

of the dangers now threatening our national life and which appeals to every sentiment of true patriotism and love of country. He said—

"And now, friends and countrymen, if the wise and learned philosophers of the older world, the first observers of nutation and aberration, the discoverers of maddening ether and invisible planets, the inventors of Congreve rockets and Shrapnel shells, should find their hearts disposed to enquire, what has America done for mankind? Let our answer be this: America, with the same voice which spoke herself into existence as a nation, proclaimed to mankind the inextinguishable rights of human nature, and the only lawful foundations of government. America, in the assembly of nations, since her admission among them, has invariably, though often fruitlessly, held forth to them the hand of honest friendship, of equal freedom, of generous reciprocity. She has uniformly spoken among them, though often to heedless and often to disdainful ears, the language of equal liberty, equal justice and equal rights. She has, in the lapse of nearly half a century, without a single exception, respected the independence of other nations, while asserting and maintaining her own. She has abstained from interference in the concerns of others even when the conflict has been for principles to which she clings, as to the last vital drop that visits the heart. She has seen that probably for centuries to come, all the contents of that Aeldama, the European world, will be contest between *inveterate power and emerging right*. Wherever the standard of freedom and independence has been or shall be unfurled, there will her heart, her benedictions, and her prayers be. But she goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own. She will recommend the general cause, by the countenance of her voice and the benignant sympathy of her example. *She well knows that by once enlisting under other banners than her own, were they even the banners of foreign independence, she would involve herself beyond the power of extrication, in all the wars of interest and intrigue, of individual avarice, envy and ambition, which assume the colors and usurp the standard of freedom.* The fundamental maxims of her policy would insensibly change from liberty to force. The frontlet upon her brows would no longer beam with the ineffable splendor of freedom and independence; but in its stead would soon be substituted an imperial diadem, flashing in false and tarnished lustre the murky radiance of dominion and power. She might become the dictatrix of the world; she would no longer be the ruler of her own spirit."

The press dispatches of February 17, report President McKinley as also say-

ing (to the Home Market Club of Boston) that our country has a mission. Let me quote from an eminent New York lawyer of today, Mr. Wheeler H. Peckham:

"I do, indeed, think that this nation has a noble mission to mankind and humanity. That mission is to show them how to live. To show that it is possible to form a vast political organization which shall be just and honest and free; in which the remedy of war shall be eliminated; in which controversies shall be those of the mind, and in which knowledge and intellect and benevolence shall be the arms used; where the forum shall not be the tented field; where hospitals and ambulances and surgeons and nurses and suffering and death shall not be weapons; But where the forum shall be a court, where great and good men shall listen to argument and reason, and shall adjudge and decide as right and justice may appear, and where their decisions shall be respected and observed because they are just."

We all know that according to Greek mythology the blue-eyed, fair-haired goddess, Minerva, the most beautiful of all Jove's daughters, was the patron saint or protecting goddess of the Greeks in their campaign against the Trojans. She it was who cheered them in their discomfitures and in their hours of gloom inspired them with renewed courage to attempt glorious achievements by heroic efforts for final victory in the overthrow of Troy. But when, in the hour of triumph, the impious Ajax profaned the temple of liberty—Minerva's—she called to her aid all the avenging furies and lashed the offenders through the world. For this the army of the Greeks was decimated; for this the noble Ulysses wandered painfully over sea and land seeking his Argive home; for this the brand of impiety was set indelibly upon the Greeks. Is there no lesson here for Americans in this their hour of madness?

In the midst of war and rumors of war and all its dread accompaniments and consequences, its disastrous blunders of policy at home, and savage struggles in the field, it renders more imperative the consideration of the truths which, despite all the blandishments of temporal power and place, were insistently proclaimed by our Lord and Master, Jesus of Nazareth. What shall it profit Americans if they gain the whole world and lose their reverence for and loyalty to the declaration of independence, the constitution of the United States, and all the most cherished principles of our fair fabric of liberty, broadbased on the immutable principles of the truth as it is in Jesus?

Confronted by the war-spirit madness which has prevailed in the United States for a year past I would ask every professing Christian of whatsoever church, sect or denomination, if he believes that, were the Galilean Himself present, look-

ing on at the slaughter of helpless people, He would approve it? Nay more, I ask those ministers of the gospel who have been so swift to proclaim the benefits and blessings of Christian civilization to follow the triumphs of our arms, whether, in the face of the wild outburst of savagery which has characterized our latest victories, they believe that the evangelizing process which has been adopted is in keeping with the spirit of Christ? Also, whether they believe that war is any other than what Bismarck and Sherman have characterized it, "Hell on earth!"

"How long, O Lord! how long  
Shall such a priesthood barter truth away.  
And in Thy name, for robbery and wrong,  
At Thy own alters pray?"

If the spirit of Christ prevail not in our civilization, it is of no more worth than the imperial despotism built up and maintained by Roman legions, and like it, liable to be overthrown and trampled in the dust by Goths and vandals in another form.

Entertaining the views that these words indicate, I believe that the inexhaustible spirit of love and brotherhood, which is in Christ Jesus is the only guide to the just and righteous settlement of the difficulties in which our country is now involved, and that it should be appealed to in the heart of every human being who recognizes the fact that Christ died that we might live.

For my own part I cherish a sympathy for all the dwellers in any land, believing them to be our brethren, in a humanitarian sense, if in no other, and not outside the pale of Christ's redemption and the fatherly compassion of the Almighty.

My opinion is that our coming national campaign will be a strenuous one, and that the issue will be between American Democracy—broadbased as it is, on the immutable principles of the truth as it is in Jesus—and Plutocratic Imperialism, to the exclusion of all minor questions—standards of value, currency reform, tariff revision and everything else apart from a contest for and against the lust of ambition, power and pelf. I do not believe that the democratic heart of America will tolerate the sordid, vulgar and ignoble spirit of avarice and vainglory which underlies the present situation. To use Professor Markham's words, the problem of labor is the sphinx that sits at the threshold of the twentieth century. And we must answer its terrible question, or—? The riddle must be solved. For myself I have hope and faith.

Amidst the tumult of unmitigable scorn—  
The old ancestral cries of moral wrong,  
Hope keeps undimmed the glory of the view,  
Which once was hers when all our land was new.  
Her ears still catch one strain that never dies,  
Held firm through chance and change of earth  
and skies—  
Her dumb unswerving Faith in good and true.  
THE REIGN OF THE COMMON PEOPLE.