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Moro, Sherman County, Oregon, Friday, March 19, 1909.

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Dynamite and powder work on all kinds of Rock Excavations

H. A. Stuart, Moro, Oregon.

PLASTERING, BRICK AND CONCRETE WORK

1809—The Lincoln Centenary—1909
Lincoln as the American Type

Champion of Democracy
and a New Political Gospel—His Belief in the
Plain People

By James A. Edgerton

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A NATION is more than a collection of people; more than its history or destiny or both together; more than the rivers, hills, forests, seas and skies that furnish it footing, environment and cover; more than its hamlets, villages, cities and all its communities; more than its pursuits and industries; more than its great men, its work and its mission; more than its power in war or its commerce in peace; more, much more, than any of these or a combination of all of them. A nation is a body politic with a soul. The great thing in it, the determining thing, is not visible. It is its spirit, its genius, its life.

It seems that no one has yet comprehended or stated the American genius, the national soul that differentiates this from all other nations, the self-reliant, self-developing spirit of democracy; the constructive attitude, the individual initiative, inventiveness, energy, sanity, humor that go to make up the peculiar type we call American. But, although no one has been able to phrase this, it still has had expression. Lincoln incarnated it. He was the word America made flesh.

A nation is like a man—it comes through the same periods of birth and growth, likewise of sin and sickness, too often of death. But its body seems more plastic and responsive to its soul

own place and is now more slowly working out her own peculiar development and mission.

In one aspect this land may be called the modern Palestine. The pilgrims were like those who escaped out of Egypt. Washington was another Abraham, Lincoln another Moses. But our peculiar ark of the covenant is political liberty. This we are to carry as the chosen people of this age until the world is converted to democracy.

Yet we are more than a Palestine, having in us the elements also of a modern Greece and more especially a modern Rome. All the stages of the Roman republic—have we passed through. Now we are at the age of the Caesars, only let us hope that the later experience and liberty of the world have given us sufficient wisdom and strength to avoid empire.

Has it ever occurred to the people of this time that a great new civilization is springing to life in the nations that fringe the shores of the Pacific and that we hold much the same relation to this new group of developing states that ancient Rome held to western Europe? The parallel can be carried further. This is but a suggestion of it.

There are historic years as well as solar years. The first historic year had its springtime in early Greece, Judea and Rome. Its summer came in the days of Julius and Augustus

as a "new growth of this new soil, the first American."

Whether or not he was the first, he was at least the most conspicuous. And how fully he was a type of the national life, even embodying some of our faults! He came from the common people, as do we; was eloquent, as we try to be; told stories, which has become a national habit; even played the great American game of ball. The one place that he did not include our vices is that he did not indulge in that other great American game of poker. Douglas says he drank, but Douglas is not the best authority. Others deny the statement. If Lincoln drank at all it was but mildly and the habit was abandoned in his mature years. Neither the drinking nor the gambling vices it may be objected that he was not the American type, but at least he was our ideal type, expressing us at our best, if not at our worst, and, let us hope, he was the type of the future. The vices of the past are not absolutely essential to a great manhood, while the Lincolnian qualities are. Perhaps we shall slough off some ephemeral faults, but the great, durable, elemental traits that he had as a model for all of us must remain.

This genius of Americanism, which is giving a new spirit to other lands, came not only to typify, but to preserve. Faine, Franklin, Jefferson, Washington and the rest had given it statement and initial form in the beginning. Lincoln, with Garrison, Grant, Seward, Stanton and their co-workers, came to give it restatement.

Lincoln saw what we must all see if we comprehend Americanism at all, that our nation has brought a new political gospel which is to revolutionize all nations and ultimately make a republic of the world. As a consequence of this new political gospel it likewise brought a new industrial and social gospel. It is no idle boast to say that it has become worth while living since America has appeared on the stage. She is only the type and most conspicuous fact of this new age, just as he was the type and most conspicuous individual in our civil war crisis and just as he is rapidly becoming the type and most conspicuous entity of our nation itself.

Lincoln specifically stated that his mission, or rather his purpose, was neither to preserve nor destroy slavery, but to save the Union. The Union was and is the body politic incarnating the national soul. It is the vessel holding the precious oilment, the temple containing the holy holies, the form expressing and perpetuating liberty.

It was not merely the loss of a few states that Lincoln faced and prevented. It was the breaking up of this body, the disintegration of this American genius, the change of our national life. To the one who saw what blessings American liberty, democracy and constructiveness would mean to the future of the entire race this would seem the greatest work that man could perform. America was and is the key to the world's new civilization, the prophet of political equality all round the earth, the forerunner of man-free, intelligent, energetic, content, redeemed and awakened manhood, the racial man, climbing the ladder toward the type of a Lincoln.

It did not happen by accident that the men who directed our Revolution constituted the greatest group seen on this planet since the departure of those surrounding the Nazarene. Such a great inception means a greater mission. To measure that mission and its influence on all men will require centuries.

On this new stem of Americanism, this new plant of democracy growing in a fresh soil, men of the stamp of Lincoln were the natural and inevitable fruit. He is perhaps the most complete example, but he is by no means the only one. As said in the beginning, he is a type. Thousands approach him; none perhaps reaches him in all things. Studied from every standpoint, he is about the most satisfying human example produced not only by America, but by modern times—the most satisfying when measured by the intellect, by the heart or by the soul. It is the inevitable conclusion that he is the greatest student who goes deeply into the nature of Abraham Lincoln.

Happy is the land that has such a man for its humanized symbol!

That the people felt Mr. Lincoln's universal Americanism was shown by the overwhelming grief of all sections at his death.

Of the assassination itself and of the scenes succeeding it it is unnecessary to speak here. All this has become a part of the folklore of the race. At this length of time, however, three things stand out prominently—the narrowness of the private soldiers, of the negroes and of the plain people. In Washington, the United States but when it is known that the Indians are armed and outnumber the soldiers ten to one it will be admitted that Sheridan's "kiss me and I will tickle you" policy is not only safe one to expect.

The arrival in North Platte is described in dispatches of Jan. 3, 1872: "The duke alighted from the train; the natives of the little station formed a line along the platform and, almost involuntarily, simultaneously removed their hats in honor of the distinguished visitor. 'Little Phil' was master of ceremonies, and he was bound that no moment should be lost in starting for the camp, six miles distant. He arranged with 'Buffalo Bill' to be on hand and act as guide, and the renowned scout was promptly on time in all his element. He was seated in the same degree.

THE PLAINS
GREATEST
HUNT

BY BUFFALO BILL
FROM TRUE TALES OF THE PLAINS

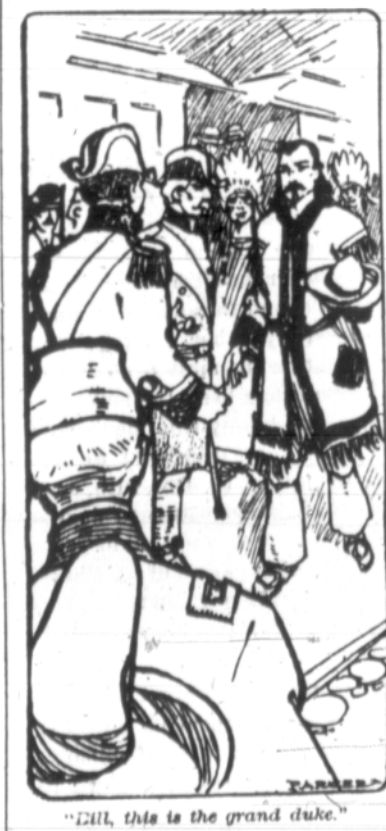
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SPEAKING of General Custer reminds me of an international episode resulting from the friendship exhibited by Russia to the government of the United States during the civil war the courtesies shown to the young Grand Duke Alexis. Among the events arranged in the programme was his visit to the far west to hunt for big game. The whole affair was under the direction of General Phil Sheridan, and Custer, from his youth, distinction and suitability, was particularly selected to chaperon and have charge of the grand duke and a large number of noblemen and officers of his staff. I had located a camp sixty miles from North Platte, on the Red Willow, in the heart of the buffalo country. Lieutenant E. M. Hayes, now brigadier general, retired, a dashing soldier, more familiarly known as General Jack Hayes, was assigned the duty of arranging the matter and equipping the camp. There was no limit to the efforts to provide every luxury and comfort that lavish expense could procure. Provisions, wines, etc., of the finest had been freighted in from Chicago; tents for the royal guests were beautifully furnished with carpets, rugs, robes and with a stove in each tent. It certainly was a most beautiful camp, named Camp Alexis, and Lieutenant Hayes must have been inspired by some of the orators of the day to name it after the duke's name.

"Some forty odd superior wall tents were properly equipped for the guests alone. The arrangements of the camp, in brief, were complete, not to say luxurious, when the remote and wild section of the country is considered. Beside the cavalry escort, there were two mounted companies to guard against the imperial tourists and sportsmen from the wrath and revenge of the numerous 'dog soldiers,' Indians under Chief Whistler. The chances are, however, that the duke will unite in rendering the duke's visit one of pleasure rather than one of fear or harm. Sheridan and 'Buffalo Bill' have persuaded them to such a course, and, furthermore, to procure their good behavior, the general has brought out thirty wagon loads of provisions, which he has promised to distribute impartially among the red men at the end of the hunt if they restrain themselves from any violence. These presents assure such result. This perhaps may be considered a questionable way to secure a foreign guest from scolding or murder to the United States but when it is known that the Indians are armed and outnumber the soldiers ten to one it will be admitted that Sheridan's 'kiss me and I will tickle you' policy is not only safe one to expect."

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"Bill, this is the grand duke."

But of the Indian roundup of buffalo I might say that such a picturesque emblemage, such a natural conditions, which nature furnished in its primitive state, the striking adjunct of an illimitable hunting ground and unnumbered varieties of big game, magnificent variety of the plains and the fantastic adornment, mingled with the flower of the veteran cavalry of Uncle Sam commanded by General Phil Sheridan, General E. O. C. Ord, commander of the department of the Platte, with the gallant Custer, Colonel Mike Sheridan, the Forsyth, Assistant Surgeon M. V. Ash, Major Swelger, Colonel Palmer and Lieutenant Hayes, a brilliant array of famed officers, and the goodly company of foreign officials, admirals and generals, and a detachment of the flower of our army, made a pageant so spirited as to linger in memory as a scene in every respect

unique legend compare up to date and one well nigh impossible in the future to duplicate. I had located an immense herd of buffalo, and all arrangements were complete, the blanket was waved three times, and off the outfit started at daylight. The Indians were painted in a variety of colors, had discarded all their artistic adornments, different colored ornaments, jewelry, feathers and other apparel and looked like real children of nature, almost in Adam's costume, only a breechcloth around their loins, moccasins on their feet, no saddle, no bridle, the ponies with only a thin leather hackamore between their teeth; some with only light bow and arrows, others with their rifle, revolver, ammunition, no unnecessary weight, as that they could ride the lightning. They even spared their horses and walked most of the time, but with such speed that it kept every one "chopping" to go the pace. This kept up until the herd was in sight.

A council was held, and the captain was passed around, and everything was ready, while every Indian mounted his horse, which seemed more ex-



With the roar of Niagara the Indians dashed on their prey.

ceeded than his rider. About 200 were in the front line, 100 in the second line and 100 composed the rear. The chiefs were in the front, snapping their whips in the air and holding the reins together, with the public forming, prancing and stamping their feet, impatient as their masters, each seeking to form one unit and one body, contains, all waiting for the signal, all with one feeling, one desire, to gain as many trophies as possible when the "buff" suddenly gave the signal to go. "Thunder and lightning! What a tornado! A storm of horsemen, with impetuosity, these mounted darters, on their prey. With the roar of Niagara, the speed of a cyclone, the swiftness of an avalanche, these strange figures threw themselves in a mad, wild rush on their fleeing victims, and soon the midst of the dust cloud one could only see an indistinguishable mass of flying arrows, accompanied with rifle shots, whirling horses, falling buffaloes and best riding Indians on their wild ponies. 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