

and with it an indifference as to what might happen to Great Britain in this war. As to liberty, they said, we won that by the Revolution!

Of course all this was changed. The time came when the cry that liberty was in a fight for life was in every mouth, and then the country went solid for the Allies with tremendous financial and martial strength. It put itself under autocratic power. It went into the struggle body and soul. The voice of the pacifist and the traitor was stifled. To the remotest hamlet it was work and save and give to win. And when the Americans appeared on the battle line it was with an efficiency so high and a bravery so exalted that words fail us to express our thankfulness. They equalled the Canadians, and we could not ask more. Nevertheless, may a kind providence keep us becomingly modest when we compare what we did with what Britain and her Allies have done.

But why was threatened liberty so long in finding this unanimous voice in the United States? The above declaration that we won our liberty by the Revolution answers the question. To the average American the history of the principle embodied in the words of the slogan of the Revolution, "No taxation without representation," begins with that event. Its centuries-old history back of that is unknown to him—and so with all the rest. The entire structure of Anglo-Saxon liberty has never in any school been pointed out to him as his own shelter worthy of his reverence and pride and laying upon him a duty to maintain it which binds him to the English-speaking race, which built that structure and to-day maintains it. We have never even named the foundations of their liberty to American youth. Much less have we told them the story of the storms which for centuries raged around the building of those foundations, nor of the blood and sacrifice and suffering which went into the construction; and we have never mentioned the subject to immigrant citizens. Autocratic governments impress upon their subjects the virtues of emperors and kings and princes, to cement allegiance. We do not even take the trouble to bring to American citizens the knowledge of the history of the rights which make them free. If we did it would become a religion arousing all Americans at any sign of danger.