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A BROKEN IDOL

The moral sense of the nation received a shock from an unexpected quarter in the recent and much to be deplored exhibition of human frailty thrust upon the people of the nation and the world by men occupying the highest positions of eminence and responsibility in the foremost nation of the world.

The United States, the land of the free, where the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man are the recognized foundation stones of governmental structure, and the source of national inspiration, has long been recognized by the human race wherever dispersed as the exemplar of morality in human government. Therefore, the recent exposition of infirmities in the head of the government culminating in vulgar criminality and recrimination among men holding positions of the highest responsibility and honor, is most unfortunate because of its damaging effect upon public morals.

Civilization is a plant of slow growth, and experience proves that in the development of morality a pound of example possesses far greater efficacy in promoting its growth than a ton of precept. And, vice versa examples of moral turpitude in individuals occupying high and exalted stations exert a deterring influence far reaching in their effect.

That which undermines public morals, mocks civilization and beckons mankind backward towards despair, therefore no higher duty devolves upon him who essays the role of public teacher than to expose responsibility for assault upon this citadel of human hope, and uncover the guilty to the odium of their guilt.

Public opinion is more potent than statutes and is just in proportion to its enlightenments. Individual opinion is partial, owing to its limitations. In these two facts are found the philosophy of popular government, the hope of justice among men.

Popular government is impossible

without good faith in public officials, and in final analysis public opinion is incapable of condoning an offense of a public official. Were it otherwise popular government would be only an illusion or a dream.

Men are by nature idolaters. They are prone to invest leaders who clothe their own aspirations in deeds of heroism with an almost superhuman sanctity and immolate themselves upon the altar they erect in their minds and upon which they place their hero. And, wretched indeed, is the fate of the favored one when he falls to command their reverence. The pathway of human progress is strewn with the fragments of broken idols with only a saint here and there to mark the centuries.

The human idol belongs to a period of change when mankind has a forward step to take. He is the impersonation of the purpose of the multitude. In proportion as the multitude thus represented are intelligent and moral their human idol must be pure and brave, because his conduct is passed upon by a million minds in one, united in a single aspiration, but combining the complemental intellectual and moral attributes of all in a completeness that commands the allegiance of each distinct mentality. Here we find the moral function perfect and the fullness of intellectual power, the hope of mankind for justice under a popular government.

Roosevelt inspired the hope in the breasts of the American people that he would become their leader and deliverer from the tyranny of monopoly. He became a popular idol in the minds of the people who had unbounded confidence in his intelligence, courage and honesty of purpose. Therefore, the events of the past week in which their idol is not only charged with betraying the confidence of the people, but with betraying his democratic allies, and branding as a liar a distinguished citizen of the republic whose services he sought and secured to effect an alliance with democratic senators for the purpose of protecting the rate bill from its enemies, and ultimately securing the passage of a measure that would bring relief to the people, has been the source of sad disappointment to Roosevelt's devoted followers and a shock to the moral sense of the nation and the world.

In the questions of good faith and veracity that have been raised, the preponderance of evidence given, and all the circumstances, go to prove that the president has grievously erred and signally failed to justify the high hopes reposed in him by millions of his fellow countrymen. And his conduct in the whole matter has become a source of national sorrow. The failure of the president to justify the hope centered upon him is accounted for on the grounds of over zealous partisanship, and lack of ability to properly distinguish between the friends and foes of the rate bill in his own party. Roosevelt's failure is a source of sorrow to all Americans, and accompanying excuses and explanations lame from the point of view of intellect and morals.

Roosevelt may not have known the fact that Chandler fought the railroads in New Hampshire when he

was taking his first lessons in broncho busting.

Somebody lied.

Chandler stands pat.

So Moody was flabbergasted—whatever that may be.

Senator Moody won't resign; he'll eat crow and hold his job.

Missouri seems to be determined to be first in the field in nominating Bryan for the presidency in 1908.

The LaFollette amendments will cause the retirement of a number of senators, when their terms expire.

Some of those senate amendments will look funny after Aldrich gets through with them in the conference.

The boyish temper and mean disposition displayed by many republican senators towards LaFollette has hurt them in public estimation.

By the time Aldrich gets through with the rate bill in the conference committee it will be a very harmless affair, from the railroad point of view.

Foraker has more courage than the thirty-nine other senators who believed as he did but dared not say so. That is all the difference between them.

There are several independent political organizations of a national character in process of formation. Should all of them materialize, 1908 will be a great year for national conventions.

With Rosewater a candidate for the United States senate the democrats have got to nominate their strongest men on their state ticket in order to stand any chance of electing a democratic legislature.

One Allison, with his crafty and diplomatic method of serving the interest of corporations, is more dangerous to the interests of the people than a dozen Forakers who speak out and let their position be known.

In the debate on the rate bill in the senate LaFollette represented the people's side of the railroad question and Foraker represented the railroads. All positions between the extremes represented by these senators are compromises.

Now that Roosevelt has disorganized the forces that heretofore sustained him in the senate, in surrendering on the rate bill, there is nothing to prevent Aldrich from doing with the rate bill as he pleases in the conference committee.

If, as the president told Senator Chandler, Spooner of Wisconsin, was using his ingenuity to defeat the rate bill in the senate, and it being apparent that Senator LaFollette was doing his best to prevent the measure from being emasculated or injured, it is hard to understand why Spooner's friends in Wisconsin were

given all the federal pie, and LaFollette's friends were given none.

Now is the time to harrow the corn fields. The harrow should be kept going for two purposes—to pulverize the surface soil and make a dust blanket to preserve moisture by preventing evaporation, and to check the growth of weeds.

Hon. William E. Chandler of New Hampshire and the late General Benjamin F. Butler of Massachusetts are the only New England statesmen that will be remembered and talked about, a generation hence. Chandler, like Butler, is a man of great intellectual power and has convictions upon the great questions of the day and the patriotism and courage to give expression to them without asking permission to do so of the banks or the railroads.

After Secretaries Taft, Root and Moody nurse the president through his present trouble with senators and others who have been assisting him in connection with the legislation in congress, he is sure to break out

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