

mon people. He lives and feels in their plane, and when thrown to the earth, he falls among them and gathers new strength from the rectitude of his cause and the love and confidence of the common people.

Bryan has never been defeated. No man is defeated who falls in the battle where truth is slain. The corporations see that Bryan lives and gains new strength every time that he is dashed to the earth where dwell the common people. Their only tactics is to hold him high above and apart from the people in mid-air and squeeze him to death in the grasp of the corporate powers.

Bryan is not easily killed; he is here to stay. He is yet a comparatively young man, and somebody must live while the cause that needs him has to live, too. Truth always finds a high priest to preach a doctrine, or a martyr to die for her when necessity requires. If Bryan be defeated, corruption and political dishonesty will continue to grow on and bend the bow to the arrow's head. This will make Bryan, or someone like him, necessary. Dishonesty should learn, while it is time, that in the last analysis the square deal is the champion that sooner or later must be met and met aright. In a conflict like that, when it comes, men will read the Prince of Peace in a light neither blurred nor obscured by the stupid prejudices of party ties and party cries.

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PULITZER'S REPLY TO ROOSEVELT

The New York World, in its reply to President Roosevelt's special message, says:

Mr. Roosevelt is mistaken. He can not muzzle the World. While no amount of billings-gates on his part can alter our determination to treat him with judicial impartiality and scrupulous fairness, we repeat what we have already said, that the congress of the United States should make a thorough investigation of the Panama canal transaction that the full truth may be known to the American people.

The World fully appreciates the compliment paid to it by Mr. Roosevelt in making it the subject of a special message to the congress of the United States. The World likewise appreciates the importance and significance of Mr. Roosevelt's statement when he declared to congress the proprietor of the World should be prosecuted for libel by the governmental officials, and that "the attorney general has under consideration the form under which the proceedings against Mr. Pulitzer shall be brought."

This is the first time a president ever asserted the doctrine of lese-majesty, or proposed, in the absence of specific legislation, the prosecution by the government of citizens who criticised the conduct of the government or of the conduct of individuals who may have had business dealings with the government. Neither the king of Great Britain or the German emperor would venture to arrogate such power to himself. John Adams made an attempt to enforce such a law and destroyed the socialistic party in America. Yet Mr. Roosevelt proposes to use all the power of the greatest government on earth to cripple the freedom of the press on the pretext that the government itself has been libeled—and he is the government.

It is true the World printed the public report concerning the Panama canal affair which resulted from William Nelson Cromwell's appeal to the district attorney's office during the recent campaign to prevent the publication of a story which was said to be in the hands of the democratic national committee. It was Mr. Cromwell's own action which caused the issue in the campaign.

It is true, also, that when Mr. Roosevelt made his attack upon Delavan Smith the World called attention to certain statements which Mr. Roosevelt must have known to be false or misleading and appealed to congress to end all scandal by a full and impartial investigation. If this be treason, let Mr. Roosevelt make the most of it.

Mr. Roosevelt's lamentable habit of inaccurate statements makes it impossible to accept his judgments or his conclusions. In his message he does not state correctly, even so simple a matter as the pretended cases of his grievance.

The World has never said that Charles P. Taft or Douglas Robinson made any profit whatever. Mr. Taft denied that he was concerned in the transaction in any way, which denial the World published and accepted. It would have been equally glad to print Mr. Robinson's denial could it have succeeded in obtaining one from him, as it frequently attempted. The World has

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BENEATH THE BETHLEHEM STAR

A seven-year-old lad sat at the feet of his mother, at an Omaha amusement resort one summer evening and watched with breathless interest the moving pictures in which the "Passion Play" was given. Those who were privileged to see this striking presentation will understand the strong impression it made upon his young mind.

When scene after scene had been flashed upon the canvas, showing the gentle life, the good works and the lofty mission of the Nazarene, and then describing the enormous sacrifices He made and the cruel punishments inflicted upon Him, the lights went out and it was announced that the entertainment was over.

Not a word escaped the child's lips during the evening; but when the final act in the greatest tragedy known to mankind had been presented to the audience and the people rose to go, this boy turned to his mother and, heaving a sigh, said: "Mamma, if I'd been Jesus, I wouldn't have came."

Impressive lessons often come from the mouths of babes; and in the simple statement of this little child there is something which men and women may lay earnestly upon heart and conscience.

When those who are free from the want and care and the vexations of life engage in the courtesies, the exchange of love tokens and the general good cheer which characterize the day we celebrate, they feel that it is "a goodly sight to see what Heaven has done for this delicious land." And it is true that the simple celebration of this day, by the exchange of gifts, by the revival of pleasant relations, would in itself be well, even though there were not something far greater and more substantial in the foundation of these good things, than in the things themselves.

The very fact that this day is celebrated throughout the world by men of various races, creeds and nations, and that as a holiday and a holy day it has survived the test of two thousand years of time and of searching investigation and bitter criticism, provides testimony, if, indeed, testimony were necessary, of the substantial foundation upon which this anniversary rests.

Men who pay little attention to the life and deeds, to the lessons and love of the One whose birth the world commemorates appreciate the value of the customs of this occasion. This would be a sad old world, indeed, with Christmas time removed from our observance. But the festivities which endear this day even to the eminently practical mind could not long endure if the inspiration were removed from the consideration of men or if the structure were undermined in our hearts.

The exchange of presents is but an incident to this occasion. Back of all the customs and the festivities is the inspiration provided in the fact that two thousand years ago a child was born in Bethlehem and His entrance into a world of trouble was celebrated by the angels singing: "On earth peace, good will toward men."

To establish peace was the mission of this Babe. Not merely the peace which should restrain men from doing violence to one another but a peace that should soften the hearts of all men, bringing them to a realization not only of their duty to God, but of their obligations to their fellows. Not only the peace that would prevent nations from engaging in war, but the peace that would establish justice in the affairs of state and that would prevent wrong and oppression on the part of governments as well as on the part of individuals. Not only the

no evidence that he was associated with Mr. Cromwell, and would accept his word to that effect. Mr. Robinson is an estimable gentleman of high character, whose reputation for veracity is infinitely better than that of his distinguished brother-in-law.

If the World has libeled anybody we hope it will be punished, but we do not intend to be intimidated by Mr. Roosevelt's threats or by Mr. Roosevelt's denunciation or by Mr. Roosevelt in power.

No other living man ever so grossly libeled the United States as does this president, who besmirches congress, bulldozes judges, assails the integrity of courts, slanders private citizens, and who has shown himself the most reckless, un-

peace that would provide order for the transaction of business but the peace that would persuade the strong not to take advantage of the weak; the peace that would reign supremely in the heart of the individual as it would control the conscience of the community; the peace that would bring the strong and the well to the bedside of the weak and sick; the peace that would provide from the abundance of the rich food for the hungry and clothing for the naked; the peace that would prompt men to lend a helping hand and give a word of encouragement wherever a helping hand and a kind word were needed. Not the peace involved in thought of self, but the peace of justice, the peace of fair play, the peace of honesty; the peace of patriotism, the peace of humanity—the peace "that is above all earthly dignities."

It would not be right to strike one discordant note in the harmonious song of the Christmas time, but if men are to be impressed with the importance of peace as Christ taught it, this is an appropriate occasion for the lesson. It is a melancholy fact that, although the celebration of this day is more general now than it has ever been before, the chief lesson which Jesus Christ taught and the mission which He came to fulfill are sometimes ignored by nations that boast they stand chief among those committed to His cause.

It was said of the author of our own charter of liberty that, "in the monumental act of independence Jefferson poured the soul of a continent." That was the celebration of a principle. It is proper that in the celebration of the greatest of all principles, in the commemoration of the birth of the greatest of all men, nations that follow Him in song and story shall be able to pour their souls into the celebration. It is proper that these shall manifest jealous care for the substantial foundation upon which this celebration rests. Nations whose people have reared temples to the Man of Galilee, who have expended millions of dollars in the effort to build up and advance the forms and ceremonies of His religion, should in fact as well as in theory, "give their pure souls unto their captain, Christ, under whose colors they have fought so long?"

If one would yield to pessimism, if one would believe that the violation of God's laws by nations could continue, he might be inclined to say with the little lad: "If I'd been Jesus, I wouldn't have came." But the principles of the man of Galilee are too well established to yield in the presence of error. The things that have in the past swayed the hearts of men and the course of nations are operating to the advancement of truth and the maintenance of justice.

Let us hope that before the men and the women of this world again assemble at the fireside and in the temple to give homage to the sweetest and tenderest of all memories, the nations standing foremost among those that observe Christian form will be foremost in observing Christian substance.

Let us believe that before another anniversary confronts the men and women who owe all that is good in life to the lessons of the Chief Magistrate of Love, the law of God and the order of Christ will become fixed in the affairs of nations, and of individuals.

When "Mercy and Truth are met together," when "Righteousness and Peace have kissed each other," the American and the Filipino; the Englishman and the Boer; the "friend" and the "foe"; the "rich" and the "poor"; the "bond" and the "free," may kneel in triumph at a common altar—beneath the Bethlehem Star.

—R. L. M.

scrupulous demagogue whom the American people ever trusted with great power and authority.

We say this not in anger, but in sincere sorrow. The World has immeasurably more respect for the office of the president of the United States than Theodore Roosevelt has ever shown during the years in which he has maintained a reign of terror and vilified the honor and honesty of both public officers and citizens who opposed his policies or thwarted him in his purposes.

So far as the World is concerned, its proprietor may go to jail, if Mr. Roosevelt succeeds, as he threatens, but even in jail the World will not cease to be a fearless champion of free speech, a free press and a free people.