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But hither faltering feet... And they who walk in darkness, meet... The sunrise of the soul... Henry Van Dyke, "Reliance"

WASHINGTON

BY GENERAL opinion, George Washington holds the second place in the esteem and affection of the American people. The work he did, the accomplishment of the task in which he was the unquestioned leader and most prominent actor, principally as commander-in-chief of the continental armies, but also as the nation's first president, was tremendous in design, scope and results. That he bore the immense responsibilities of these positions with rare ability, undaunted courage and the highest degree of patriotism, has been universally acknowledged. It took a man of indomitable will, of unswerving faith, of exceeding patience and of rare talents to carry the revolutionary war, in the face of apparently overwhelming odds and in despite of what seemed to be insurmountable and crushing difficulties, to a victorious, a completely successful conclusion. Reading the history of that long struggle, one is ready to believe that only Washington could have won, and even he, it seems, could not have won without the aid of the French. Though he felt a lack of adaptability to civil office, Washington as president proved to be as wise as he had been as a general. He gave the new republic a right start, helping to lay its foundations safely and surely, and so doubled the incalculable debt which the American people must ever owe to him.

Comparisons between great men, their characters and services, are unsatisfactory and futile. From one point of view, and that a high and large one, it may be reasonably claimed that Franklin was a greater man than Washington. Franklin was undoubtedly a greater philosopher and diplomat; he rendered great services to the country and he will always loom on history's pages as one of the world's greatest and wisest men. Jefferson was a statesman and political scholar of the first rank, and the value of his work to America and the world cannot be overstated. The names of Madison, Adams, Hamilton, Knox, Marshall, Randolph and others add greatly to make that period wonderfully and enduringly luminous. But just what Washington did none nor all of them did, nor, perhaps, could have done so well. He was conspicuously the man of the hour, for which it seems that he had been especially evolved. He was given a great work to do; he did it to the honor and glory of America and Americans, then and thenceforth, forever.

To Lincoln, a man of almost opposite type, was later given the nation's second and greatest burden to bear, and the time and manner of his death has endeared him more than Washington to American hearts. Unlike in many respects, in raising, in wealth, in culture, in advantages, in nearness to the common people, Washington and Lincoln were yet alike in patience, persistency, adherence to a just cause, devotion to duty, and the highest ideals of patriotism. Lincoln fell with his task uncompleted, though the fierce, slaughtering military struggle had been won; Washington lived to complete his work, thoroughly round out his career, and enjoy a brief period of voluntary retirement. He died more than 110 years ago; the record he made is immortal.

HOW OREGON WAS SAVED

AN INTERESTING story of the Oregon country is told in a new book entitled "The History of Idaho" from the pen of John Halley of Boise City. The author is the father of the late Justice Thomas G. Halley of the Oregon supreme court. It is a book of unusual interest, because written by one who for nearly three score years helped to make the history that his pen recounts. The interest is heightened by the fact that the narrative is in the simple, direct and matter of fact style of a resolute man who helped to tame the wild and to redeem the wilderness to civilization. Primarily the work is a history of Idaho, but it carries a vivid narrative of the Oregon country from the beginning. It tells of the entrance of Captain Gray into the mouth of the Columbia on May 11, 1792, and of his giving the name of his ship to the great river that he had thus discovered. It describes the conditions that led to the Lewis and Clark expedition, and recounts the establishment of the Astor trading post on the present site of Astoria in 1811. It gives a bird's-eye view of the operations of the Hudson Bay company with Dr. McLoughlin at its head,

and passes briefly over the organization of the Oregon provisional government under Governor Abernethy. It tells of the early missionaries and their struggles, recounts the story of the Whitman massacre and the influence that led to it, including a graphic account of the fruitless journey of Whitman to Washington. The apprehension and punishment of the murderer, the organization of the territorial government under Governor Lane, the final carving of Washington, Idaho and parts of Montana and Wyoming out of the original Oregon country, the discovery of gold in the Florence and other mining camps of Idaho, the various steps in government, legislation, development and material progress in the state of Idaho, together with a brief view of the future prospects of the state, are interesting contents in the several hundred pages of the work.

The contribution is of much value as an historical offering. The author has been keen in his observation of men and events, and has traced the relation of both in their bearing upon the settlement of the Oregon country. He arrived at Salem, Or., from Dade county, Missouri, on October 18, 1853, after driving five yoke of oxen across the plains in a journey that began April 18 of the same year. He was a volunteer and on the firing line in the Rogue River Indian war of 1856-6. He married shortly afterward and in 1862 went to what is now southern Idaho, but a year later settled in southern Idaho, where he has resided until the present, a period of nearly half a century.

John Halley is a type of the rugged, resolute and self-reliant men who threw their weight into the balance at the crucial moment and saved the Oregon country to the United States. A few brave spirits, unaided by the federal government and left relying on their own scanty resources, was all that held this empire of the northwest for the union, and there is a world of interest in this book, handed down by one who came into the wild when the stirring scenes of this frontier conflict for supremacy were on every lip and the theme of converse around every fireside.

THE CITY AND THE RAILROAD

THERE should be no misunderstanding of the purpose of those who resist a gratis vacation of the public streets on the east side. Equity is possible in all such processes, and the east side citizens want equity for the city as well as for the railroad. The railroad should ask no more. It should be willing to grant concessions in return for the valuable grants it seeks. The city council in theory represents and acts for the people, and in practice it cannot afford to violate its sworn duty by acting for the railroad more than for the public.

It cannot, for instance, afford to attach an emergency clause to the proposed ordinance for vacating these streets. The public wants the right to review the act of the council if that act shall smack of favoritism for the corporation. Nor can the council afford to vacate the streets without properly safeguarding the public interest. The railroad is human, and will always take all it can get, and give as little as possible in return. It is the habit of many men to do the same thing. It was in 1881 that the railroad positively agreed in return for a franchise, to build a "suitable general passenger and freight depot" on the east side. It took 18 years for it to carry out the promise as to the passenger depot, and the freight depot is still unbuilt.

The public is asking for a right of way over the company's terminal grounds for the west approach for the high bridge at Broadway. It is asking for a common user clause, so other railroads may enter the east side business district. It would be strange for the public to give all and get nothing. It is amazing for the railroad to ask everything and offer nothing. It would be a strange council that would accept the railroad's contention and refuse to concede anything to the public. Vacated streets in the terminal grounds over which right of way for a high bridge is asked were an original gift of the city to the corporation. It would be strange now if the city's request for the right to cross these grounds should be refused by the road while the road is in the very act of asking concessions of the people for its bridge. The railroad asks concessions by which it can reach the east side business district. It is amazing that it should ask concessions by which it can do so and by refusal of a common user clause deny the same right to other railroads. It asks too much when it demands that through the very concessions it seeks the people shall give it a monopoly and thereby bottle themselves up.

Every railroad as such should be fairly and squarely considered, and he given every privilege that is given an individual, but no more. This city council should do, but that is all it should do. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that the insistence of a railroad corporation is not always to be taken with extreme seriousness. The Harriman corporations, for instance, opposed and, to the limit of their power, fought the entrance of the North Bank road into Portland. Yet it is history that the real progress of Portland began with the advent of the Hill road. In the same way, the present contention of the Harriman agents is, from the public's standpoint, likely to be erroneous, and the real truth with the many citizens who want something in return for the public streets

that are to be vacated. The city council is on trial, and its acts under very close scrutiny by very many level headed and resolute citizens.

THE COLD WAVE

THE weather bureau scored a hit this time. The cold wave that set in last night was predicted from Washington Sunday evening. The prediction was supplemented by similar announcements from the Portland weather office yesterday morning. Today's snowfall in Portland and the low temperatures that are prevalent are final confirmation.

The storm is full of peril for stockmen. The news reports have from time to time carried accounts of starving livestock and exhausted food supplies in the eastern districts of the state. In Crook county efforts have been made to get food-cattle into the ranges of the forest reserve. In other localities, especially in the southeastern part of the state, the condition has become very much aggravated. Floods in Lake county carried away or ruined haystacks, and stockmen have been compelled to set their cattle adrift on the inhospitable ranges. Sheep for which there was no food have been offered for sale for a few cents a head by owners in some of the storm ridden districts. In the vicinity of the Grand Ronde valley, a snowfall of two feet in five hours was reported yesterday. A continuation of the present unfavorable conditions will greatly aggravate an already unfortunate condition. In general, the accounts are that stockmen have suffered more the present winter than at any time in many years. The temperatures have been lower, the stress of severe weather has been longer and in some parts the snowfall heavier than in any winter during the past dozen or 15 years.

However, climatically speaking, Oregon has few winters. Even the winter is mild compared to the rigors of other states. The severe season is already so far advanced that the cold wave and snowfall of today will be sunshine and flowers tomorrow. The stockmen's losses come so rarely and the severities of the past two seasons are so unusual that their presence is the occasion of unwelcome ado.

THE ADMINISTRATION MEASURES

PRESIDENT TAFT has reduced Roosevelt's 18 or 19 reformatory measures to four or five for the present congress, which is greatly obliged to him for insisting on no more. If there is anything that the Aldrich-Cannon congress hates to act upon favorably, or even to consider seriously, it is a bill of a reformatory or progressive character, anything that is designed to be of benefit to the people in general. With such a congress on his hands, the president is perhaps wise and excusable in not urgently recommending more than three or four important new measures.

It is reported that the postal savings bank bill will probably be passed. If this should be done without the insertion of objectionable jokers congress will have done something to relieve itself of general distrust and disapproval. Besides this, the president will insist on amendment of the interstate commerce law as he has recommended, giving the federal government more power over railroads; on the conferring on the president power to withdraw public lands for conservation purposes; on an amendment of the Injunction law, and on statehood for Arizona and New Mexico. Only two of these are of first class importance, but if the president can induce congress to do this much he will have gone far to show that he is sincerely desirous of accomplishing some good both for the country and for his party.

There may be apparent excuse for the renewed Cairo riots, but there can be no justification of them. Some negroes have probably been troublesome, exasperating, but that furnishes no reason for the frenzied attacks of a mob upon negroes indiscriminately. Cairo and vicinity have always had the reputation of being about the most unenlightened portion of the United States, and it is probable that many of the white people who have resorted to mob violence are even more undesirable people than the offending negroes.

According to a Washington report, the Humphrey ship subsidy bill is likely to fail, as similar bills have done in several sessions. Congressmen are hearing from the country on this matter, and are realizing that a great majority of their constituents, in most parts of the country, are very decidedly opposed to this measure. Expression of public opinion does good in some instances. Seeing that representatives are elected every two years, the people do rule to some extent.

Russia is preparing to spend \$500,000,000 in the next 10 years on her navy, and of course Japan will have to keep ahead of Russia. Meanwhile the people of Japan will bend and struggle under an almost crushing weight of taxation and the masses of Russians will exist miserably on the brink of starvation. This is civilization up to date.

There are usually two wrongs in the case of a big strike, where violence is resorted to, and they do not make a right. In Philadelphia the chances are that the striking street-car men's demands were just, but that destruction of property and personal violence were justified on this account does not follow. There

should be laws to obviate both wrongs by compulsory arbitration.

It has been observed that President Taft in his notable speech recently at New York said nothing in favor of the ship subsidy. This is not proof that he has changed his opinion on this subject, only evidence that he does not regard it as of prime importance. If he would reverse his attitude on this matter, and would clarify his vision with respect to the Payne-Aldrich tariff, he would go far toward becoming a real people's president.

TANGLEFOOT

By Miles Overholt

IT WOULDN'T STRETCH.



The assessor was doing the very best he could, but the farmer was a slick article. "How many acres of farming land have you got in that tract?" "About 20, I guess," replied Rubie the farmer. "Twenty? Why, it looks to me like nearer 120. Come now, can't you increase that a little? There are surely more than 20 acres in that tract. Suppose you stretch that a little." "Say, feller," said the farmer, "this ain't no rubber plantation."

THE FULL DINNER PAIL

Take it from me, I'm fond of the cooks. To tell you the truth, I like what they make. My poetic soul may hanker for books, but I'd give away when they bring in the cake. Believe me or not, I am stuck on my Sentiment's good when the dinner is over. Drink up all right when somebody treats. But pudding and pie is the stuff I adore. Any old way, I'm a fiend for my feed; Prunes and potatoes will both rhyme with me. Plenty of food is all that I need. To keep me contented, though riches may flee. Take it from me I'm fond of my grass. Feed me, then, take everything that I own. No need for chloroform, ether or gas; Bring on the eats and leave me alone.

11-Year-Old Mathematical Wonder

"Building the Twig" is the title of H. Addington Bruce's article in the American Magazine for March, in which he discusses the work and the results and the education of William James Sidis, the 11-year-old lad who recently lectured at Harvard before learned professors of mathematics on "The Four-Dimensional Bodies." Of the boy's education and early home life under his father's guidance, Mr. Bruce writes: "To realize his great aim of energizing and rationalizing the child, Dr. Sidis began to train him in the use of his observational and reasoning faculties before he was 2 years old, and, with the aid of a box of alphabet blocks, actually succeeded in teaching him how to spell and read before he was 3. He did this by playing with the boy, shifting the alphabet blocks around to spell different words, pointing to the objects, and naming the things as he spelled, and naming them alone for the child. This was not simply to teach the child spelling and reading but also to give him a thorough grounding in the principles of sound reasoning. At the age of 3 1/2, for example, he furnished a letter to his father, explaining the words of the alphabet, the alphabet blocks, and the objects, and naming them as he spelled, and naming them alone for the child. This was not simply to teach the child spelling and reading but also to give him a thorough grounding in the principles of sound reasoning. At the age of 3 1/2, for example, he furnished a letter to his father, explaining the words of the alphabet, the alphabet blocks, and the objects, and naming them as he spelled, and naming them alone for the child. This was not simply to teach the child spelling and reading but also to give him a thorough grounding in the principles of sound reasoning. 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