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A LITTLE HISTORY.

Not only the government but the people of the United States must keep their heads level in these days, when the war is sore in Europe, and the later arrivals in the United States and their immediate descendants, carried away by their sympathies for this or that country in Europe are apt to misjudge the situation and what should be the duty of this country in this foreign war.

They all recall what their former respective countries have done for us and are not careful enough in giving their opinions of what our country should do now.

Such people forget that the first instinct of nations, as well as individuals, is the instinct of self-preservation, and that when the war is over all the belligerents in Europe will need our country's friendship more than they ever did before. We are under obligations to them all; all of them owe us something.

To begin with our country was originally mostly settled by immigrants from Great Britain. They stamped upon this land the English language and all that is best in English law and literature and the reverence for law and the love of home which are among the strongest attributes of Englishmen.

By these both the Puritans in the north and the Cavaliers in the south though widely different in other respects, were united.

But the ideas that prevailed of the duties of colonies toward their foreign sovereign were much the same that Spain clung to up to the very hour when it became necessary to break her hold upon all her island colonies, because of the cruelties that she permitted her agents to perpetrate, until eternal justice demanded their surcease.

So England heaped oppressions upon her American colonies, and despite the warnings of Burke and Fox and Chatham, persisted until the revolt came and the seven year's war. Her attitude was that of anger and contempt. She hired mercenaries to come and fight her battles, on the frontier she engaged savages to ravage the settlements.

When the frail entrenchments were thrown up on Breed's (Bunker) Hill, which might have easily been made untenable by a warship in the harbor without loss, Lord Howe, under Sir Henry Clinton—then in command in Boston, in contempt of the foe, formed his army in solid column and ordered them to drive the ragmuffins out, which cost them the lives of 1,500 soldiers and some of his most valued officers.

That war won for this country independence, but it also taught England a lesson on the treatment of colonies which has enabled her to retain her hold on Canada, Australia, India and South Africa and which makes her supreme in Egypt now.

In those years France was our friend. Lafayette and others came and joined our army; France sent the fleet and loaned the money which finally closed the war in triumph for us. That, surely, we never can cease to be grateful for, even if behind the French government's acts there was as much hate of England as love for the colonies.

At that time there was no United Germany. Prussia was the ruling kingdom and Frederick the Great was at the zenith of his great fame.

When the great war of the revolution came and an army was summoned, the volunteers had no more idea of the need of having an army disciplined than the average congressman now has. They were ready to fight, certainly, but their idea of liberty was that their officers were not better than themselves and had no inherent right to command them. Hence the army that gathered under Washington were little better than a mob, and never accepted the truth, that to become efficient, armies must accept the rules of a perfect imperialism and submit to orders.

In half despair Washington sent to the great Frederick for help. A few days after the message was received Baron Steuben, one of the king's favorite officers, resigned from the Prussian army and with a letter from his king sailed for America and reported on his arrival to Washington.

Steuben began at once to put the continental army in army form. By his skill, his firmness and high character he was able to make the ragged army understand what was needed. In brief time it understood what was needed to make it really effective and from that moment there began to be shifts of sunlight through the pall that had so long shadowed the land.

So much for early history. There was not much change in national thought until after the war of 1812. Napoleon had sold Louisiana to the United States for a pittance but he did it because he could not hold it against Great Britain and his comfort was that on that soil a power would expand that would finally rival Great Britain in every way.

By the way it was a German, Albert Gallatin, who was Jefferson's closest advisor then and as secretary of the treasury helped so much to continue Hamilton's work and get the finances of the nation in order.

In the meantime a large immigration poured in from England and Scotland and more especially Ireland—and every Irishman was at heart an American when he embarked for this country.

After the Napoleon wars ceased, the Germans began to come in greater and greater numbers until at last they exceeded all others.

In the Mexican war the Irish and Germans, under our flag were especially conspicuous.

Then came our great war of the rebellion and when the life of the nation was hanging in the balance, the lust for conquest seized upon Napoleon III and the commercialism of Great Britain as manifested through her ruling classes and great manufacturers, had full sway.

Both countries with unseemly haste acknowledged the confederacy as a belligerent power; the attitude of both countries was rude bordering on insult, England built privateers, armed and manned them and supplied them to southern naval officers to prey upon the commerce of the United States; she had just adopted

the American invention of the compound marine engine, her merchants built scores of fast ships to run between the Bermudas and our southern ports, shipping from England cargoes for them to the Bermudas, and never ceased until our minister to Great Britain, Charles Francis Adams, informed Lord John Russell, that if a certain ship then nearing completion was permitted to sail, it would be held as an act of war by our country. In the meantime most English statesmen including Mr. Gladstone, had declared in favor of intervention for the South, so had many of her clergymen; our minister, Mr. Adams, was treated with a rudeness bordering on insult, and Henry Ward Beecher, assaying to lecture in England, was assailed by hooting and cat-calls for half an hour until by sheer force of his intellect and magnetism he charmed the crowd into silence and then charmed them into wild cheering by his eloquence.

But when Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston decided to quit, two things had happened. Ericsson had built the Monitor which in Hampton Roads served notice on both Great Britain and France that their navies would be but paper ships in the event of war. That was one thing. The other was that when Napoleon III invited Russia to join with France and Great Britain in intervention in favor of the confederacy, Russia's premier, Gortchakof, replied in a short and sharp note declining and adding that if such intervention was attempted, Russia would construe it as an act of war.

Then as soon as word could be sent to the admirals of the Russian navy in the Atlantic and Pacific, her Atlantic fleet swung into New York harbor, her Pacific fleet into San Francisco harbor and remained there many weeks until all danger of intervention had passed. It was understood then and has never been authoritatively denied that both admirals had instructions to report to our government for duty. After the war closed Secretary Seward began negotiations for the purchase of Alaska. It was not considered of very much value and when the deal was closed the people of this country who did not know any better referred to it as "Seward's folly." They have changed their minds since and so perhaps has Russia. There were two singular features about that sale. One was that Russia sold—for where did she ever before sell a great tract of land? The other was the price paid—\$7,240,000. If we believe what was often stated at the time, that the \$7,000,000 was to reimburse Russia for what she had done for us and that the \$240,000 was to pay her for what she had spent for coal in serving us, neither proposition seems out of reason.

But really the service she performed for us could never be paid for in money and our gratitude to her should be an annuity drawing interest forever.

But while what the aristocracy, the manufacturers, the great merchants and ship companies of Great Britain did in that war to destroy our shipping—which was of greater tonnage than that of Great Britain when the war began, and what they did to rend our country itself into fragments, will always be remembered, we should not forget that England's great queen, her prince consort, a few of her statesmen and the poor employees who by tens of thousands were made to suffer semi-starvation because of the war; were true from the first to last in their determination that there must be no clash with our country, no perpetuation of slavery through their country's help.

But it was with bad grace that the others relinquished their plan. Napoleon III did not dare intervene alone, but he sent an army to back the Austrian prince who dreamed of being sovereign of Mexico, and when the Kearsarge ran the Alabama to bay, and her commander, at last forced to fight, went out from Cherbourg harbor to engage the Union ship all the shore around Cherbourg was lined by thousands eager to see the English-built ship, armed with English guns and manned by volunteers from the British naval reserve, sink the Kearsarge, and when the result was not quite as expected, an English yacht was at hand to rescue the American commander of the British-built ship and carry him away to England.

In our war with Spain, all the sympathies of France and Germany were with Spain, and their newspapers pictured with glee how Cervera's fleet would sweep the paper warships of the United States from the sea. But then Great Britain was our friend and the service rendered Admiral Dewey in Manila bay perhaps saved our country from a war with Germany. At that time a distinguished German in this country made a remark which was most significant. When asked why Germany was so urgent in building a great navy, he replied: "One of these days she will come over and poke a large hole in your Monroe doctrine."

The foregoing only shows that nations are governed—at least all but our own—by their own interests, when an emergency comes. It is clear, too, why we cannot afford to take sides in the present European conflict.

In our great war our foremost commander in the North was of Scotch-Irish descent, the second was a Puritan descendant; the foremost of the Southern side came down from the Cavaliers; while in Sheridan on the North and Cleburne at the South there was not a drop of blood in either one that was not Irish. Then there were Sigel and Schurz and Osterhaus and scores more of officers and regiments, divisions and corps of unmixed German soldiers.

The names on the rolls of all those armies show the distinct nationalities, but if in one way they were "distinct as waves they were united as the sea."

Around every bulletin board we see this divergence of nationalities but all united as to our country.

When the war in Europe closes then, if not before, our test will come. Were Germany to conquer with her armies and save her fleet, she would be hard to get along with.

Were the Allies to win, we would have much cause to be apprehensive, for Japan would be saucy, aggressive and treacherous, backed as she would be by Great Britain and Russia. If there is any lesson in it all to our country it is to be prepared while waiting for what it is to be.—Goodwin's Weekly.

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