

WE AND OUR NEIGHBORS

A recent letter from Commander Ballington Both accuses General Booth of the profanity of attempting to divide North America into three sections with the division lines running north and south. He—the General—had it arranged so that part of the receipts from the American army were paid to the Canucks. Now while we feel that the Canadians and the Mexicans are our dear Christian brothers, we also are convinced that it is better for them to support their own armies. General Booth has not read the latest books on the dangers of pauperising the poor or if he have they have affected him to go and do the other thing.

The movements, policy and discipline of the army were planned and dictated in London. Ballington Booth was not allowed to adapt the rules and policy to the situation and to emergencies in this country. When General Booth visited his son he showed that he was much displeased; he criticised America and Americans, especially the display of old glory at the head of the procession and on the walls of the barracks.

Ballington Booth has been patient, humble, and obedient to commands issued solely with reference to British domination in Army matters in this country. In spite of which his devotion to the American Salvation army increased to such an extent that his father decided to remove him from his command. He could do nothing but resign from the Army. He and his father have entirely different ideas. Ballington is a great worker, and honestly and faithfully devoted to the work to which he has given his life.

General Booth wishes to cut the world up into camps, each commanded by a man or a man and woman by the name of Booth or Booth-Tucker, with headquarters in London and himself as the commander in chief of the world.

To be the founder of such a military, theocratic dynasty out-dreams Napoleon. Power, dominion, glory to the end of the world has dazzled the old man's eyes. He does not see clearly that in order to make his system of use the nations must assimilate it and too much Booth will not digest. The General wishes to give a British stamp to Christianity itself. 30 A. D. Christianity was established. 1870 General Booth's dynasty. The national feeling in a republic is a trifling matter to a Londoner who is accustomed to regard himself as the source of authority and the founder of a theocracy.

Ballington Booth forgot himself, his name, and England working for and with men. He was likely to interrupt the apotheosis of Booth and his father sought how he might destroy him.

Commissioner Booth-Tucker and his wife are in Chicago to reconcile the factions. The commissioner's picture in the Tribune looks a little like a patent medicine vender of Hindu Cures. He wears his hair long and a turban above the drooping curls, but he is probably better than he looks.

It will take a stronger attraction, a more startling costume, than Commissioner Booth wears to hold the army in America for the London Booth. He created the magnificent organization and he did well. But America will not be bowed by King George, the pope or General Booth.

Eighty thousand dollars is to be spent on that part of the Missouri river that flows between Omaha and Council Bluffs, "to improve navigation." Mr. Berlin will surely not be so wasteful as to put all that money into a river which could not be made navigable with sixty million dollars. If the sixty thousand might

be expended on road ways the River and Harbor Committee would have an excuse for being. When a republic once gets into the habit of throwing its money into the water it is hard to turn it around.

The realities get mixed when appropriations are to be spent. The rules that govern ordinary business intercourse are considered quixotic when applied to national affairs.

J. Sterling Morton has relinquished patronage and popularity for the abuse of all parties because he decided to carry out the letter of the law. Mr. Morton's conscience is not supernaturally active. He is given to striking attitudes though not so frequently nor so absurdly as Senator Thurston. Democrats and republicans have spent expensive time in abusing the secretary for refusing to continue a distribution that had become a national joke.

The men who had bought and paid for their seats in Congress showed Mr. Secretary they were not to be trifled with, and that it was no joke to try any honest tricks with them.

It was an impertinence for him to set up to be honest when both houses of Congress were in session and had to settle for their seats somehow or other. The next agriculturalist that thinks of trying to be honest in the face of congress will do well to remember J. Sterling Morton.

The seed firm in Chicago which has supplied the Agricultural bureau under former administrations sent in the lowest bid for this spring's distribution. It was rejected because it would not consent to allow the firm's name to be printed on the packages. No better advertisement, supposing the seeds to be good ones, can be imagined, for the envelopes go all over the country and the highest agricultural authority is supposed to know good garden seeds. If the seeds will grow there is no reason why the firm should be ashamed to affix its names to the packages. If the goods are worthless it is a danger sign to the people to keep away from the merchants who sent out such wares. Refusing so simple a condition the secretary's suspicions were aroused and the bid was rejected. He was practising no transcendental virtue, no quixotic integrity, but only the everyday business methods that city and country alike use. The hue and cry that Congress has raised over Mr. Morton's action is a most severe commentary on itself.

Duse is coming to Omaha. She will play there for one night—probably Camille. She is the greatest actress in the world. Further, her acting is better than that of any other individual, man or woman, is capable of. She plays woman as she was never played before. Acting has been advancing faster than the other arts in the last ten years, unless it be painting, and Duse has reached the highest point of dramatic expression. Those who can go and won't go to see her ought to be made to go. She is one of the advantages of contemporary existence. Those who overlook it ought to be confined to Clara Morris for life.

The breach between Richard Mansfield and Mr. Charles Frohman, terminating their relations before they had fairly begun, serves to prove how much the actor stands in need of a competent manager. It has long been the opinion of Mansfield's friends and well-wishers that some guiding hand, taking up the reins of authority and leaving him free to devote himself to his art, was the one thing needful to entire success. Just as the country was about to congratulate itself upon the fact that this had been effected the player emphasizes the fact that skillful direction is necessary to him by throwing his advantageous

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