

ALLEN'S ADDRESS.

(Continued from page 5.)

they do not attend caucuses, conventions, or even the polls to cast their ballot on the day of election.

If you will consider that this government is just what we make it, and that each man is a sovereign charged not only with the duties of private, but those of public life as well, and that it is as much incumbent on him to choose competent and worthy public servants as to cultivate the soil and harvest its products, you will understand that the American farmer has not performed his duty who fails to keep abreast of current events and study thoroughly the great problems essential to the public welfare and who refuses to use all honorable means within his power to bring about a healthier condition of public morals.

The foundation of private success, the promotion of public morals and the advancement and security of society are made certain only by the wise choice of public officers. Our government cannot and will not long exist as a republic unless all classes make a conscientious study of the science of government as well as their individual occupations.

The farmer, the artisan, the citizen of any calling, who turns with indifference from the affairs of his country, fails to discharge a public duty; for he has within his keeping the welfare of those around him and of posterity. If he shall start in life ill equipped and without education and spurn opportunities as presented, refusing to gain knowledge that will elevate his kind, he will fail to discharge the most sacred trust that can be imposed upon an American citizen.

Such an individual should, at all times, distinctly bear in mind that the right to govern rests in him and not exclusively in others, and that to this is superadded the duties that fall to the lot of ordinary human beings.

By so doing, and by wise and judicious action, he will not only secure a government that will prove a blessing to all, but he will enlarge his sphere of usefulness, advance his interests and obtain greater profit and pleasure to himself. He should also bear in mind that a failure to study the affairs of this country with intelligence and thereby qualify himself for the duties of citizenship and the polls, will lead eventually to corrupt practices by those entrusted with power, and to an abandonment of the rights of the people who they are supposed to represent. Instead, therefore, of indulging in a spirit of indifference to public affairs, the farmer should make a study of politics to the end that public officers may be wisely and fittingly chosen.

Politics is rightfully defined to be the science of government. I am in entire accord with all who are disgusted with mere partisan politics, that, through corruption and vicious practices, brings misery and distress to the people, and results in the selection of incompetent and disqualified persons for public duties; and I would join with them in changing this condition, but I have no sympathy with those who indifferently refuse to exercise the duties of sovereignty with which they are clothed in the highest degree of attainable intelligence and fidelity.

I may be permitted to mention an instance illustrative of a certain class of farmers. Recently I returned to my home on the evening of an important election. I found that on that day a number of farmers living in the precinct had not gone to the polls. I spoke to one of them respecting it, a fairly intelligent man, industrious and devoted to making money, saying to him: "You were not at the polls yesterday, I am told," and he replied that he was not. I said, "In my judgment you should have been there. There was no sickness in your family and nothing to prevent you from being there, was there?" He replied, "There was not." He gave as his only excuse for failing to cast his ballot that he was engaged in husking corn, and he said to me, very significantly: "You wouldn't husk corn for me while I would go to the polls and vote," implying by his manner and language that he had offered a conclusive argument against me, and as though his voting would be more of an accommodation to me than the discharge by him of a public duty. He was under the impression that his vote would be an accommodation to some individual, and that he might withhold it without detriment to the public interest, if indeed he gave that question a thought. It had not occurred to him that his failure to vote was a clear neglect of a sacred trust that could not be overlooked without a violation of his duty as an American citizen.

I speak of this for the purpose of showing that there is a class of farmers, and others, too, for that matter, who look upon the discharge of public duties very much in this light, and who have no adequate conception of their obligation as electors.

What remedy can be applied to this diseased condition? This man was fifty years of age, of fair intelligence, but one

One Honest Man.

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on whose mind had never dawned the great truth that he was a factor in society, and that upon the intelligent and honest exercise by himself, and others, of the elective franchise, depends the weal or woe of the nation. The thought had crept into his mind that in some way the elective franchise was a mere bauble or plaything that he could take up or throw down at pleasure.

When and how can this condition of public sentiment be changed? I know of no remedy save by education, unless it may be found in compulsory voting, and I declare to you publicly, and perhaps to my own personal detriment, that if I had the power I would compel every citizen to cast his ballot unless prevented by the sickness of himself or family, or by some other reasonable cause; and if one blessed with this God-given right of self government should willfully refuse to cast his ballot, I would disfranchise him until he came to a realizing sense of his duty and made application to competent authority to be restored, under a pledge of subsequent fulfillment.

A perfect education will do away with much of this indifference, and when the people learn that public servants will be faithful in the discharge of their duties, or will recklessly and with an eye single to their own aggrandizement, discharge them indifferently unless watched, there will be a higher order of intelligence and greater patriotism in the administration of our government. Here, then, education counts for much—education along the line of duty to one's country.

I pass now to another sphere of education; into that sphere, or rather that atmosphere of silent influence created by the conversation, conduct and association of educated men and women. Ignorance is the greatest barrier that hinders the pathway of man. All should have an ambition to possess useful knowledge, and to know enough of that which is essential to avoid its evil consequences. What one of us cannot now recall some highly educated person whose acquaintance we have enjoyed, and whose very presence was an inspiration to do and be better and to learn and practice virtues. Here the farmer has a field of great usefulness, saying nothing of the pleasure that he experiences by accurate knowledge of men, science, art and the affairs of life, and taking no account of the fact that knowledge in itself is a source of much pleasure and profit. Viewed in his influence on the family, the community and society at large, a thoroughly educated man is one who always stands well, and exercises a good influence, if possessed of the other requisites of manhood; but one who is ignorant, whose language is vulgar and habits vicious, has a depressing and demoralizing influence on those about him.

I know of no possible condition in life more delightful to the imagination, or in realization, than an American home in which a splendidly educated and amiable husband and wife, surrounded by bright, obedient, and intelligent children are found, devoted to making each other happy, and promoting the prosperity of all; and where a taste for music, for books and the works of art is cultivated, and which a study of the sciences and the best literature, tempered with a due regard for spiritual affairs, is the ruling passion of all. If to such a home happiness does not come, it will not come on earth; if from such a home, from such persons and surroundings lessons of peace and good will are not taught, and the benign and softening influence of refinement do not radiate, they will not be experienced this side of eternity.

Nor will it be an answer to my position for the farmer to say that I would require too much of him; that to follow the course I suggest would cost more money than he could make; for he has it within his power, by intelligent cooperation with other industrial classes to usher in an era of unprecedented prosperity among the masses, that will spread happiness broadcast throughout the land. It would be a prosperity, too, which the world has not experienced and has hitherto existed in the imagination of dreamers only; but it would be none the less a real, humanizing and elevating prosperity.

What, in your judgment, would be our condition as a people, if 50,000,000 toilers should unite upon a line of action that would advance the wages of the laborer and the returns of the farmer, thus promoting general prosperity? The ballot is placed in your hands for this specific purpose. Intelligence would, under such circumstances prompt its conservative and proper use; but ignorance, superstition and prejudice, with meager surroundings and education, may in the future as in the past, thwart this great object, and doubtless there are those who anxiously look and pray for a continuance of the present condition of the laboring classes.

Let united action be had; let us labor intelligently to bring about better conditions and there will not be a farm home in the United States where the symphonies of Beethoven, Wagner, Mozart and Bach, will not nightly emanate from musical instruments whose strings and keys will be swept by the deft fingers of skilled and lovely womanhood and bright and intelligent manhood, and on whose walls will not be found reproductions of the splendid paintings of Michael Angelo, Raphael, Barocci and Burgeois, to soothe, to soften and to cheer. Let our laboring people pursue this course and there will be money enough, sound scientific and real money, to furnish every home with the latest, best and most approved literature on every subject of science and art worthy of the investigation of earnest men and women.

Alexander the Great asked Diogenes if he wanted anything, and the old philosopher promptly replied, "Yes, I would have you stand from between me and the sun." Diogenes was right. Although poor, humble and without a home, he nevertheless well knew that the king had no right to deprive him of the warmth of the sun, that great luminary whose rays are essential to all life; and the king also knew the rights of his subjects. The earlier Greek philosophers, represented by Plato, Aristotle, Diogenes and Socrates, were not backward in asserting the right of all, however humble, to enjoy the sunlight, the earth, the air, the water

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and all God had created, as they were the common inheritance of man.

Life is progress, contentment and happiness, and to succeed we must constantly struggle; for if we fail to put forth every effort retrogression and decay will be the inevitable result. We can only attain the highest conception of manhood by the development of all our faculties, and he who fails to use the means placed in his power by nature will fail to perform his duty to himself and to society, of which he is an inseparable member.

I know of no reason why a farmer, or other laborer, should not make the advancement made by those in other walks of life, and in fact I know of no reason why, under a just government and the sway of a proper industrial system, there should be more than one condition among men.

If my position is right, that the American people have it within their power by united action, to bring about such a condition as I have indicated, and as is certainly desirable, it will be found on investigation that all will have ample time to perform the physical labor in one-third the number of hours now required, and with fourfold benefit and this will afford ample opportunity for the cultivation of their faculties.

Permit me to urge you as representative farmers of this state, to pursue a course that will better, not only the material condition of the farmers but one that will elevate the intellectual and moral condition of all industrial classes, thus producing an upward tendency in society. The people possess the power to do this, and you, as their representative, can exercise a large influence in this direction.

Neither the farmer nor the toiler in any walk, will meet with permanent financial prosperity until he can employ the greater portion of his time devoted to labor, in profitable industrial pursuits, and until the sum of what he earns exceeds in value that which he expends, and if any believe in the existing order of things, in low prices, in low wages and in partial or total enforced idleness of a part of the people, they should be clamorous for its continuance; but if they believe in rising prices and in the constant employment of all, at remunerative wages with which the necessities and luxuries of life can be purchased, they should unite in bringing about better conditions. Of course it requires intelligence, and if they refuse to use the faculties given them, organized greed will master the American people and the many will be mere toiling machines for the few, who will use them as instruments in crushing others by division and dissension; and the old story of the Libyan fable will be repeated: That once an eagle, stricken with a dart, said, when he saw the fashion of the shaft, "With our own hands, not by other's hands, are we now smitten."

What would be thought of an individual who, being in perfect possession of a sound limb, should refuse to use it in the fulfillment of its functions and permit it to become withered and useless? And yet, there are thousands of men who are in possession of splendid natural intellects, the chief distinction between the man and the lower order of animals, who refuse to use their faculties until they become withered and useless, and they seem to rejoice in their weakness. It ought to be truthfully said of all, as it was said of Cassius:

He reads much He is a great observer, and he looks Quite through the deeds of men.

There is another highly important and indispensable feature of the perfect American farm home of which I think I ought to speak, and which is a natural sequence of a knowledge of the arts and sciences that should not be neglected. It is the finer sentiment that is produced by study, by accurate knowledge of men, and by knowledge of the world that leads us to a contemplation of our relation with God.

I never heard sweeter music than the sacred songs of my mother, who is at rest forever. They may not have been sung with technical accuracy, but no voice was sweeter, and none more melodious when offering prayers; and while her songs and prayers may not have seemed to produce a visible effect on those for whom offered, they left an impression that years will not efface. A perfect education involves the moral faculties so that a full realization of man's relation to his Maker is had; and although at the time it is imparted it may not be productive of results, the mysterious relation between the mind and the spiritual nature will be productive of good in the future conduct of the child.

I must note, in passing, the well established truth that the great men and women of our country are those born and raised on the farm. Constant contact with primitive nature, through early surroundings may have been of the poorer sort deeply instilled in their minds the necessity of an enlarged field of usefulness. The morning sun, peeping across the eastern hilltops and over the valleys, shaking from its main the golden spray of the Atlantic, gave the adequate conception of the greatness of the world. The songs of birds warbling sweet music from the depths of the wildwood, early afforded an acquaintance with the fact that in this world, after all, there is something of joy; the ceaseless labor of the bees and ants implanted in their young mind valuable lessons of industry, while the rippling of brook and river as their waters speeded on their journey to the ocean, gave them an idea of the tremendous results of ceaseless labor. Their ruggedly surroundings, taught them, in many instances, valuable lessons of economy, as well as implanted in their minds an insatiable desire for better personal conditions.

If these valuable lessons could be learned and acted on, by those who toil,

if they could understand, and, understanding, act in unison, the condition of the American people would be improved, while the pleasure derived from development would be greatly enhanced. In my judgment, it will only be when all who come to a realizing sense of these truths, and, knowing them, act in such a way as will advance their interests, that they will have reached their true place in society and become the important factors they should, in the affairs of men.

A Gettysburg Survivor-

MILTON F. SWEET SPEAKS OF HIS EXPERIENCES SINCE THE WAR.

Each day, each month, each year, the Grand Army of the Republic is growing smaller. Almost each hour is some veteran soldier of the rebellion responding to the call of the Great Commander and joining the army of the silent majority. At such an alarming rate is the death rate increasing among the army members that statistics tell us that it will be but a few years before the veterans will be but a memory. It is for this reason that the entire public is interested to hear of the recovery from sickness of a comrade.

James M. McKelvy Post G. A. R., of St. Cloud, Minnesota, contains one such, Milton F. Sweet. No man stands higher in the community than does he and through his strict integrity and honesty of conviction he has won the respect of all who know him. Mr. Sweet has for many years been a resident of Minnesota and for the past ten years has resided in this city, where he is engaged in the manufacture of carpets. He is now fifty-one years of age. He served in the war three years and seven months, with Company G, New York, participating in sixty battles including Gettysburg.

During the war Mr. Sweet contracted heart disease, which was accompanied by excessive nervousness. As age increased his symptoms grew worse and many were the remedies resorted to by him without the slightest relief.

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When interviewed, Mr. Sweet felt so grateful for the good that he had received through Dr. Williams' Pink Pills that he did not have the slightest hesitation in going on record, His word is considered his bond by all who know him throughout this section. Mr. Sweet is not the only one in Stearns county who is using this celebrated medicine and with equally good results.

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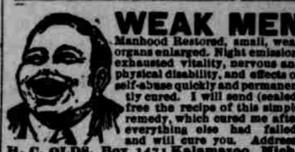
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