

"Love Thy Country" Says Rockefeller

Newspaper dispatches under date of Cleveland, Ohio, August 5, were particularly interesting. It was stated in those dispatches that John D. Rockefeller had addressed the Euclid Avenue Sunday school, taking for his text "Love Thy Country." In this address Mr. Rockefeller said:

"This is a great and good country to live in. It is a powerful country. It has grown to its present strength of a few Puritan fathers who first settled here. It was this spirit of the Pilgrims—this love of truth, respect for it, the desire of right living, which laid the massive foundation of the United States. The Puritans made the beginning what it was; we should keep it as it was intended. That is why we should love this country of ours; love her people, her business, her institutions. We should sink the smaller annoyances in the greater things; we should remember that the events which seem overwhelming now will be forgotten in a decade. Through it all we must show our love for our fellow man. We are free in this country. We can study the Bible, live in truth and accomplish great ends by our freedom. Over in Europe they do not have the advantages we have. I was surprised to find such a few Sunday schools on the continent. You know I take great interest in Sunday schools. I think they are great institutions. Our country is much better for its Sunday schools. After I had seen what they have, what Sunday schools there are across the water, I have decided that this is a country of Sunday schools. In living in the United States you have a heritage which is most valuable."

Here is a man who has organized a great and cruel conspiracy in restraint of trade. Through all manner of crimes he has come to be the richest private individual in all the world.

Only a few months ago he was skulking into the dark corners of the earth, hiding—successfully—from an officer of the law charged with serving upon him a simple writ commanding him to appear before a magistrate and tell the truth.

Only a few weeks ago, a warrant for his arrest was sworn out before an Ohio state court. Only a few days ago his corporation was indicted by a federal grand jury at Chicago.

Yet here we find him preaching to a Sunday school on the subject: "Love Thy Country!"

Love thy country, indeed! If John D. Rockefeller had served his country with half the zeal he has shown in the service of his god—Mammon—the iniquitous system against which the American people are now contending would not be so powerful as to almost baffle the ingenuity of men seriously bent upon its destruction.

This man who, through violation of law, has piled up millions upon millions of dollars, tells the members of his Sunday school that they must love their country and their country's institutions! Yet he has dodged a writ of subpoena. He tells them: that "through it all we must show our love for our fellow man." But George Rice,

a man whom Rockefeller crushed, gave an interesting illustration of the love which this oil magnate has for his fellow man.

Let us compare this Rockefeller Sunday school sermon with editorials taken from two American newspapers.

The Indianapolis News, referring to the visit which John D. Rockefeller made to the chateau of Napoleon said: "It is natural that this man should admire Napoleon, for the two are markedly alike. The same tremendous organizing capacity, the same great executive ability, the same marvelous power of concentration, and the same contemptuous disregard of obstacles and enemies are found in both. The men headed and directed the two greatest machines of their time—the French army and the Standard Oil company. Each demanded that you should be his friend—or at least do his will—or be crushed. No half hearted service was acceptable in either case. Rockefeller would put a rival out of business as calmly as he would write a check for a million dollars payable to his pet university. No law, either of God or man was ever allowed to stand in the way of his crushing his rival. It was precisely the same with Bonaparte. Men's lives counted for nothing with him. He respected no law. Neither one of these conquerors ever seemed to think that moral qualities attached to acts at all."

The Grand Rapids (Mich.) Evening Press said: "If John D. Rockefeller went to Europe hoping to escape the criticism which so weighed upon him at home he has been bitterly disappointed. His arrival on the other side seems to have been like jumping out of the frying pan into the fire. The comment of the Paris press is especially severe, and to cap all Lombroso, the celebrated criminologist, has published in an Italian review a study of the multi-millionaire, classing him as an abnormal product of the new world, deficient in moral sense and possessing a perverted sense of humanity and justice. Continuing his analysis, Lombroso compares Rockefeller to the thief somewhat, if anything, to the thief's advantage. As in the case of the thief, Rockefeller, the Italian says, is enriched by the ruin of others. He has gone on the theory that one must succeed in his business, even if to do so it is necessary to ruin friends by the dozen."

"Answering the question of what measures society should take to protect itself from such a pestilence, Lombroso says that the multi-millionaire should be put in a place of absolute seclusion, like one who has the plague or is a dangerous lunatic. Commenting on this, Le Cri, the Parisian newspaper, asks what Monsieur Roosevelt is going to do about it. 'M. Roosevelt,' it says, 'is not far from sharing the views of the Italian savant. Is he going to build a lazar house for the infected?'"

Many people will wonder how Rockefeller can summon courage to preach so much religion while he practices so much sin. But the greatest wonder of all is that in the face of his miserable record, any considerable number of intelligent men and women can be found with the patience to listen to his abominable pretenses.

WHERE HANNA WOULD STAND

The Washington Post asks: "Would Mark Hanna, the founder of the standpat school, be a standpatter if he were living?"

The Post is moved to ask this question because Elmer Dover, secretary of the republican national committee and who was private secretary to Senator Hanna, warned the standpatters that tariff revision is pressing rapidly to the front and that if not this year, then surely in 1908 tariff revision will be the issue. The Post seems to conclude that Mr. Hanna, if living, would lean toward tariff revision.

We guess that the Post guesses wrong. If Mr. Hanna were living, he would be doing business at the old stand; and he would have the advantage over some of the republican leaders of today, in that while serving monopoly, he would not pretend to be an anti-monopolist.

ONE MORE "DEFENDER"

The New York World says that a court referee has recommended that Mrs. Amelia R. Gunton be granted a decree of divorce from George Gunton, editor of Gunton's Magazine. This recommendation is particularly interesting because of the fact that Gunton, who secured a Dakota divorce several years ago, was, in Feb-

ruary, 1904, married for the second time, and to a woman younger than his first wife. Mrs. Gunton declares that she was never served with the papers in her husband's divorce suit.

Commoner readers will remember Prof. Gunton as one of the most active "defenders of the national honor" in 1896 and in later years.

What is there about the job of "defender of the national honor" that prompts so many of the persons upon whom that weighty task seems to rest, to embezzle money from widows and orphans, to desert faithful wives, or to resort to other tricks which makes it difficult for men of common clay to justify with the proud title made familiar in the presidential campaign of 1896?

THE INFLUENCE OF ANCESTRY

A number of carping critics are poking fun at the Japanese for ascribing their victories to the virtues of their ancestors. The critics are wrong. Ancestry has much—nay, all—to do with the material progress of a nation. We love to point to the valor and self-sacrifice of our Revolutionary forefathers, but their victories were won long years before the promulgation of the Declaration of Independence, and won by the sturdy pioneers who subdued the granite hills of Vermont and New Hampshire, braved the dangers

of the Virginia forests, threaded the swamps of Georgia and refused to bow to the autocratic decrees of kings and princes in the fatherland. The valor which marked the American arms during the civil war—and history does not record greater than that displayed on both sides during that great struggle—was the outgrowth of the Puritan and cavalier spirit that subdued the primeval wilderness. The victory over Spain a few years ago was won in the schoolhouses and by the fire-sides in American homes long before the Maine was wrecked. A century and a quarter of wholesome influence has left its impress upon the present generation, and without that influence this nation would be in a bad way. The Japanese have set us a good example by acknowledging their debt to their forefathers. We are too apt to become puffed up with pride in our own prowess, too self-sufficient, and it would be well if every now and then we paused long enough to acknowledge the strength of character, the patriotism and the valor we have inherited from ancestors who underwent trials of which we of the present generation have little conception.

HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED?

The following letter sent out by the chairman of the democratic congressional committee explains itself:

"To All Democratic Voters: If there ever was a time in the history of the democratic party for the manifestation of loyalty and patriotism on the part of its members, it is right now. If we are to win a victory and elect a president two years hence, we must first elect a house of representatives this fall. A democratic house can and will investigate every department of the government. With all of them honeycombed by 'graft,' the edges of which only have been touched by recent exposure and prosecutions there will be a revelation of rottenness that will astound the country and create a demand for a democratic administration to clean the government workshop. To win the house we need money to defray legitimate expenses and get out our vote. We have no protected monopolies from which to draw to fill our coffers, as they do those of the republican party. We must, therefore, appeal to loyal democrats for contributions. Will you send us \$1.00 at once, and in return for this we will send you copies of our campaign literature issued by the committee. You will have the thanks of the entire democratic party for your favorable response to our request. Address all remittances to

"J. M. GRIGGS, Chairman
"Munsey Building,
"Washington, D. C."

NOT A NEW PARTY

Referring to the American Federation of Labor's determination to take a hand in politics the Los Angeles Herald says: "Never before in the history of the United States has an attempt been made to build a political party on the narrow foundation of class interests."

The Los Angeles Herald has entirely missed the Federation's plan. The American Federation of Labor does not intend, if its recent proclamation means what it says, to found a new political party. On the contrary it specifically advises voters allied with the organization to use the old political parties instead of trying to organize a new party.

The Herald is mistaken, also in saying that there has never been an effort made to organize a new party founded on class interests. That has been tried time and again, and always with failure. Today the Herald is strenuously supporting a party that, while not founded on class interests, is financed and managed by a very small class in its own selfish interests.

LAFOLLETTE'S TRIBUTE

In a speech delivered at Milwaukee, Wis., August 15, Senator LaFollette said: "I will never forget what we owe the democrats of this state who were patriotic enough to put party behind and join with us in saving the state from corporation rule."

Mr. Roosevelt might have said something like that with respect to the work done by democrats in the senate upon the railroad rate bill and other measures. Senator LaFollette paid generous tribute to the democrats of Wisconsin. A sincere man himself, he is appreciative of the efforts of others who agree with him on the proposition that the great corporations must be servants rather than masters of the people.