

are framed. In them are gathered up the principles which have been forged out by myriads of centuries of evolution and which at the same time become guides to and limitations of government. They are essential to republics, where government is in the hands of the multitude who would otherwise be ignorant of the principles upon which good government must rest, and who, forgetful of human limitations, would be liable to adopt measures which would destroy all government. In this respect the maxim that the voice of the people is the voice of God, is a dangerous fallacy. That voice never can relieve us from the higher laws upon which the order and progress of society depend; and when, therefore, these standards fail, we may justly look with apprehension upon the future of any society which has submitted to their control.

Our standard has been in existence 117 years, during which many wars and other events of vast importance have transpired, and the geography, both of the world and nation, has been changed. The only wonder is that our standard has endured so well, and that under it our people have made strides in progress which have never been equaled in history. Yet to me it seems that we have either outgrown or drifted away from our standards of the constitution. What student of American history will assert that the power to issue demand notes as lawful money; to create national banks; to maintain colonies and hold conquered territories in which the people should not be citizens of the country; to suppress the circulation of state banks duly issued in accordance with the laws of the states under which the banks were organized; to create corporations for any and every purpose relating to commerce; to maintain a corrupt and inefficient civil service based only on partisan fealty; and finally to enact laws exclusively to protect and aggrandize special lines of business, were ever contemplated by the framers of the constitution or by the people who ratified it, as parts of the permanent policy of the country? Yet today all these stretches of authority exist, not merely as a means to exercise some power expressly granted, but as independent and permanent institutions.

Effect of Encroachments on the Constitution.

The effect of these insidious encroachments upon the constitution, is shown by the present state of the two political parties. The republican party has always held to a construction of that instrument which permitted it to accomplish whatever it deemed expedient, but has limited its transgressions to such as the people would accept without notice of their effect upon their political standard. A strict adherence to the constitution was the basic principle of the democratic party. Where does that

party stand today? It has adopted the "green-back" idea, has attacked the sanctity of the supreme court upon constitutional questions, advocates the taking possession by the government of all railroad and telegraph lines and other so-called public utilities, is in favor of repealing the laws which protect person and property against the violence of labor combinations, and finally has abandoned its righteous protests against discriminating protective duties and bounties. With both parties, therefore, the constitution has lost its position as a sacred standard.

Perhaps it would not be correct to say that all these encroachments are wrong. It is to be presumed that some of them are the outgrowth of a natural development, and may be necessary to the continued happiness and progress of the people; but in so far as they exist without the sanction of the constitution, they are outlaws, and if meritorious should be brought within its terms, if injurious should be placed under its ban.

Time to Revise the Constitution.

In my judgment, therefore, the time has come when the people through their loftiest and most cultured minds, should revise and restore this great instrument, by placing it in full harmony with the changed conditions of the new century. A study of the history of the last century, however, must prove to a practical mind that no real revision can take place under existing methods, which appear to have been framed to prevent amendments except after a revolution like the civil war. As preliminary, therefore, to a revision of the body of the instrument, there should be a revision of the methods by which amendments can be made, and such methods made to harmonize with the cautious exercise of the right of a majority to govern, even in the recognition of fundamental law.

During the last three years we have heard a great deal about imperialism. To me it seems that every traveled road leads for the present to the goal. The republican party openly advocates authority by conquest alone, and colonization without citizenship, which is imperialism in one form. The democratic party has been swallowed by the populist tiger, and now rests safely in its stomach. Populism with its proposed supreme control of finance, and its threatened absorption of the great industrial enterprises of the country, means socialism, and socialism always ends in imperial government. Therefore our only hope lies in the restoration of the constitution.

JAMES DENTON HANCOCK,
Franklin, Pa., August 11th, 1900.

GERONIMO.

People who, at the Omaha exposition of 1898, made the acquaintance of this

venerable murderer, and perhaps paid him twenty five cents for his autograph, were pained to learn a short time ago through the newspapers that his mind and health were giving way, owing to the hardships of his prison house. And no doubt all such have rejoiced proportionately since at learning that it was a mistaken report, and that Geronimo and his excellent wife and all the other condemned Apaches are still doing business in the customary way at Fort Sill.

Geronimo's confinement need not necessarily break him down in a thousand years, if it is no stricter than that to which he was subjected at Omaha. The writer was entering that wonderful enclosure one afternoon and met the old man and a friend of his at the gate: wrapped in their thoughts and their gorgeous blankets, both alike sacred and impenetrable. Reaching the gate, they halted and looked about for the guard whose business it was to see that no red man came out without proper credentials; but that functionary was not in sight. They were evidently used to making allowances for the United States government, however; they stood and waited a reasonable time for it to do its duty, muttering to themselves the while; then a flash of impatience lighted up Geronimo's wrinkled features, "ugh" he said, and "ugh" said his companion, like engines on a double-header freight train signaling each other, and forth they waddled down the Midway.—COM.

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