

LEADERS AND LEADERSHIP.

There is no more interesting and important question facing a people assuming themselves free and independent, than that of leadership, especially in things political and in the business world. True leadership is a very different thing than the nominal head of a party or a faction. There are many people whose minds are of that antiquated variety that they always look backwards for light. The only beacon light that can be safely trusted is within self. The "golden days of old" never were. The only cloth of gold is an active intellect, clad in the raiment of pure reason. Nevertheless, there is truth in the "looking backward" idea, or better method. The truth in it is that truth is always the truth. Truth never ages. Truth never was born. Truth is never young. Truth is not and never was new. Truth is eternal. Truth is the same today as it was yesterday. Error alone ages. Intelligence alone is born. The intelligence of today may not be that of yesterday. The force it manifests changes not. It is the eternal energy. It is a truth that in looking backward to primitive conditions we may discover the eternal in a simplicity that escapes our attention in the complex social conditions of modern life. That we do not see the same truth today is because of our ignorance of self. We cannot look within and read ourselves. Could we do this things looking mysterious from their surrounding complexity would be found simple; "clear as the light of day." No matter how complex existing social institutions may be they have the same fundamental principle or truth at their bottom as existed in the primitive and simple conditions of socialism. From the beginning to the end all social institutions have been, are and will ever be inspired by the individual necessity to live and be maintained by those having the might to live for their personal preservation. This is the fundamental truth underlying all human endeavor, individual or social. It is axiomatic with the biologist that social life is but a larger and more complex manifestation of individual life, as individual life is but a multiple complexity of Monad-cell-life. The ontogenesis is but the compendial representation of the phytogenesis. The individual is the personal representation of the family tree.

The same is true of leadership.

To understand leadership we must intelligently comprehend that all human institutions, that socialism itself, is but the result of the individual necessity to live; that they are of, by and for man; that they have been inaugurated by individuals having self-maintaining ability for their individual preservation and nothing else. Truly speaking, those not having self-maintaining ability never took any part in inaugurating and main-

taining social institutions and hence have no claim to rights in or under them.

Self-preservation being the incentive to and basis of all social institutions it should be self-evident that the true leader should be, and is, he who represents in himself more than any one else in the community, state or nation, the self-maintaining abilities of the people. In the primitive clan the blood relationship commune; this was and is invariably the case. In the complex modern state this fundamental truth has become buried. Politically we are a nation of unethical, immoral perverts. The truth of fundamental primitive leadership is illustrated in our boyish games before we have become intellectually and morally perverted through traditionalism and machine corruption. The "follow the leader" in our games is an example of true leadership as it existed in its primitive simplicity. It is leadership based on natural selection by intelligent election and survival of the fittest. Any other form of leadership is usurpation of and treason to the fundamental principle. The true leader represents the self-protective necessities of the people better than any one else. In a certain sense he represents them better than all the people combined. His election is the result of the combined necessities and intelligence of the people. Hence the faith of the people in such a leader. Such a combination is a social trust. Such a government is a national trust. The much maligned trusts are a true representation of this principle. The watered trust is a usurpation of the principle as machine government is treason to it. Primitive kingship or chieftainship was founded on the "follow the leader" principle. Hereditary monarchy and machine despotism is usurpation of it. The true leader is one who never puts himself forward. He is the leader by natural selection and not personal ambition. He is the leader because born to lead. The people discover it and make him such. The United States never had but one leader by natural selection. The people confirmed it by election.

Washington a True Leader.

None other approached to it. Washington was the natural imperator of the American people. Even Lincoln did not attain to it. He was indeed president *de jure*, but never *de facto*. Grover Cleveland attempted it, but was not so in fact. No other president has even touched the garments of leadership by natural selection. Jefferson was factional president, a leader of the masses, but not of the people. Lincoln was a sectional president. All others have been even less. They have been party presidents, pushed into prominence by bosses who are not true leaders and confirmed by the demoralizing methods of

machine politics. It is to the fact that Washington, like some clan chieftain, represented, beyond any other man, the individual necessity of self-preservation in national solidarity, that he holds now, as he did in life, "the first place in the hearts of his countrymen." Washington was a leader who did not lead, in a certain sense. He came to the front by natural selection and the people maintained him there by popular election. He never aspired to it. He had nothing to lead, because the self-preserving intelligence of the people put him at the head of the nation as their incorporated representative. He represented the individual necessity to self-preservation of every intelligent citizen. Hence he was a true leader. This is why he stands as a unique personality in the history of civilization. None other compares with him except the great leaders in science, such as Newton, Darwin, Virchow or Koch. They too represent the self-preserving necessity of man universal. From Caesar to McKinley no political leader approaches Washington. Caesars and Napoleons never represented the fundamental principles. The greatest of monarchs have been usurpers of it and traitors to it through personal ambition. Not one has been like unto Washington. Great as Lincoln was, broad as Jefferson was in his sympathies, they were not Washingtons, nor were the circumstances such that they could have been had they had his idiosyncratic characteristics. Jeffersonian simplicity never arose to the dignity of Washington's single-minded nationalism. While Jefferson was not the father of factionalism in our political life that was innate in the people, he was the first to nurse it into organic life. No man but Washington ever represented the self-preserving individuality of a nation. Cromwell was factional and ambitious as well. He was a Puritan leader but not a leader of Briton. Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon, Grant were leaders of armies, but not of men. Jackson was a leader of armies and a demagogic leader of the masses against the true welfare of the nation. The apotheosis of Washington is a pardonable, that of any other leader damnable idolatry. The machine-raised president is a false God, before whom only the weak and depraved fall down in beggarly adoration. They are political dogs who snarl and bite at each other while they fight for the crumbs that fall from the machine-carved table.

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Mrs. George C. Crocker of San Francisco has presented the Hopkins Art Institute in that city with the Benzoni marble group of statuary known as "The Fall of Pompeii," for which the late Mr. Crocker paid \$20,000.