

THE GREAT TEST MEN OF MODERN HISTORY

Frederic Harrison's Notable View of the Lives of George Washington, Lord Chatham and Frederick the Great—These Men Were Contemporaries in Middle of the Eighteenth Century

(From a Staff Correspondent.)
LONDON, Feb. 27.—That active body of women, the American circle of the Lyceum club, got one of the greatest living masters of English, Frederic Harrison, to celebrate Washington's birthday for them with an address which has not appeared in print, most of the London newspapers being represented. The address was of such interest that your correspondent obtained the original manuscript from Mr. Harrison and presents it herewith:

"Three of the greatest men in all modern history," said Mr. Harrison, "were contemporaries together in the middle of the eighteenth century; and each of them was the founder, or the creator of his own country—countries which are now the most powerful of modern states.

"These three men of creative genius above all their contemporaries and exercised in their prime a truly imperial authority. They were all associated with each other in joint efforts and in personal admiration. All three were heroes, patriots and martyrs to duty in the service of humanity and civilization. All were great in war; but never so great as amid defeat, disaster and abandonment. Yet great in peace as all, they were greatest of all in their efforts to bring war to a close and to found a durable peace. Frederick the Great, George Washington and Pitt, his ally in that work was William Pitt, Lord Chatham, who created the British empire. George Washington, the father of the great American commonwealth, the early struggles of which against tyranny were heartily supported by Chatham.

"Chatham was in a sense the link between Frederick and Washington who had no direct contact with each other. The connection of Chatham and Washington was continuous and real. The relation of Chatham to the American commonwealth was twofold. First, he gave the American continent to our Saxon race, and not to the Latin tongue name; and secondly, he was the father of the United States with that of the great Englishman who drove French and Spanish colonies from the continent and fought most resolutely to rescue our transatlantic fellow citizens from the proclivities and misdeeds of their sovereign and his misguided ministers.

"The work of Pitt in respect to America is twofold, and I shall seek to do them in due order. In the first place,

as William Pitt and as war minister of George II. he was acting entirely in the interests of the British crown and the king's colonial fellow subjects, before any idea of rebellion or separation had entered the mind of any colonist. George Washington indeed was serving in the very campaign which Pitt had planned and organized; and the great victory of Pittsburg was a direct result of the magnificent strategy by which the English statesman drove out the French and planted our race and language over the continent from the great lakes to the mouth of the Mississippi.

"It is indeed dark and ominous, no longer William Pitt, but Earl of Chatham, no longer the dominant minister of a victorious government and king no longer in health of body or in peace of mind, without followers, or hope, or courage, or a great war minister, and the mark of hostility and scorn to his sovereign and his peers. Chatham, in his decrepit old age, fought on alone, prophesying against the crimes of the just rights of his country, and in defense of an oppressed and calumniated people of other nations who died at last in the midst of the disasters he had foreseen. And yet to me—and I think to you—this seemed to be to those who heard him and saw him carried out to die—truly a heroic deed. To me and I think to you—Chatham with his racked limbs swathed in flames staggering through a specious and a patriotic of their time, is a grander man than Pitt, the organizer and supporter of Franklin and Washington who announced a new triumph in each dispatch—before whom Spain and France trembled in aweful silence, and whose English statesmen prayed heaven to avert.

"I proceed to deal with the first part, and not the least important, of his life—the connection of Chatham and Washington was continuous and real. The relation of Chatham to the American commonwealth was twofold. First, he gave the American continent to our Saxon race, and not to the Latin tongue name; and secondly, he was the father of the United States with that of the great Englishman who drove French and Spanish colonies from the continent and fought most resolutely to rescue our transatlantic fellow citizens from the proclivities and misdeeds of their sovereign and his misguided ministers.

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the great chain of lakes on the north by her forts along Ohio and the Mississippi valleys, and her possession of the mouths and coast line of the Mississippi and the Mobile rivers. Spain, though far weaker than Britain or France, was firmly planted in Florida, Central America and the rich islands in the Gulf.

"When Pitt became minister at last, by the popular voice and his own transcendent eloquence, in spite of the jealousy of aristocratic factions and the fears of a hostile monarch, the condition of England and of the British colonies was indeed dark and ominous. France held the dominant portion, for she could sweep right round our colonies over a line of at least 1500 miles. She had magnificent naval bases at Capu Breton on the St. Lawrence river, Lakes Champlain and Ontario, and she had fortresses in Louisbourg, Quebec, Montreal, Frontenac, Duquesne, St. Francois on the Ohio, and others. She had the vast range of Canada and the Mississippi valley on the northwest, and she led and subsidized the Indian tribes over the boundless area. The French fortresses were far superior to the British. France had superb soldiers and a hero of genius in the Marquis de Montcalm. And her colonial territories were not detached and independent, but under the direct control of an absolute monarch.

"The British colonies lay on a long and narrow seaboard in breadth never more than 300 miles from the Atlantic westward, and in New England hardly more than 100 miles across. They were continuous and not spread over such vast and separate areas as the French colonies. In the north and south they were divided into 13 self-governed and not very cordial groups, with hardly any common American patriotism or sense of fellow citizenship with each other. They were loyal subjects of King George and regarded Britain as their natural home and their lawful head and protector. Instead of the regular troops of King Louis, the British colonies, for the most part, were defended by an

irregular and ill-equipped militia which had little of an army except personal courage. In the main, the condition of the British colonies in 1755 was disastrous. Their detached and ill-equipped expeditions to break through the ring wrought around them by the organized strategy of the French generals had ended in defeat and ruin. George Washington saved the remnant of Braddock's force. Braddock was cut to pieces. Casero on Lake Ontario was captured. New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia were harried by savage Indians subsidized by France and on all sides the British colonies seemed about to pass under the practical domination of the French. They were jealous and hostile, disorganized and disheartened by a long series of disasters and disputes.

"In December 1755, William Pitt became practically prime minister with almost absolute authority for war and diplomacy. And within four years he had made one of the most marvellous revolutions in all modern history. Great Britain had expanded into a world empire and the whole of the North American continent had been secured in effect to the English race and tongue. Cape Breton, English, Fort Duquesne, the fortress of Louisbourg, were taken. Quebec was captured and the two French and English heroes fell almost side by side when Montreal fell and the control of all Canada soon followed. The French forts along the Ohio and the lakes, besides English, Fort Duquesne became Pittsburg—and with it the command of the western plains. By this marvellous series of combined strokes within four years it was finally decided—if I may repeat words of my own which I am proud to find quoted by an American woman in a book issued by the 'Colonial Dames' of America—'It was finally decided that the English language, common law, literature and blood should be settled on the continent of America from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Arctic ocean to the Gulf of Mexico.'

"This was the first great service to America, which justifies our remembrance of Chatham even on this date that is consecrated to the memory of Washington. For the details of this stupendous achievement, I must refer you to two recent books, neither of which were issued, I regret to say, when I wrote my little sketch of Chatham's life. The book I have just cited will give you a true insight into the marvellous knowledge into men and things that Pitt possessed into his indefatigable power of work and concentration, into his grasp of details and his practical wisdom, foresight and caution which make him the peer of Frederick and of Washington. The book is the 'Correspondence of William Pitt, When Secretary of State with Colonial Governors and Military and Naval Commissioners in America,' edited under the auspices of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America by Gertrude Selwyn Kimball, 2 vols. New York, Macmillan Company, 1906. Read these 1207 letters of Pitt if you desire to understand how a great man thinks out, plans and orders a vast and organic scheme which creates a mighty nation.

"Another essay based on contemporary documents in our own record office is by Hubert Hall, the learned director of the Royal Historical Society. His paper is to be found in the American Historical Review of 1901.

"For the politics and the strategy of this amazing epoch, we may turn to another book, 'England and the Seven Years' War,' a study of combined strategy by Julian Corbett, Lt. M., with maps and plans, 2 vols. Longmans, 1907. Here we shall find in conjunction with Captain Mahan's 'Sea Power' a scientific account of the vast combination of military and naval strategy on a worldwide scale which gives us the measure of Chatham's genius. When we consider the enormous range of these expeditions over the face of the planet, the multiplicity and variety of them, their combination of natural armaments by sea and by land, of mar-

itime blockade and long marches, storming parties both by sea and land—the schemes of Chatham are on a scale more elaborate than any of Frederick or of Washington—indeed they surpass in scope even those of Napoleon—said in English history can only be compared with those of Cromwell—which were on a smaller and less successful scale.

"I turn now to the second point where the United States owes to Chatham a deep debt of reverence and affection. I mean his heroic efforts to stem the torrent of folly and injustice of the British crown and government and to defend the just claims of the American colonies to self-government and freedom. This is a very different picture from that of the triumphant statesman we have been contemplating. No longer in power, but without followers or party, almost without friends or help, Chatham, for some 10 years, stoutly resisted the oppressive policy of George II. and Lord North.

"The story has been often told and I do not think it has ever been summed up in words more eloquent than those of one who was once an experienced statesman and a brilliant historian—Sir George Trevelyan—a former secretary of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. He has written a family watch for at least three generations have served the state. In Trevelyan's monumental history of the American Revolution, I read this noble panegyric:

"With proud heart, his swift perceptions, his noble intellect, his intellect Chatham knew America, and he loved her; and he was known and loved by her in return. He had done more for her than any ruler had done for any country since William the Silent saved and made Holland; and she repaid him with a true loyalty. When the evil day came it was to Chatham that she looked for the good offices which might avert a civil war. His noblest services had broken out, she fixed on him her hopes for an honorable peace. And when he died—in the very act of confessing her wrongs, though of repudia-

WHAT THE INHERITANCE TAX MEANS

IN PROPOSING a tax on inheritance President Taft is following one of the policies of President Roosevelt, announced in that strenuous executive message of April 14, 1906. The tax has been suggested by both President Roosevelt and President Taft to apply only in case it shall be found necessary to raise enough revenue for the national government's needs in some way apart from customs and internal revenue duties. In the light of a prospective deficit in national revenues there seems to be no other way of doing so, and so both the new president and congress are looking hopefully to taxation of the fortunes of the dead.

It is nothing new for the government of the United States to impose such a tax as a revenue. In the language of President Roosevelt, 'the makers of the constitution were alive and at the head of affairs, such a tax was laid, it was graduated precisely as the proposed tax may be, small for those of little fortune, large for those who had acquired much. Exceptions were made for close kin, as it is proposed in all modern inheritance laws to make exceptions like that imposed by the act of July 1, 1862, for the needs of the civil war.

In 1898 the Spanish war revenue act provided for an inheritance tax on any sum over \$10,000, and this act was declared valid by the supreme court of the United States on the ground that it was a direct tax, but an impost, which was held both constitutional and valid.

There are precedents, then, for the proposed national taxation of inheritances. But a new element comes in, where the dual government of the United States is considered. Thirty-five of the 45 states now have inheritance taxation as a means of state revenue within their limits. Any trial by the national government of a law to tax inherited fortunes will bring into conflict the state and federal powers. The hint of such a contest is contained in the resolution that has been introduced in the Connecticut general assembly, protesting against any attempt of the national government to levy an inheritance tax on the ground that it is the state's duty and the nation's right.

The lawmakers of the United States instinctively turn to the experience of the old world in considering an inheritance tax. In all the states of continental Europe have had such a tax in operation for years and seem in no way inclined to abandon it. Great Britain, by the finance act of 1907, may tax an estate one fourth of its value as a maximum limit, the fourth value running from a large part of the national revenue of \$500 to 25 per cent on an estate running above \$15,000,000 in value. These duties form a large part of the national revenue of Great Britain from direct taxation. In this connection it is interesting to note that the total revenue of the United States amount to \$2.8 per cent of the total revenue and that in the United States there have been no direct taxes since 1863, when they amounted to only 1.6 per cent. The total revenue of Great Britain for the year 1907-8 was about \$780,000,000 and that for the United States in the same year was \$600,000,000.

Two per cent on any excess of an estate valued at \$2000 passing to uncle, aunt, nephew, niece or lineal descendant of the testator.

On passing to other heirs—3 per cent for estates valued between \$500 and \$10,000; four per cent on all American property or sums of \$20,000; five per cent on all estates valued between \$20,000 and \$50,000; six per cent on all estates valued at more than \$50,000.

The application of this law in Illinois has resulted in the collection of taxes on personal property in many cases where the owner of the property evaded taxes during lifetime. Personal property taxation is largely nominal in Illinois; the laws are not enforced and probably cannot be enforced under existing conditions. An honest scheduler of personal property is penalized for his honesty under a strict enforcement of the laws; as in other states there is need of a thorough remodeling of the statute governing taxation. With such remodeling the state may either depend more largely on the taxation of property at the death of its owner, or heretofore or may abandon such taxation in favor of more equitable taxation during the lifetime of the owner, leaving to the national government the heavy taxation proposed at death.

Song of the Workingman.

I sing the joy of unbroken sleep with
the moon in the cloudless skies;
Of the watch and ward that the dim
stars keep and the night wind's
crooning sighs.

I sing the joy of waking day with
the reated limbs astray,
The nerves strained tight for another
fray—a full day's work—for her.

Oh, a well worth game is the game
with fate on the open field of
life!

A royal game for a man's estate and
the love of a loyal wife!

I sing the song of the morning scene,
the smile and the word of cheer,
Then the rack and the rub of the dull
routine of a man's grim duty here.

'Tis a weary day with the sun overhead
and the slow hours trailing by,
But a man must toil for his daily
bread in the marts where his talent
lays.

A man must sweat for the boon of rest,
and strive for the hour of bliss
From the morning hour on a woman's
breast to the evening's welcome
kiss.

I sing the song of the whole week's
work and the pay day's living
slip.

Of the hours of toil that have known
no shirk and the nerve that has
held his grip.

Oh, a man must bow and a man must
bend to the lash of an honest
need.

To enjoy the peace of the hard work's
end, and the rest that is rest indeed!

LURANA W. SHELDON in N. Y. Times.

HOW "The Right of Way" SUCCEEDED



WHEN a novel remains for six years on the list of the 'best sellers' there must be merit in that novel. Novels come and go, they are read and then forgotten, most of them, but occasionally comes one that takes such a hold on the popular fancy that for years its sales continue to increase until at last it comes to be known as a real classic. In this class, Sir Gilbert Parker's greatest novel, 'The Right of Way,' Harper & Brother, the publishers, report that the sales of this novel exceed 100,000 copies, and still there is no lessening in the demand. A new edition of the novel has just been published, and the publisher reports that the company presenting the dramatic version of the story, a company headed by Guy Standing and Joseph Roberts, as Charles Steele, the play, which will soon be seen in this city.

For many years Sir Gilbert Parker has been recognized as the greatest modern delineator of the character of the French Canadian 'habitant.' Can you have been his as India is Kipling's as Egypt is Hitchens and the Kentucky mountains are John Fox's? No novelist living knows the 'habitant' as well as he, and in no novel has he depicted them so clearly and so delightfully as in 'The Right of Way.' While Charles Steele, the brilliant, cynical, drunken lawyer, is the principal character in the story, the other characters are none the less clearly drawn, and the dramatic version, one, Joe Portugais, is of equal importance with that of Steele.

Sir Gilbert has written many novels of Canada and the 'habitant,' but it is in 'The Right of Way' that he has reached the highest point in his career. He has left the old time romance of 'When Valmond Came to Pontiac,' and 'The Seats of the Mighty,' and the dull, drab character drawing of 'Pierre and His People,' and has written a vivid, vital novel of today in which he has depicted life as he sees it, and the cynicism of the modern civilization and the cynicism of 'society' with the simple faith and the simple goodness of the peasants of a little French Canadian village in the wilderness. Sir Gilbert himself has said that 'The Right of Way' is his best story, and he announces the height of his endeavor to depict the characters of his native land, and the life of the people of Canada.

In the dramatic version of the play Eugene W. Presbrey has put the principal characters on the stage with a fidelity that is unusual, although it has been necessary to change in some portions the detail of the story in order to make it consistent for dramatic production.

"Has that bond been cut off forever? Your presence here today gives the answer! But it has taken nearly a century and a half to bind together the Anglo-Saxon race. But time does justice to the past. The past is not for all that disappear in neglect and ingratitude. There is a pathetic monument to Chatham at Charleston, and in its defacement and decay which seems to me an emblem of his heroic soul.

"There stands still in Charleston the classical monument erected to William Pitt by the commons of South Carolina in 1859. The inscription records that he was justly remembered for his services to America; and they add that 'time shall sooner destroy the marble statue of the hero than it shall erase from their minds his sense of his patriotic virtues.'

"The statue stands still erect, but it is defaced and unrecognizable. A British fleet bombarding Charleston struck it with cannon balls and carried away the statuehead. Every day it is an emblem of a great life! One hundred and forty years ago the commons of an American state expressed in marble the gratitude of other Americans and his own countrymen in a spirit of infatuated tyranny mutilated that statue just as they mutilated and mangled him in his life. But now at last Americans and Englishmen join hands in two continents to release the memory of the patriot and to restore to us of their two national heroes—Washington and Chatham—as the two greatest of the past and the present, certainly the two greatest men of their nation and their age.

Our National Military School.

From the Boston Transcript.

This is an age of specialization and West Point specializes with the rest of the world. It is emphatically a great military training school, pure and simple. It may even be called a great military university. As such it has followed the course of other American universities in steadily raising admission requirements. Less than a generation ago a boy who had a grade school diploma might reasonably count on passing the entrance examination. Today only those who have qualified themselves in studies ordinarily pursued in high schools are entitled to approach West Point with a like degree of confidence. On the whole, it seems to us that the prospect of the military academy fulfilling the purpose of its creation is brighter than ever, in spite of the stringency of requirements.

Without a Parallel.

From the Philadelphia Telegraph.

From the history of the world, rare the conduct of this nation in its relation to Cuba is a unique example of fostering good will. A parallel instance where a power having once taken possession of a country planned the course of other American ventures in steadily raising admission requirements. Less than a generation ago a boy who had a grade school diploma might reasonably count on passing the entrance examination. Today only those who have qualified themselves in studies ordinarily pursued in high schools are entitled to approach West Point with a like degree of confidence. On the whole, it seems to us that the prospect of the military academy fulfilling the purpose of its creation is brighter than ever, in spite of the stringency of requirements.

Striking Scene From "The Right of Way"