NEBRASKA MARKS AN EPOCH

One of the Great Incidents in the History of the World.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN MAN'S PROGRESS

God's Mysterious Way is Shown by the Development of Ideas that Have Culminated in Freedom's Triumph.

At the Auditorium yesterday Henry Dodge Estabrook of New York, formerly of Omaha, addressed the multitude that assembled to take part in the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the approval of the Nebraska-Kansas bill. The full text of his address follows:

"The first four words of the first of all books are the most important words ever uttered by one intelligence to another: 'In the beginning—God.'

"Please to observe that these words formulate the statement of a fact and not simply a working hypothesis. This fact, I say, is important, because it redeems the universe from the charge of idiocy and alone justifies the tremendous ergo of Descartes. Said he: 'I think, therefore, I am.' And the converse of this postulate, while not so apparent, may be no less true, namely, that there is no real existence outside of thought.

"It is all very well for the scientist, so-called, to draw partial conclusions from tentative premises, but to draw an ultimate conclusion from an unknown premise is nothing short of arrogance. Time was when an assumed primordial atom, called matter, and an assumed primordial force, called motion, were made to account for everything that is or seems to be, and the speculations built upon this dual absurdity were, with great solemnity, called science.

"This science reduced life to a ferment, and thought itself to a by-product of chemical combustion. Like the flame of a candle we gleamed for a moment in a naughty world and then went out in darkness.

Love the All Powerful.

"But recently there has been found a something called radium. Up to date there is only a little of it in the world, and it is very precious. But radium exists and behold! the hitherto indivisible atom of chemistry has been shattered into a million ions, and the ion itself comminuted until matter, as such, disappears and there is left, as the final scientific theory of causation, 'a swirl of force.' Can you conceive of force in the abstract save in the terms of thought?

"But there is another something more wonderful than radium, another force more puissant than chemical affinities. It was discovered long ago, but up to date there is not so very much of it in the world, and it is very precious: This is the force called love. Thought and love. Are not these the sum and substance, the very definition of Almighty God?

"Fellow citizens, for a layman in an occasional address to start out by discussing things spiritual, rather than things temporal, is to bring upon him the criticism of sermonizing. But my sermonizing by way of prelude has this only for its object: If the universe be Godless, if things happen because they happen, without rhyme or reason, object or design, then history becomes a mere chronology of events of little more interest than a last year's almanac. Hope cannot breathe in a moral vacuum, and we stand brooding over her pathetic corpse. The sun himself, seen through a glass darkly, seems veiled in crepe, whilst the chrysography of the stars spells only one word—purposeless.

"But if God be All in All, all life, all love, all truth, omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent, why, obviously, there is room in the universe for naught but God, and we know, therefore, that in Him we live and move and have our being. In this spiritualized pantheism—and I make bold to affirm that such is the Christian religion stripped of its theology—all partial truths are reconciled. The theory of evolution is based upon a law of eternal progress, but it leaves unanswered the yearning question, whence cometh this great law? And yet, in spite of its hiatus, evolution is a consoling theory, for it implies that regardless of the mistakes and blunders and wickedness of man he must, through the very law of his being, grow into a better and higher manhood. It teaches that every sin has in it the seeds of its own destruction, thereby confirming the Bible statement that all that God made or manifested is, in its essence, good.

Seems Like an Ugly Dream.

"Take, for instance, the sin of slavery. By cudgelling our memory or delving into history we can realize, no doubt, that slavery once existed in the United States—even on Nebraska soil. We can realize that ministers of the gospel attempted to vindicate it on moral grounds; that men fought and intrigued to perpetuate and extend it; and that thousands upon thousands died in its defence. Today all this seems like an ugly dream. Slavery does not exist and cannot exist, because the very thought of it has passed out of consciousness. So that in studying the events of even half a century we may look from the pages of our history into the deep blue of the infinite and cry out with the psalmist: "Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee: the remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain."

"Now, from time to time there comes a crisis in the affairs of men so big with portent that the world stands tip-toe awaiting the event. When thought has appealed to thought, when reason has combatted reason, when at last men threaten to coerce where they failed to convince, the issue may be an American revolution, where reason battled with folly; or a French revolution, where passion warred with arrogance; or a civil war, like our late rebellion, where for the first time in human experience men took up arms in the name of the golden rule. Such a crisis was the 30th of May, 1854, and its occasion was the organization of Nebraska Territory.

Born of a Vile Compact.

"The nation had travailed and begat twins. Kansas and Nebraska were the offspring of as vile a compact as was ever legalized by act of legislature. Their birthright under the constitution was a free and happy soil, but it was sought to rob them of it even in their cradle. To placate yet once again the aggressive selfishness of slavocracy, Stephen A. Douglas, a senator from Illinois, had succeeded in grafting into the organic acts of Kansas and Nebraska his doctrine of squatter sovereignty, though the phrase itself, I believe, originated with General Cass. And what was this squatter sovereignty? Simply that certain portions of the public domain had been marked off by metes and bounds, labeled respectively Kansas and Nebraska, and the slave owner and the abolitionist were told to scramble for their possession.

"With our knowledge of the sequel it is easy to discern the fatuity of such a program. What was intended as a palliative was certain to prove an irritant; for the north was not afraid of the south, nor had it ever been. It had been willing to concede that slavery was an existing evil for which no one then living was wholly responsible, an evil, therefore to be treated gingerly. But, being an evil, it was not to be coddled. On the contrary, the gangrene must be localized, and by all means kept from spreading. Hence the north had acquiesced in the admission of Missouri as a slave state in 1820, grumblingly, to be sure, and only in consideration of the eighth section of the act of admission, which provided: 'That in all that territory ceded by France to the United States under the name of Louisiana, which lies north of 36 degrees, 30 minutes north, not included within the limits of the state contemplated by this act, slavery and involuntary servitude otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the parties shall have been duly convicted, shall be and hereby is forever prohibited.'

Abrogated the Compromise.

"Henry Clay, 'The Great Pacificator,' who had favored the Missouri compromise, was careful not to champion slavery as an institution. He deplored and reprobated it, as did also Pinckney, and nearly every other southerner of national consequence. The Missouri compromise, I say, was acquiesced in by the north because it purported to set bounds to southern aggrandizement. Judge, then, of the feeling of outrage that tingled through the north like unseen lightning when the acts creating Kansas and Nebraska insolently declared that the compromise of 1820 was unconstitutional and void, and that the south, notwithstanding its solemn avowals, refused to be bound by it. Northern men looked at each other with questioning eyes. They acknowledged themselves duped, tricked, hoodwinked. The south had paltered with its sacred word, presuming upon northern cowardice and using the constitution as a mask to its hypocrisy. The people of the south seemed to court and welcome a conflict on the virgin plains of Kansas and Nebraska. Very well! Since the challenge had been given in the name of slavery, it should be accepted in the name of liberty! And thus the 'irrepressible conflict' was actually begun.

"Among the numerous aid societies instantly formed to promote northern immigration into these new territories, probably the earliest was the Boston society, of which Edward Everett Hale was the young and vigorous secretary. This noble gentleman, who still lives to receive the blessings to which his heroic work entitles him, wrote a history of Nebraska that issued from the press during the month of August, 1854. On the map that accompanied his book there is indicated not a single town or settlement, except Kearney and Bellevue. Omaha is an aching void—a cipher with the rim off—opposite Council Bluffs; and yet the author found a great deal to talk about!

Edward Everett Hale's Language.

"There was no attempt to disguise the purpose of the book. It was written frankly and avowedly in the cause of freedom, and the words of Eward Everett Hale rang out for God and the right as clear and sonorous then as they do today in the senate of the United States. In closing his history Mr. Hale, after urging upon northerners the necessity of effort to settle the new territories, says:

"'It is an effort which the whole providence of God demands, and which is made easy by the wonderful arrangement of His wisdom. Two free states planted west of the Missouri are two new securities for American freedom. By so much the more is the perpetuity of the American union possible. By so much the more is the principle of republican government redeemed and made consistent. They are two free states which command the gates to the Pacific, and to the colonies on the way there. In the center of the United States, in what may yet be the heart of its empire, they will maintain in its purity the principle on which the empire is founded.

"'The destiny of America is to call all races of men into a freer life within her borders than they have ever enjoyed at home. In her government is the secret which gives to each religion its exercise, to each oppressed nation its refuge, to each race of man its development. It will only be by a miracle of indolence, by blindness utterly incurable, that the men of the free states can forfeit such a prize. Unless freedom refuses the strength she always has given to free men, that victory is gained. It is gained unless the church of Christ, which has thrown over the world a network, along the cords of which run the electric words of good tidings, is false at home to a golden opportunity of advancing His kingdom. Unless, in one word, the providence of God be wholly neglected and the immense power for freedom flung away, which God gives when He sends an army of his children westward over sea and land, this freedom of Kansas and Nebraska is secured and the firmest step for the future prosperity of America made sure.

"'The victory will be won! God gives it to the energy and wisdom of those who go, and to the sympathy and prayers of those who stay.'

"Fellow citizens, a good man is sometimes gifted with a clairvoyance vouchsafed only to the pure in heart, for such only can see God. The beautiful and courageous words I have read come down to us through half a century with the majesty and almost the sanction of an Isaiahan prophecy. We know that Dr. Hale's predictions were fulfilled and we know how they were fulfilled.

Nebraska's Early History.

"Happily for Nebraska in those early days the actual collisions between the contending forces were confined to Kansas. To be sure the gaunt figure of John Brown was occasionally seen in Falls City, which was a station on one of his underground railroads, but for the most part Nebraska was exempt from the turmoils of Kansas, and endured no greater strain upon her autonomy than the fight between Bellevue and Omaha (and afterward between Omaha and Florence) for the territorial capitol and the somewhat tumultuous meetings of her legislature.

"The domestic history of Nebraska has been gathered into the archives of your State Historical society, which has published nearly a dozen volumes of Nebraskan biography and memoranda. And I have read these books—all of them, I think—to what purpose I scarcely know, for the names of those who figure in the narrations were already as familiar to me as household words, while the facts set forth I could almost vouch for as an eye witness to their truth. I read these books I guess because they recalled names and faces and happenings of by-gone years, when the earth was young and I was young, and when the wild freedom caught from my Indian playmates had not been tamed by the secular routine of a work-a-day life. And as I read there would sometimes come a mist before my eyes that was not altogether the mist of revery. For there is a melancholy in retrospection, unreasonable, perhaps, and unaccountable, unless it be a part of the lachrymae rerum—the tearfulness of things in general.

Well Springs of Reminiscence.

"Was it expected of me, when I was honored by your invitation to speak on this occasion, that I should tell of the lives and works of these pioneers of Nebraska? That I should trace step by step the growth of Nebraska from municipal protoplasm to the strong, vital, glorious organism that she is today?

"But how could I speak of the dead without speaking of their contemporaries, many of whom are living—men who have attained a time of life when memory is longer than hope, to be sure, but whose names and fames are inseparably linked with the history of Nebraska. Could I speak of Thomas Cuming, that brilliant boy, who received his education in a telegraph office and who as its secretary twice became acting governor of the territory, without speaking also of his successors in office—Thayer, Boyd, Furnas, Crounse and others? Could I mention Judge Ferguson or Hail or Dundy and leave unmentioned Judges Lake and Doane and Wakeley? Could I speak of Savage and ignore Manderson? Or of Edward Creighton and not of John Creighton? Could I recall the great lawyer and eloquent advocate Poppleton without at the same instant recalling another great lawyer, Woolworth, whose name was always associated with that of Poppleton? Could I refer to J. Sterling Morton without referring to his life-long friend, George L. Miller? Could I allude to George Francis Train, that man of noble aberrations, without some mention of the faithful Bemis? Could I speak the names of our late senators, Hitchcock and Saunders, and leave unspoken the names of their most worthy sons? And were I to discuss the life and work of John H. Keilom I fear it would be with loving prolixity, involving a whole brood hatched from yonder high school.

"But why should I presume to instruct you in such history as this, when there are men among you who are Nebraska's history personified? Take Dr. Miller, for instance, take him into a corner and ask him about that Omaha papoose to whom, in his lethal days, he administered calomel and jalap—touch but the historic button and the doctor will do the rest.

Incidents, Accidents and Effects.

"I choose rather, in the time remaining to me, to point out to you certain historical coincidences, which, as they vitally affected our country as a whole, must have affected Nebraska incidentally.

"When Columbus discovered America he was enroute to China. That fact, in view of recent history, compels reflection. But why was not America discovered and populated long before the era of Columbus? Why was the better half of the world permitted to lie fallow and perdu through untold millenniums when, all that while, it was so easily accessible? The matter of fact person would probably answer: 'For the same reason that the steamboat was not invented till the eighteenth century, nor the telegraph and railroad till the nineteenth century.' Precisely. Yet this answer, so far from answering, only changes the form of the interrogatory. Why is it that the steamboat, the telegraph and railroad were not invented till centuries after America was discovered? There was never a time when they would not have been a convenience even though they may not have been a necessity. Ah! in that word 'necessity' we have the answer to our question. Necessity, they say, is the mother of invention. So these inventions grew out of a necessity. A necessity for what? Mere existence? Creature comfort? Not at all, for mankind had existed without them and had always striven for its comfort. But these inventions were necessary to preserve the union of the United States. To this end—the creation and maintenance of a free government—the sequence of evolution, which is the unfolding of the purposes of the Universal Mind, had been directed since the anarchy at Babel.

Reward Comes with Time.

"The Phoenicians and Norsemen were the boldest navigators who ever lived, and it is said that they even found their way to this western hemisphere. If so, their discovery was abortive, being out of time. The Egyptians were profoundly versed in the laws of mathematics, mechanics and chemistry, and the secret of some of their inventions is beyond our abilities even to guess, filling us with admiring wonder. And yet it is not recorded that they nor the Romans, who stood so much in need of it, ever contrived anything to shorten distance by annihilating time. Nor did we hit upon these inventions until the existence of our government depended on them. We did not know this at the time, perhaps, but God did.

"The Americans conquered their freedom in the name and on behalf of the people of the earth. For this they fought. All else has come to them voluntarily and almost as a gift, save what was acquired in our war with Mexico, a wicked, unholy war, begotten by slavery, for both which may the Lord forgive us. Ours was the first government ever deliberately contrived by the people themselves and ratified by a social contract. Theretofore every government had either been imposed by conquest or usurped by fraud. It needed a new world for the growth and development of this new idea. In the old world the people were so ignorant that all they asked was to be permitted to live. Tyrany was entrenched in time itself. Custom had become inveterate. Freedom, with the lever of Archimedes, could not have moved the inertia of such a past. To make possible a government such as ours it required a new world, a new idea, a new man, yes, and a new woman.

Diversification and Unity.

"At first it was contended that the constitution was not adapted to the government of a large area, and that thirteen states joined in a confederacy were too many to make possible a reconciliation of their conflicting interests. On the other hand, Alexander Hamilton had argued that the larger the territory and the more diversified the interests, the more infallibly would the constitution, if properly interpreted, adapt itself to governmental requirements, implying that if the whole world were joined to the American republic the happier for the world and the more peacefully governed. So the experiment began with thirteen states, contiguous, compact and homogeneous, and the experiment succeeded.

"Now, a government by the people requires that the people shall be educated and instantly informed. Hence came to pass America's first characteristic institutions, the public school and newspaper and their adequate development.

"As pioneers pushed into new and unknown territory they at first settled along streams and rivers inaccessible to sailing vessels. It would never do for communities of men to become separate and localized, fostering local prejudices, opinions and jealousies that should harden into custom with the force of law. This would endanger the government. Hence came to pass the steamboat at the very moment it was needed; and the steamboat invaded these streams and rivers, the Mississippi, the Missouri and even the Platte.

"Dr. Hale, whose words I have quoted, declares that it is the destiny of America to call all races of men into a freer life within her borders. The negro came here as a slave; was this a coincidence? Would he have come otherwise? I once heard Booker Washington say that the negro was the only foreigner who was ever really invited to America, with an R. S. V. P. so peremptory that he must needs respond in person.

Doom of Slavery.

"But slavery, the one sore spot in our body politic, was becoming all this while more troublesome and putrescent. In 1820 the outbreak of rebellion was seriously threatened and the marvel is that it did not come. But in the providence of God the war was postponed; and why? Because in 1820 the south would have won, and our union would have been destroyed. All the world knows that the rebellion was conquered by the West. Before that awful warfare was permitted to come upon us two things were necessary to the salvation of the nation. In the first place, the south must be put wholly in the wrong, not only as to the cause she fought for, but in the manner in which she should have abused her opportunities for peace. It was because the south was morally wrong that Queen Victoria stood between us and her ministers. In the second place, the west must be populated.

"But how was this latter to be brought about? What was there to be found in the west of sufficient value to attract immigration? Alas, nothing better than the pelts of wild animals, to obtain which the wilder Indians must be encountered. In 1844 it had been proposed to build a national highway to connect the Atlantic and Pacific, for no better reason apparently than to enable those who cared to explore the west to do so with less hardship and adventure than Lewis and Clark had experienced earlier in the century, and a bill providing for the building of such a road had been introduced in congress by Senator Benton, I think. The bill was violently opposed, among others by Daniel Webster, who inveighed against it and, I could almost say, brayed against it. Rising in his place in the senate, Mr. Webster in his most majestic and grandiose manner, said:

"'Mr. President, what do we want with this vast worthless area, this region of savages and wild beasts, of deserts, of shifting sands and whirlwinds of dust, of cactus and prairie dogs? To what use could we ever hope to put these great deserts, or these endless mountain ranges, impenetrable, and covered to their bases with eternal snow? What can we ever hope to do with the western coast, a coast of 3,000 miles, rockbound, cheerless and uninviting, with not a harbor on it? What use have we for such a country? Mr. President, I will never vote one cent from the public treasury to place the Pacific coast one inch nearer Boston than it is today.'

"No wonder Daniel never became president of the United States!

Magic of the Gold.

"But why should the people of New England venture into the west, when Daniel Webster, who knew everything, said there was nothing there but cactus and wild Indians? Why should emigrants from the old world ever think of the west, when Americans themselves did not think of it and called it an uninhabitable desert? To go out into the mountains or onto the plains was to go out of the world, to cease from all communication or association with one's fellows. A numerous people, the Mormons, had tracked the deserts for no other purpose than to get beyond the reach of government.

"And yet, all within good time, a word was to be spoken at the sound of which all men in all corners of the earth should prick up their ears and bestir themselves; a short word, of such compelling power that it came like a command of destiny. It was the word 'Gold.'

"In 1849 gold had been found in California and instantly a flood of immigration poured across the plains, across the Rockies, on and on to the Golden Gate—thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of all classes and conditions of men from all portions of the globe. When the flood would slacken and turn back the word 'Gold' was repeated, for in 1859 gold had been found near Pike's peak, Nebraska—now Colorado. And the word 'Gold' in 1859 had an added charm, for—another coincidence—hard times on account of the panic of 1857 were then universal. Gold or the hope of it might not alone have allured so many to cross the plains, but gold in the west plus poverty in the east created a flood tide of immigration, and lo! as if by magic the west was populated.

Telegraph and Railroad.

"But let me ask you, fellow citizens, was it not a strange, a wonderful coincidence, that contemporaneous with the announcement of gold in California should come the announcement that the railroad and the telegraph were no longer playthings? Could these inventions have come more in the nick of time if the Almighty had ordered them?

"And then, too, was it not a fortunate coincidence that before this magnet, gold, had attracted so many to seek western homes, the west—all of it—should have become ours to populate?

"The story of how the vast territory of Louisiana came into our hands, a territory more than twice as large as the then United States—larger than Great Britain, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal and Italy combined—is one of the most dramatic coincidences in the history of our country.

"We have been taught in school to applaud the wisdom and dexterity of Jeffersonian diplomacy in negotiating the purchase of Louisiana. As a matter of fact, Jefferson was the most surprised and embarrassed gentleman in America when Napoleon Bonaparte, first consul of France, thrust the territory upon him. He had sent Livingston to France to obtain, if he might, the right of deposit on the banks of the Mississippi—or if not, to buy the village of New Orleans. He was bewildered and for a time dumbfounded when he was told to take all or nothing.

Ideas of Great Men.

"Now, according to Jefferson, there was no power given by the constitution to conclude such a purchase. Was it not a lucky coincidence—nay, was it not a divine novitiate—that at the very beginning of our government this literal constructionist, of such dominating personal influence, was thus constrained to look not to the letter of the constitution but to the spirit of the instrument, and imply the power he needed from the power to make treaties? Thenceforth he could not quarrel with the opinions of John Marshall, who breathed into our constitution a power by implication to do anything and everything that a government ought to do for the welfare of its people; and the evil days were at hand when this mere difference in hermenutics meant life or death to our nation; days when the strict constructions, in behalf of slavery, were like (as Jude says) 'raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame.'

"The circumstances that induced Napoleon virtually to give Louisiana to the United States is a chapter by itself. In 1666 La Salle visited Quebec, founded by Champlain in 1608. LaSalle thought that the shortest pathway to China was by way of the St. Lawrence and the lakes. Champlain had previously announced that in his opinion an isthmian canal between the Atlantic and Pacific was not at all unfeasible. These early Frenchmen had big ideas, and for some inscrutable reason China seemed to be mixed up with them. Later, in the same year, standing at the mouth of the Mississippi, La Salle took possession of the territory west of that river in the name of his sovereign, Louis XIV, and called it Louisiana.

Napoleon and Louisiana.

"In 1762 France ceded the territory to Spain as a sort of honorarium to a power it was then anxious to conciliate. But in 1800 tables were turned and France was in the ascendant. Napoleon had just been declared first consul and dreamed of world-wide empire. He insisted upon a retrocession of Louisiana and sent his brother, Lucien, to negotiate the treaty, which was drawn up in 1800, but was not signed by Carlos IV, of Spain until 1802.

"At this time Napoleon expected to take immediate possession of Louisiana with an armed force and establish a New France on the American continent. As a preliminary he thought it necessary to come to a misunderstanding with the United States government. Hence it was, I think, that Morales, the Spanish intendant at New Orleans (probably by the command of Napoleon, though I can find no record of the fact) revoked the old license of 1795, under which the Americans had enjoyed the right of 'deposit,' as it was called. This right of deposit was merely the right of American vessels on the Mississippi to land for the purpose of transferring cargoes to and from ocean going vessels. The revocation of the license greatly irritated the American people, who were all for war. There was indeed a misunderstanding, and Napoleon had accomplished so much of his purpose. But Jefferson was a man of peace; so he forthwith dispatched Robert Livingston as minister to France, handed him a check for $2,000,000 with instructions to purchase a perpetual right of deposit, or the village of New Orleans outright. When Livingston arrived in Paris he was turned over to the wily Talleyrand, who kept him dangling between hope and despair or cooling his ministerial heels in an outer chamber.

Genius Learns from Genius.

"Meanwhile, as an incidental preliminary to the coup de main, it was necessary for Napoleon to put down a rising spirit of independence among the negroes of San Domingo, for it was intended to establish an exclusive commerce between New Orleans and the French West Indies. Accordingly Napoleon sent his brother-in-law, General Le Clerc, to San Domingo at the head of a great military expedition. Le Clerc had a splendid fleet and a great army, and his task seemed simple. But the free negroes of San Domingo had themselves a Napoleonic genius in the person of Toussant l'Ouverture. Every schoolboy knows the outcome. The brilliant generalship of Toussant, the heroic valor of his troops and the ravages of yellow fever decimated the French forces, and the expedition collapsed in utter failure.

"These things compelled reflection and Napoleon arrived at some conclusions. He concluded that he was never certain to win in battle unless he commanded in person. He concluded that he himself was greater on land than on the water; that England was the mistress of the seas, and would continue to be the greatest maritime power in Europe. He concluded that it was his destiny, and that of France, to war with England. He concluded that in the event of such a war a French colony in Louisiana would prove a source of weakness and would fall an easy prey to the ships of England.

"From these conclusions he deducted a corollary: If France could not retain Louisiana, England must not obtain it. It should belong to a government over which England exercised no influence and which should be able to defend it from her aggressions then and forever. Such a government he believed our republic to be, and the battle of New Orleans a few years later vindicated his estimate of our abilities.

Bonaparte Family Council.

"Napoleon confided his purpose concerning Louisiana to his brother, Lucien, and Lucien revealed the secret to an elder brother, Joseph. Joseph and Lucien determined to remonstrate with brother Napoleon, and forthwith called at the Tuileries. At the moment of their call Napoleon was in his bath, but accoutred as he was—or rather as he wasn't—he summoned his visitors into his dank but dangerous presence. For a time the three brothers discoursed on impersonal subjects—art, music, poetry—Napoleon splashing in his tub and stirring up its perfumed waters with keenest relish. Finally the conversation turned on the subject nearest the heart of each, and the angry words that forthwith hurtled in that bath room would be quite awesome were it not for certain incongruities.

"In his memoirs, or diary, Lucien Bonaparte has given a circumstantial account of this quarrel between Napoleon and his brothers over the proposed sale of Louisiana, and I venture to read you an excerpt from his report of it:

"'"Note, Lucien," said Napoleon, "I have made up my mind to sell Louisiana to the Americans." I thought it my cue to show only moderate surprise at this announcement, which I pretended was news, feeling sure that I should have reason to show more, as his determination appeared to sell it of his own accord, without any consultation of the Chambers. I simply exclaimed, "Indeed!" in a tone of curiosity, indicating a wish to know more, expressing neither approval nor the contrary. This apparent indifference caused Napoleon to say: "Well, Joseph, you see Lucien does not utter loud cries about this thing; yet he almost has a right to, seeing that Louisiana is, so to speak, his own conquest." "I assure you," said Joseph, "if Lucien says nothing he thinks none the less." "Indeed, and why should he be diplomatic with me?" Brought forward thus unexpectedly, and, as it were, thrust against the wall, I had to explain myself, and really I was not sorry. But, as Napoleon did not ask my opinion about the sale, I contented myself with declaring that I really thought on this matter as Joseph did. "I undertake to say," said I, in a tone which I tried to make as little offensive as possible, "that the Chambers will not assent." "You undertake to say," Napoleon said this with an air and tone of contemptuous surprise. "A pretty piece of business!" "And I undertake to say," said Joseph, in a tone of triumph, "that it will be so. And that is what I told the first consul before." "And what did I say?" said our brother, his wrath rising, looking at us by turns, as if not to lose any chance in our countenances. "You declared," said Joseph, "you would get along without the assent of the Chambers, did you not?" Exactly. That is what I took the liberty to say to Monsieur Joseph, and what I repeat here to Citizen Lucien, begging him to give me his opinion about it, derived from his paternal tenderness for that mighty diplomatic conquest of his."

"'The matter seemed about to be dropped and Joseph and I were turning toward the door, while the valet was spreading upon the sheet to wrap up his master, when the latter, returning to the charge, suddenly cried out in a tone that made us all start: "Well, sirs, think what you please about the sale of Louisiana, but you may both of you put on mourning over this thing—you, Lucien, over the sale of your province, you, Joseph, because I propose to dispense with the consent of all persons whatsoever. Do you hear?" I confess that I fairly shivered at such an outbreak, on a topic so delicate, in the presence of a servant. Stung by the scornful words and manner, especially by the contemptuous "Do you hear?" which had been the cutting snapper to our brother's lashing wrath, Joseph rushed back, exclaiming: "You will do well, my dear brother, not to lay your plan before the Chambers, for I swear to you I will myself, the first, put myself, if necessary, at the head of the opposition which will certainly be made."

"'At these words Napoleon, rising so as to show half his body out of the water opaque and frothy with cologne, cried sternly: "You will not need to play the orator, for I repeat to you that this debate will not take place, because the plan so unlucky as to be disapproved by you, conceived by me, negotiated by me, will be ratified and executed by me—by me alone, do you understand?—by me, who scorn your opposition." The speaker then immersed himself once more to the neck. But Joseph, whose self control was quite gone, his face all aflame, roared: "Well, General, on my side I tell you that you, I and all of the family, if you do what you say you will, may get ready to join shortly those poor, innocent devils whom you so legally, so humanely—above all, with so much justice—have had transported to Cayenne."

"'At this point the great Napoleon rose as if he had received an electric shock and shouted, "You insolent fellow! I ought"——

"But alas for greatness! His foot—his mighty foot that had trampled kings and emperors—chanced to encounter the fugacious soap and the great Napoleon fell back into his tub kersplash, gurgling the oaths he would fain have thundered.

Napoleon's Reasoning.

"In the History of Louisiana, prepared by Barbe-Marbois (who signed the treaty on behalf of Napoleon), he says that Napoleon had declared to his cabinet:

"'"To free the world from the commercial tyranny of England it is necessary to oppose to her a maritime power which will one day become her rival. It must be the United States.

"'"I know the worth of Louisiana and I have wished to repair the error of the French negotiator who abandoned it in 1763. I have recovered it on paper through some lines in a treaty; but I have hardly done so when I am about to lose it again. But if it escapes me it shall one day be a dearer cost to those who force me to give it up than the cost to those to whom I will surrender it. The English have successively taken from France, Canada, the Isle Royal, Newfoundland, Acadia and the richest territories of Asia. They are intriguing and disturbing in San Domingo. They shall not have the Mississippi, which they covet. Louisiana is nothing in comparison with their aggrandizement in all parts of the globe; but the jealousy they feel because of its return under the dominion of France warns me that they intend to seize it, and if it be so they will begin the war. They have already twenty-vessels in the gulf of Mexico. They swagger over those seas as sovereigns; and in San Domingo, since the death of Le Clerc, our affairs are going from bad to worse. I contemplate turning it over to the United States. They are asking me for but a single city of Louisiana. It is not only New Orleans I will cede; it is the whole colony, without any reservation. I know the value of what I abandon and I have sufficiently proved the importance I attach to this province, since my first diplomatic act with Spain had for its object the recovery of it. I renounce it with the greatest regret. To attempt obstinately to retain it would be folly. I direct you to negotiate this affair with the envoys of the United States. Do not even await the arrival of Mr. Monroe; have an interview this very day with Mr. Livingston; but I require a great deal of money for this war, and I would not like to commence it with new taxes.

"'"Perhaps it may be objected," he continued, "that the Americans will be found too powerful for Europe in two or three centuries. But my foresight takes no count of terrors at a distance. Moreover, you can look to the future for dissensions in the bosom of the union. The confederations which are called perpetual only endure until one of the parties to the contract finds reason to break it. It is against present dangers to which we are exposed by the colossal powers of England that I wish to provide a safeguard.

"'"Mr. Monroe is on the point of arriving. Neither this minister nor his colleague is prepared for a decision which goes infinitely beyond any thing that they are about to ask us. Begin by making them the overture without any subterfuge. You will acquaint me day by day, hour by hour, of your progress. The cabinet of London is informed of the measure adopted at Washington but it can have no suspicion of those which I am now taking. Observe the greatest secrecy and recommend it to the American ministers; they have not less interest than ourselves in conforming to this counsel."'

"Napoleon signed the ratification of the treaty May 22, 1803, and on that day began his great new war.

Other Fruits of the Purchase.

"I have quoted to you thus copiously from the French version of the Louisiana Purchase because I thought the facts brought to light might possibly be new to

(Continued on Seventh Page.)

THE ILLUSTRATED BEE

NEBRASKA ONCE MORE HAS the center of the stage, so far as The Illustrated Bee is concerned, the next number, like the last, being almost exclusively devoted to the state and its people. Another double page is given up to the portraits of eminent attorneys of the state; the delegation that will represent the state in the national republican convention at Chicago, occupies another page, another page is given up to the Bohemian turners of the state, who recently held their annual competition in Omaha, and another page tells of the dedication of the monument to the late James Laird at Hastings on Memorial day. All these illustrations are of Nebraska people. A fine portrait of George B. Cortelyou, the new chairman of the national republican committee, is on the front page, with some comment on the man and the position to which he has been called. Mr. Frank G. Carpenter's letter gives an account of his recent interview with Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, who is now investigating the question of aerial navigation. It is illustrated from photographs of Dr. Bell and the kites with which he has been so successful. In addition, will be found another installment of the interesting serial that is now rapidly approaching its climax; the Illustrated Women's Department, selected miscellany, short stories, chatty comment, and gossipy anecdotes, making the number complete in every particular. If you are now not already a subscriber you should leave your order with your newsdealer today.

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