

JEFFERSON ON WASHINGTON.

[Ford's Jefferson, Vol. IX, Page 448.]

“Washington's mind was great and powerful without being of the very first orders. His penetration was strong though not so acute as that of a Newton, Bacon or Locke. As far as he saw no judgment was ever sounder. It was slow in operation being little aided by invention or imagination, but sure in conclusion. Hence, the common remark of his officers of the advantage he derived from councils of war where, hearing all suggestions, he selected whatever was best, and, certainly no general ever planned his battles more judiciously. But, if deranged in the course of the action, if any member of his plans was dislocated by sudden circumstances, he was slow in readjustment. The consequence was that he often failed in the field but rarely against an enemy in station, as at Boston and York. Perhaps the strongest point in his character was prudence, never acting until every circumstance, every consideration, was maturely weighed; refraining if he saw doubt, but when once decided, going through with his purpose whatever obstacles opposed. His integrity was most pure. His justice the most inflexible I have ever known, no motive of interest or consanguinity, of friendship or hatred, being able to bias his decision. He was, indeed, in every sense of the word, a wise, a good, and a great man. His temper was naturally high-toned, but reflection and resolution had obtained a firm and habitual ascendancy over it. If ever, however, it broke its bonds, he was tremendous in his wrath. In his expenses he was honorable but exact; liberal in contributions to whatever promised utility; but frowning and unyielding on all visionary projects and on all unworthy calls of charity. His heart was not warm in his affections but he exactly calculated every man's value and gave him a solid esteem proportioned to it. His person was fine, his stature exactly what one would wish; his deportment easy, erect, noble. The best horseman of his age, and the most graceful figure that could be seen on horseback. Although in the circle of his friends, where he might be unreserved with safety, he took a free share conversation, his colloquial talents were not above mediocrity. In public, when called on for a sudden opinion, he was unready, short, embarrassed. Yet, he wrote readily, rather diffusely, in an easy and correct style. This he had acquired by conversation with the world for his education was only reading, writing and common arithmetic, to which he added surveying later. His time was employed in action chiefly, reading little, and that only in agriculture and English history. His correspondence necessarily became extensive and, with journalizing his agricultural

proceedings, occupied most of his leisure hours within doors. On the whole, his character was, in its mass, perfect; in nothing bad; in a few points indifferent; it may be truly said, that never did Nature and fortune combine more perfectly to make a great man, and place him in the same constellation with whatever worthies have merited from man's everlasting remembrance. * * * I do believe that General Washington had not a firm confidence in the durability of our government. He was naturally distrustful of men and inclined to gloomy apprehensions, and I was ever persuaded had a belief that we must at length end in something like the British constitution.”

JEFFERSON ON A GOVERNMENT BY ARISTOCRACY.

The average democrat would probably consider it a case of libel or defamation of character if told that Mr. Jefferson believed in exactly what he represented, a government by an aristocracy. In other words, Mr. Jefferson advocated the survival of the fittest as the law of government. He did not believe in socialistic communistic equality, or with that Jeffersonian apostle, the late presidential impossibility, the “Boy Orator of the Platte,” that

“We can go out in any of the stores, the machine shops, the farms, or to the man who works along the roads, and find men who know enough about the principles of this government to be able to discuss these questions and apply them to themselves. The great common people do not need any particular class to tell them what they shall do. They can think for themselves.”

The most interesting and in many respects valuable part of Jefferson's writings, is to be found in the letters to John Adams when those two old warriors fought the battles of youth over again, and opened to each other the most secret of their thoughts. Such a letter is that of Jefferson to Adams, October 28, 1813, in which he considers the subject of stirpiculture or,

Sexual Solution in Relation to Government.

Among other things Mr. Jefferson says:

“We are especially to lay down as a principle that coition is not for the sake of pleasure. The selecting the best male for a harem of well-chosen females would doubtless improve the human as it does the brute animal, and produce a race of veritable aristocrats.” (The remarkable results of the union of John and Abigail Adams in the ascending their descendants have maintained to the present day is perhaps the best example this country affords of what this principle, intelligently applied, would result in.) “Experience proves that the moral and physical qualities of man,

whether good or evil, are transmissible, in a certain degree, from father to son. I suspect that the equal rights of men will rise up against this privileged Solomon and his harem, and oblige us to continue acquiescence with the accidental aristocracy produced by fortuitous breeding. I agree with you that there is a natural aristocracy among men. The grounds of this are virtue and talents. Formerly bodily powers gave place among the aristocracy. There is also an

Artificial Aristocracy

founded on wealth and birth, without either virtue or talents, for with these it would belong to the first class. The natural aristocracy I consider as the most precious gift of Nature, for the instruction, the trusts, and government of society. It would have been inconsistent with Creation to have formed men for the social state and not to have provided virtue and wisdom enough to manage the concerns of society. That form of government is the best which provides most effectually for a pure selection of these natural aristocrats into the offices of governments.”

If the democracy, as at present writ, or the various socialistic vagaries, can find any comfort in Thomas Jefferson they are welcome to it.

FRANK S. BILLINGS.

BRAVERY.

In his speech at the premature meeting of the national conglomerate party committee in St. Louis Col. William Jennings Bryan, who has been in a hundred battles where words were flying thicker than bullets, with vocal valor declared:

“The man who fights the trust of commerce is quite as brave as a man who swims a river or climbs a San Juan hill.”

Who fights trusts most efficiently, the man who expending only breath and words declaims against them, or the man who organizes and puts into productive operation real competitors who enter the markets against trusts and reduce prices if they have been put up?

Who have been most formidable to the trusts in Nebraska? Those who have been convulsed with eructations of anti-trust orations or those who have built and operated vast mills and factories which have successfully sold their commodities, made out of Nebraska corn and other cereals, in competition with trusts?

Which is the best anti-trust crusader, a factory like the Argo, turning out thirty tons of starch each day, and selling it, too, or an orator like Bill Dech, Bryan or Poynter?

Mind your own business and it will thrive and grow. Mind your neighbor's and you will annoy him and destroy yourself.