

## The New Monroe Doctrine

additional foot of territory by conquest. She will devote herself to showing that she knows how to make honorable and fruitful use of the territory she has; and she must regard it as one of the duties of friendship to see that from no quarter are material interests made superior to human liberty and national opportunity. I say this, not with a single thought that anyone will gainsay it, but merely to fix in our consciousness what our real relationship with the rest of America is. It is the relationship of a family of mankind devoted to the development of true constitutional liberty. We know that that is the soil out of which the best enterprise springs. We know that this is a cause which we are making in common with our neighbors because we have had to make it for ourselves.

Reference has been made here today to some of the national problems which confront us as a nation. What is at the heart of all our national problems? It is that we have seen the hand of material interest sometimes about to close upon our dearest rights and possessions. We have seen material interests threaten constitutional freedom in the United States. Therefore, we will now know how to sympathize with those in the rest of America who have to contend with such powers not only within their borders but from outside their borders also.

I know what the response of the thought and heart of America will be to the program I have outlined, because America was created to realize a program like that. This is not America because it is rich. This is not America because it has set up for a great population great opportunities of material prosperity. America is a name which sounds in the ears of men everywhere as a synonym with individual opportunity because a synonym of individual liberty. I would rather belong to a poor nation that was free than to a rich nation that had ceased to be in love with liberty. But we shall not be poor if we love liberty, because the nation that loves liberty truly sets every man free to do his best and be his best, and that means the release of all the splendid energies of a great people who think for themselves. A nation of employees cannot be free any more than a nation of employers can be.

In emphasizing the points which must unite us in sympathy and in spiritual interest with the Latin-American peoples, we are only emphasizing the points of our own life, and we should prove ourselves untrue to our own traditions if we proved ourselves untrue friends to them. Do not think, therefore, gentlemen, that the questions of the day are mere questions of policy and diplomacy. They are shot through with the principles of life. We dare not turn from the principle that morality, and not expediency, is the thing that must guide us and that we will never condone iniquity because it is most convenient to do so. It seems to me that this is a day of infinite hope, of confidence in a future greater than the past has been; for I am fain to believe that, in spite of all the things that we wish to correct, the nineteenth century that now lies behind us has brought us a long stage toward the time when, slowly ascending the tedious climb that leads to the final uplands, we shall get our ultimate view of the duties of mankind. We have breasted a considerable part of that climb and shall, presently,—it may be in a generation or two,—come out upon those great heights where there shines, unobstructed, the light of the justice of God.

Mr. Bryan intended to spend his month's vacation—a vacation allowed to all government officials at Washington—lecturing at chautauquas. The Mexican situation, however, became so acute that he was unwilling to absent himself from Washington during that time, and would have missed almost the entire season but for the fact that a series of chautauquas had been arranged in the states adjacent to the national capital. He was thus able to make up in September a part of the time which he had lost in August. The meetings were so convenient to Washington that he was only absent from the city seven week days—the rest of the lectures being made at places so near that he was able to spend the forenoons at the department.

### THE NEW HARPER'S

Have you seen the new Harper's Weekly under Norman Hapgood's management? You should read it. It is an outspoken exponent of the people's side of public questions. The Commoner welcomes it into the political arena. It has a great field before it.

On another page will be found the address delivered by President Wilson at Mobile, Alabama, on October 27, 1913, before the Southern Commercial Congress. It was a Pan-American gathering. Mobile looks out over the Gulf of Mexico and the Latin-American republics on the south. A considerable number of these republics were represented at the Mobile gathering, and the President went all the way from Washington to deliver a message which marks an era in our international relations.

The sentence which has been most commented upon, reads as follows:

"I want to take this occasion to say that the United States will never again seek one additional foot of territory by conquest."

He then continued:

"She will devote herself to showing that she knows how to make honorable and fruitful use of the territory she has; and she must regard it as one of the duties of friendship to see that from no quarter are material interests made superior to human liberty and national opportunity. I say this, not with a single thought that anyone will gainsay it, but merely to fix in our consciousness what our real relationship with the rest of America is. It is the relationship of a family of mankind devoted to the development of true constitutional liberty. We know that that is the soil out of which the best enterprise springs. We know that this is a cause which we are making in common with our neighbors because we have had to make it for ourselves."

This statement, which, in view of our history, ought to be unnecessary, will form a foundation upon which to erect a confidence which would be impossible if there was any suspicion of an ulterior motive. Latin America does not want to be absorbed by the United States and it is well that in the very beginning of his administration the President should remove all doubt as to the unselfishness of our plans and purposes. The United States recognizes the responsibility which rests upon her; as the greatest republic in history and the dominant influence in the western hemisphere, her strength is at the service of Latin America, but she desires no conquered territory and will find sufficient satisfaction in the consciousness of a service rendered to civilization.

It was the Monroe Doctrine, announced nearly a century ago, that has given to the republics of South and Central America an opportunity to work out their destiny, free from coercion or restraint at the hands of European governments. The United States has asked nothing in return for this in the way of political advantage or commercial favors. She has found her reward in the growth and development of these republics, which have taken the United States as a pattern and modeled their constitution after hers.

So scrupulously has this country observed the spirit of that Doctrine that she some eighteen years ago interposed in a controversy between one of the smaller countries of South America and a great European nation to insist upon the arbitration of a boundary line. Still later in 1898 she engaged in war with a European country and spent many millions of dollars to assist the people of Cuba to secure their independence. Still later, at the request of the Government of Cuba, she supervised the elections in order to give to the people a free ballot and a fair election. If a nation can prove its altruistic interest in other nations, our nation has done so, and yet it has done no more than its position requires. It has simply lived up to its responsibilities and kept faith with those who trusted it.

But while the President's declaration against the acquisition of land by conquest has been given the largest place in the headlines, the negative thought there presented was not more important than the positive doctrine announced in the following words:

"There is one peculiarity about the history of the Latin-American states which I am sure they are keenly aware of. You hear of 'concessions' to foreign capitalists in Latin America. You do not hear of concessions to foreign capitalists in the United States. They are not granted concessions. They are invited to make investments. The work is ours, though they are welcome to invest in it. We do not ask them to supply the capital and do the work. It is an invitation, not a privilege; and states that are obliged, because their territory does not lie

within the main field of modern enterprise and action, to grant concessions are in this condition, that foreign interests are apt to dominate their domestic affairs: a condition of affairs always dangerous and apt to become intolerable. What these states are going to see, therefore, is an emancipation from the subordination, which has been inevitable, to foreign enterprise and an assertion of the splendid character which, in spite of these difficulties, they have again and again been able to demonstrate. The dignity, the courage, the self-possession, the self-respect of the Latin-American states, their achievements in the face of all these adverse circumstances, deserve nothing but the admiration and applause of the world. They have had harder bargains driven with them in the matter of loans than any other peoples in the world. Interest had been exacted of them that was not exacted of anybody else, because the risk was said to be greater; and then securities were taken that destroyed the risk,—an admirable arrangement for those who were forcing the terms! I rejoice in nothing so much as in the prospect that they will now be emancipated from these conditions, and we ought to be the first to take part in assisting in that emancipation. I think some of these gentlemen have already had occasion to bear witness that the Department of State in recent months has tried to serve them in that wise. In the future they will draw closer and closer to us because of circumstances of which I wish to speak with moderation and, I hope, without indiscretion."

The foreign capitalist has too often been a disturbing factor in Latin America. He obtains concessions, then he interests himself in retaining or securing power for those who will look after his concessions. He collects pay for the "risk" taken and proceeds to eliminate the risk. The real thing needed among the Spanish republics is freedom to achieve their own destiny through governments founded on their consent and governed by their will. The President declares that these states are going to see "emancipation from the subordination, which has been inevitable, to foreign enterprise and an assertion of the splendid character which, in spite of these difficulties, they have again and again been able to demonstrate." The President not only rejoices at this emancipation but insists that "we ought to be the first to take part in assisting in that emancipation."

He calls attention to the fact that the State Department in recent months has tried to render some service in this direction. It is a policy that has been substituted for Dollar Diplomacy.

The speech is rich in epigrams and full of meaty phrases. It lifts the nation's thought from the level of material interests to the plane of free government and into a realm where moral considerations have weight. It is the Monroe Doctrine interpreted in the language of today and applied to the conditions that confront our sister republics. W. J. BRYAN.

### NEBRASKA DEMOCRATS BEHIND PRESIDENT WILSON

If the resolution recently adopted by the officers of the Sarpy county democratic committee is a straw showing the direction in which the political wind is blowing, President Wilson is popular with the democrats of Nebraska. The resolution called upon the democratic congressmen and senators from this state to support the administration in its tariff and currency ideas without any amendment offerings or other conditional action. This is as it should be, and the democrats everywhere should instruct their congressmen and senators to stand together in support of the administration. Everything depends upon the solidity of the democratic forces. Otherwise it may be the ruin of the party. A party divided against itself cannot hope to win in future battles. Stand by President Wilson and he will safely steer the old ship to shore.—Plattsmouth, Neb. Journal.

Experts say that the reduction in the clothing schedule, along with free wool, will mean a reduction of from \$3 to \$5 on a suit of clothes after the present stocks on hand have been sold. Where the price is not cut it will be possible to get much better value for the money paid. This will mean the disappearance of shoddy from medium priced suits, and will mean heavier and better wool in the cloth.