpire in the future we shall not be compelled to witness the scenes of lawlessness and bloodshed which have recently disturbed the peaceful aspect of the metropolis and have stricken with alarm so many of its innocent and helpless inhabitants."

Hundreds Slain.

How many lives were sacrificed during the five days' rioting in New York City was not revealed, but it is estimated more than 200 persons were slain. The mortality report was 450 in excess of normal for the week, and 90 deaths from gunshot wounds were reported during the week. Claims for property damaged or destroyed, amounting to more than \$2,500,000, were filed, and of that sum \$1,500,000 subsequently was paid by the city claimants. The draft was continued on August 19 and continued until August 23, no disturbances being reported during that interval.

FATHER TO MANY BOYS

BEING "father to 1200 boys" beats the record of the late Joseph Smith. In fact, Solomon in all his glory was not "childrened" unto that number. Yet Captain Roger Welles, commanding the Naval Training Station at Newport, R. I., has been given the title which initiates this article. Captain Welles is somewhat proud of the title. He feels paid for the effort which (he reluctantly relates) he has made to bring his "children" close to him in the great lads' school established in 1881 by a sometimes wise and occasionally generous Government.

How Captain Welles received his title is a story by itself. How he wears the title is the subject of this article. Newport Training Station receives hundreds of "rookies" would-be sailors every year. These sailors in the making are all youngsters, too young to be shipped as seamen and entirely too untrained to be anything but "kids." Some of these lads are tough. Some come from good families. Some are reckless "spits of the devil," some just ordinary lads, aflame with the idea of "joinin' the navy and seein' the world."

Newport Training Station, to use a hackneyed phrase, is therefore "The Melting Pot" for warlike young America. Into the hopper of discipline and order comes a human boy stream, gathered from the peaks and the valleys of the social order throughout the Eastern section of the United States.

Out of the hopper comes first-class fighting material—men in the making—straightforward, single dealing young fellows, who look as they live—clean,

SCORN AND HATE IN WAR

ERNEST LISSAUER, whose "Song of Hate" was a nine days' wonder for its ferocious bile, seems to have seen the folly of letting patriotism make him fall a curving like a very crab. He is said to approve the sensible opinion of the Berlin Tageblatt that his "poem" should not be inserted in school textbooks or song books, that hatred of England should not be taught in the German schools, which, by the way, have long been used to magnify and disseminate the Hohenzollern myth and cult, and for the purposes of the Navy League, to inculcate suspicion and fear of British sea power and British design generally. Lissauer's apology is mainly and straightforward, and gives the reader a respect for his character that could hardly be felt for his talent, were that to be judged by the passion, violent, not lasting, of the "Hassgesang."

That, he says, was "the result of a moment of passionate inspiration and impulse during the first week of the war, when hatred of Great Britain, caused by her declaration of war, was powerful in his mind."

The poetical temperament, superheated in a moment of patriotic exultation and agony. After all, Theognis, with his "full wish to drink the very blood" of his enemies, Swinburne, in his amusingly "furious and frantic" "Italophile" and republican songs, out Lissauer Lissauer. Since no fires underlie the no longer treacherous ashes of the civil war, these lines of Lowell's may

be quoted to illustrate the intolerant personal fury bred by war:

"I'd rather take my chance to stand
Beside a despotic slave
Than at God's bar hold a hand
'Er drippin' red as yurn. Jeff Davis."

As if the brave and accomplished Mr. Davis, the admirable Secretary of War, the honorable and pious gentleman, were personally responsible for the war! No doubt, Mr. Lowell, toasting his toes at Elmwood 25 years after ward, felt a certain wonder at that old enmity. The loss of his gallant nephew in the field, the flame of his hostility to slavery, his hopes and fears for the North are concentrated in that verse. An obscure poet of the South was pouring forth, earlier in the war, his bitterness about the Yankee:

Lantern-jaws, and legs, my boys,
Long as Abe's from Illinois.

How remote, impossible, seem these old scorns and hatreds now! So to other generations of Germans and Englishmen may the present rancors look! If the centuries of warfare, rivalry and ill-feeling between France and England find them friends at last, if the English hallucination or monomania, Russophobia, could be cured so quickly, why may Germany not fly some time into the arms of the "yellow peril," or England and German unite against Russia? Nations neither love nor hate. All these personal and popular transports are ephemeral. Self-interest, imperious necessity, strength to be gained, dictate and shift their relations, alliances, and ententes. Time is long and hate is fleeting.—New York Times.