

TRADITIONS OF AMERICA

As They Are Viewed by Bishop Cox of Western New York.

SOURCES OF LAW AND GOVERNMENT

American Ideas of Both Traced to Their Origin—Danger of Constitution Flouting—Mistakes of History—Maxims of Washington.

Copyrighted by the Irving Syndicate. The daughters of Pelias must have most of their father and put him into a kettle in order to boil the old man to a jelly and so bring him out again in the freshness of youth, tender as a baby and good as new. The fable, like many a myth of the Greeks, has a moral in it for nations that wax old. Let them beware of the kettle of rash experiment and reflect that there is "death in the pot" of factious dissension. Recent events forewarn us that even a youthful nation may be subjected, by fanatics and theorists, to schemes of amelioration quite as fanciful as those which Medea taught these ladies of Pelias' family. Is it possible that with the example of France before us our young republic can be persuaded to subject its constitution to radical changes, in the name of improvements, with the certainty that to abandon the terra firma of institutions that have made us great and strong for the quicksands and quagmires of theoretical progress is to invoke the Dantons and the Marats of discord and social dissolution? Recent events make this inquiry—rather, this interjection—not wholly irrelevant.

Nobody can deny that the France of Louis XVI. demanded reforms the most fundamental; and the surmise is not unworthy of credit that had Mirabeau lived long enough to perfect the schemes he proposed, and conceived for educating the people to sober views of what they needed and guiding them to wise measures of improvement the noblest successes might have been achieved. Still, we must reflect that while Montesquieu had provided them with a text book of political science, which Mirabeau might have made their catechism, they had become too wise in their own conceits to take lessons in any school of philosophy teaching by example. It was too late. The Huguenots, the Jesuits and the great civilians who had maintained the traditions of St. Louis had been eliminated. Rousseau and Voltaire had succeeded to a large extent in forming a mind, which greater and better men had been unable to attain, because a suicidal despotism had persecuted them to death, and by this method had snuffed its own contributory destruction. Enough, the ax had been driven to the root of the national life for these professed "philosophers." The people had lost all inherited ideas, and in a word had become prodigal sons, grasping at imaginary claims in the patrimonial estate, and were ready for a religious and political inspiration of their new creed. "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

A TERRIBLE MISTAKE

They had learned to envy the freedom of England, but had not profited by any indication as to the sources of its existence, or the processes by which it had been wrought out. That it was a secular growth and not the product of any one age or crisis they had no conception. The terrible scene in English history had impressed itself upon the dramatic temperament of the French populace; they knew that England had brought its king to the block, and everything tended to magnify this event in their imaginations till imitation of the tragedy seemed the only way toward the attainment of what they passionately desired. Chaos came in consequence. A century has worn away since then and nothing satisfactory to France has been achieved. The republic of Thiers and Gambetta is not yet a foundation, though enough has been attained to inspire our hopes. But Pelias is not alive again, the waters of the fountain have forfeited identity with the France of Charlemagne. She is the strapping of a new race, and, as such, "has no past behind her back."

WE ARE THE PRODUCT OF TRADITIONS.

It was one of Emerson's sounding platitudes, not one of his oracles, if, as is reported, he said the same of our republic. Moments of reflection, to say nothing of a more studious, suggests that we are the product of traditions that go back to the revolution of 1588; back to the commonwealth; back to the restoration; back to the parliaments of the greater Plantagenets; nay, further, to the epoch of Magna Charta; nay, beyond that, to the institutions of Alfred the Great; and beyond that to the traditions of the Saxons of Kent, and the earliest plantations of Christianity in the mother isle, and the maxims of political science that have made us a great people.

CAUSE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

The American revolution was the logical consequence of the convention that introduced William and Mary as the British monarch, and that further instrumental in placing the crown upon the head of a petty German prince. Washington was an English boy to begin with, and the principles of 1688 were profoundly embedded in the character and conduct of those who were united under so great a leader in the establishment of an American republic. The Hollanders and Huguenots bore an active part in this grand work memorably in the person of John Jay, the ally of the prince of Orange, in spirit if not in fact. The whole movement was homogeneous, and the principles of the revolution were established by the theory of the British monarchy, as established by the settlement of the crown upon the stadtholder and afterwards upon the house of Brunswick. These principles reigned by the sword, but they were the colonies regarded as subjects, which the colonies regarded as broken by the laws as a separate taxation upon freemen without their consent.

WE ARE A CHRISTIAN PEOPLE.

The traditions which are thus our inheritance, and not less our creators, are embodied in the common law, in the legislation of the colonies, in the decisions of our supreme courts and in the laws and constitutions alike of the republic and of the several states. And thus it is apparent that the judgment of the supreme court in February, 1892, was the simple assertion of the undeniable fact that we are a Christian people. By this it is not implied that dogmatic Christianity is part of the common law, but only that Christian civilization is the base of all our institutions; fundamentally so with respect to the family; the moral system of the new testament, as a respect to the bible and the first day of the week. We take it, the Christian day of rest is not honored by our laws as a respect to religion and morality, and on this ground only to be enforced upon those who violate the peace, by profaning its civil sanctity and the rights of the people at large to enjoy it, in different ways, as a day for the cessation of labor and of the discharging duties of the week. It is noteworthy that even in France this idea, taken upon the republican grounds favoring the better observance of Sundays have received the votes of professional athletes and other infidels. They have eloquently and with uplifted hands, urged, viz., (1) that such observances have promoted the welfare of peoples that have maintained them, and (2) that as one day must be selected, why not the Christian day? The preservation of the day which is identified with our civilization and for different reasons accepted by the population in general.

THE REJECTION OF MEDIAEVALISM.

Not dogmatically, again, the traditions of our civilization are those of Protestant nations. Nobody would more earnestly resist than I do the idea that religious Protestantism has any part or lot in our American system. Our institutions, however, as such as are nowhere maintained or liberally tolerated, save among peoples who on widely different grounds have rejected

modernism in practically developing a modern civilization for modern society. Again, in our own country, we adopt, by common consent, the English language as the name of social utterance, of popular education, and the fact that this is assumed by our constitution strengthens the argument for a like assumption of Christian civilization. It was not necessary to legislate sunshine or air, earth and water into recognition by organic laws and an instrument dated "in the year of our Lord and written in the English tongue is more forcible by what it takes for granted and makes "self-evident" than it would be if words were wasted upon what nobody can successfully refute or withstand.

THE MAXIMS OF WASHINGTON.

It may be truly said that "the maxims of Washington" are a text book of our traditions, such as might well be collected, and made a school study of political ethics for the American people. And to observe with pleasure that such a compilation has recently appeared and is commended as the republication of an old manual, all the better for having first appeared long before the civil war and hence as free from any admixture of partisan issues peculiar to our own times. A. CLEVELAND COXE. Buffalo, N. Y.

PRATTLE OF THE YOUNGSTERS.

Children's motives should always be understood, says Horace B. Eizar. "Will," said Will's grandfather, sternly, "did you pull up one of my little pear trees by the roots?"

"Yes, sir," said the boy, with anything but a culprit's face. "Well, what did you do it for?" pursued the grandfather. "I wanted to eat the pears."

"Well, grandpa, do you want the cow to eat green apples off your trees and get sick and poison the milk?" "No, certainly not."

"Well, I pulled up the pear tree because it was just the right size for a cow whip, and drove off your cows from your apple trees with it," said Will, with offended dignity. "Johnny," said the lad's father, "where have you been? Your head's wet."

"Is it?" exclaimed the boy, his cheerful expression vanishing. "It certainly is. And your hands and face are cleaner than they have been for a week."

"Well, I jes' washed 'em."

"And that isn't your shirt you are wearing?" "Father," said the boy, "the beautiful story of George Washington which you and mother have so oft related to me sank deep in my heart. I have heeded the lesson. I cannot tell a lie, I have been in swimming."

Mamma—What are you trying to draw. Little Ethel—A elephant. "There's a difficult subject."

"I'd rather draw elephants than anything else, because my friends can always tell what it is. They know an elephant is the only animal with two tails."

Johnny—What is this moral courage that the Sunday school teacher was telling us about? Tommy—As near as I kin guess it, it's the kind of courage that kids has that's afraid to fight.

Little Dot—Some folks don't know so much as they think they do, do they? Uncle George—Why so? Little Dot—Prof. Linguist, who speaks sixteen languages, was here last evening and he had to get me to tell him what the baby was saying.

"Have you any idea," asked the teacher, "what it is to 'square the circle'?" "I reckon payin' for your wheel comes mighty near to it," said Tommy Tucker, after some moments of severe thought.

His Father—Tommy, how do you like your new toy horse? It's the best I could buy. Tommy (surveying it critically)—It's awful nice, but I'd like to know how it's going to be broke—strong thing like that.

DAYS GONE BY. James Whitecomb Riley. O, the days gone by! O, the days gone by! The apple in the orchard, and the pathway through the rye; The chirrup of the robin and the whistle of the snail. As he piped across the meadows sweet as the blue in the sky, and the blue in the sky, and my happy heart brimmed over, in the days gone by.

In the days gone by, when my naked feet were trod on the dew-drops, and the water lilies dipped, And the ripple of the river lipped the moss found stony, suggests that we are the product of traditions that go back to the revolution of 1588; back to the commonwealth; back to the restoration; back to the parliaments of the greater Plantagenets; nay, further, to the epoch of Magna Charta; nay, beyond that, to the institutions of Alfred the Great; and beyond that to the traditions of the Saxons of Kent, and the earliest plantations of Christianity in the mother isle, and the maxims of political science that have made us a great people.

CONTRADICTORIES. Divorce notices are now published like birth notices in New York papers. He—Why do you think they are married? She—I heard her ask him for a kiss last night.

Senator Gorman's two daughters are engaged to marry two department officials in Washington. Mrs. Cumso—So they married in haste, did they? Mrs. Cawler—Yes; and now they are in the hospital.

After auctioning off his wife for \$100 in cash and a likely colt Mr. Cardwell of Oklahoma is certainly entitled to take rank among the leading financiers of the country. "Is it true that Banker Gotchash has bought a typewriter?" "Well, I wouldn't put it as harshly as that. Everybody says it, but she married him for his money."

The attorney general of Indiana has decided that county clerks in that state have no right to issue marriage licenses and then withhold them from the public in any manner whatever. Joe Jefferson's niece, Miss Josephine Jefferson, has recently been engaged to Mr. Scott, one of the directors of the company.

The harbor of San Francisco was almost as void as the streets of San Francisco, never, so Mr. Scott said, had he ever seen before so many ships unemployed, for no matter in what direction they might change their heads, the harbor establishments of San Francisco, the party was thoroughly congenial, and the ride down the bay took on the appearance of a holiday outing rather than an official tour of inspection on the part of the naval officers, who were compelled to pass upon the engines and boilers of the Oregon prior to her official trial trip. The day was really ideal, for an August day in this latitude is far from being pleasant or agreeable. There was little or no fog. The sun shone delightfully, and the breeze was just cool enough to make a light overcoat bearable.

To the man from Nebraska the ride was an ever recurring series of surprises, for the shipping in the bay was almost as void as the streets of San Francisco, never, so Mr. Scott said, had he ever seen before so many ships unemployed, for no matter in what direction they might change their heads, the harbor establishments of San Francisco, the party was thoroughly congenial, and the ride down the bay took on the appearance of a holiday outing rather than an official tour of inspection on the part of the naval officers, who were compelled to pass upon the engines and boilers of the Oregon prior to her official trial trip. The day was really ideal, for an August day in this latitude is far from being pleasant or agreeable. There was little or no fog. The sun shone delightfully, and the breeze was just cool enough to make a light overcoat bearable.

From the time of its discovery down to the present the bay of San Francisco has been celebrated as one of the finest bodies of water in the world, and viewed from any standpoint, it is fully entitled to that description, even under the seaman's view of a mere harbor. But when you see the necessary advantages which belong to it—fertile and picturesque tributary country; mildness and salubrity of climate; connection with the great interior valley of the Sacramento and San Joaquin; its vast resources for ship, lumber, grain and cattle—when these advantages are taken into the account with its geographical position on a line with Asia, it rises into an importance far above that of the vessels, some flagging idly in the wind in the history of maritime places of the world.

Even the staid, solid men of business, Mr. Scott and Mr. Prescott, could not help but remark the picture presented to the little party aboard the tug, for the white sails of the vessels, some flagging idly in the wind, others drawn tightly into the yards arms, with the dark colors of the hulls and the deep blue of the water, made a never to be forgotten marine study.

"Nearly ten years ago," said a member of the company, "I drew into the bay of Naples with a romantic notion of its beauty, and the travelers of twenty centuries had heightened beyond measure. But," and his eyes turned seaward, "there is no comparison between the bay of Naples and this bay. You have Vesuvius at Naples, but there is no other sign of life in the whole surroundings. I missed the colors and clouds of San

IS A FLOATING VOLCANO

Outside and Inside of the Nearly Completed Battle Ship, Oregon.

WILL BE WITHOUT A PEER ON THE SEA

Splendid Specimen of Uncle Sam's New War Vessels—Carries a Terribly Destructive Battery—How She Will Be Armored—Fast Traveler.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 28.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—There is something intensely interesting in the sight of one of Uncle Sam's tremendous battle ships resting in her dry dock, particularly to a resident of an interior state like Nebraska.

I was one of a party the other day to visit England had warrently transferred its navy to Germany, and later allowed its navy to become the wreck of its former proportions, has, in fourteen years, erected a navy which, though small in numbers, has upon the whole remarkably powerful, and, thanks to be wise secretaries of the navy, is rapidly growing.

A marked contrast with the fifty-eight battleships, coast defense ironclads, armored cruisers, and gunboats, and the United States today having a total tonnage of 183,051, carrying 1,034 guns and 174 torpedoes, and a navy of the highest caliber.

But while the ship is an object of interest to thousands who have seen her since her launching, October 26, 1893, when she gets her baptism, she will be additionally interesting when equipped the Oregon will carry four fifteen-inch breech loading rifles mounted in the turrets, eight eight-inch guns, mounted also in the turrets, four six-inch breech loading rifles mounted in the armored sponsons, twenty six-pounder rapid fire guns, two mounted in the armor plating, two in the military tops, and two gattlings in the same position. In addition to this array of guns, there are six torpedo tubes, two fixed fore and aft with four broadside launching tubes.

All the guns for this destroyer of commerce, if made necessary by the exigencies of war, are made in the Washington navy yard gun factory, and some of them are already at Santa Cruz being tested.

COMPARED WITH FOREIGN SHIPS. Taking the best types of foreign battle ships as a comparison, the arrangements of the battery on the Oregon will be found superior to any battle ship afloat. By this arrangement an exceedingly severe bow and stern fire may be obtained, as well as a broadside fire, the guns being so placed that they will not interfere with one another's fire.

Special attention has also been paid to the ammunition supply, a new idea being put in effect which is considered far in advance of the systems now in vogue. In addition to these manifold advantages the ship is fitted with a complete electric plant of the most modern style. It has four search lights and a complete system of ventilation, with a perfect refrigerator service, so that Jack may have his ice water at sea, his commodore an old-fashioned cocktail, and his powerful arrangement of wrecking pumps.

She will carry 415 tons of ammunition, weighing 622 tons, and some 400 tons of powder, with 100 tons of coal. I asked a lieutenant of the line the relative weights of powder charges for the different guns, and he told me that the charge for the 13-inch gun was 650 pounds, the shell weighs 1,150 pounds and if the gun is properly elevated has a range of 15,000 miles.

For the 8-inch guns, 153 pounds of powder will be used, the shell weighing 250 pounds, with a gun range of ten miles. For the 6-inch "thunderers," sixty-seven pounds of powder will be consumed to throw a shell weighing 100 pounds six miles.

The Oregon is provided with a double bottom throughout the major portion of its length as a protection against damage from torpedoes tubes. The whole portion of the vessel under the water is minutely divided by

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