

positive discredit on the office. He is a man of 60, married, of good character, a graduate of the University of London, a barrister (at least in standing, if not in practice), and things might have been worse; but we are sad to see him in the seat of Tennyson, and we can hardly believe that he is quite comfortable there himself.

* * *

Irresponsible Government and Fixed Terms of Office the Curse of the United States.

THE irresponsibility of government attaching to fixed terms of office, and the sinister and corrupt methods adopted to retain or to achieve office, have, at length, reached a degree of demoralization, in which war with the most kindly, friendly, and loving of nations—their own mother nation—is entertained with a unanimity of sentiment that is, for the moment, simply frightful to contemplate. Equally to the intelligent American as to the intelligent Britisher must this hellish spirit be outrageous and shocking. Such, indeed, is the evolution or growth of evil in its worst form. Already, and as a consequence, we have seen to what extent the nation's financial chastisement has been precipitated. The authors of that chastisement acted with a recklessness that was insane and suicidal. All sense of financial disaster and of moral responsibility was absent. No prevision, no organ of weight, or of ballast, in the ruling mind of the nation. Financially and morally the most powerful nation of civilization that the world has ever known was extravagantly abused and insulted. Such an exhibition of the wild instincts of self-destruction is more a source of sorrow and pain to the British than of any anxiety or apprehension of danger to themselves.

The feeling on the part of the British is an altruistic feeling for the Americans whose destinies for the time being are in unworthy and incapable hands.

To be convinced of that we have only to take the testimony of some thoughtful American writers.

Prof. Van Buren Denslow, of Chicago, writing some eighteen years ago in the *International Review*, on the subject, deploras the non-existence of responsible Government in the United States. His diagnoses of the then diseased condition of the body politic was prophetic of the inevitable moral down-fall and disaster which the nation now presents to the civilized world. Irresponsible Government, with its fixed terms of office, is the one great evil that is prolific of many evil effects, which, according to Prof. Denslow, must issue in national ruin.

"But under our crab system of going forward by looking backward, the only question possible was the utterly pernicious, useless, and infernal one. 'Will you vote to endorse the past record of the Democratic Party, or of the Republican Party?' or, as it soon came to be put, 'Will you vote for the Union or for the Rebellion of fifteen years ago?' This re-opened all the issues of the war, brought our submerged hell up again to the surface, and sent it round belching blood and brimstone through the land. Can a system be more fatal to liberty than one which renders a popular election a national calamity which, instead of instructing administrations, revives civil war?"

"All these evils are inherent, not in republicanism but in irresponsibility—in fixed terms of office."

"I would not attempt to predict, whether through calm discussion or through national disaster and revolution, the American people will be driven to adopt responsible government. But if, as I believe, all irresponsible government is subversive of liberty and of statesmanship, and unfit for a free people, then will every instinct of the American people drive them ultimately to exchange the irresponsible for the responsible form. As it is, in no country do the people feel such an overwhelming sense of the littleness of the men in charge of public affairs. In no country are the officials so conscious that they are contemptible. In no country is there a national legislature and cabinet so rapidly retrograding, so certainly sinking into the hands of men ignorant alike of letters, law, history, finance, and even of the morals and manners of gentlemen."

If that very strong language emanated from any other than an American citizen it would, doubtless, be ascribed to ignorance or prejudice. But coming from one of themselves, and he a learned professor, it is doubly significant. It is the result of honest introspection and analysis.

In the present conjuncture of affairs, after the lapse of eighteen years, the strong language of Prof. Denslow derives the fullest confirmation. Hitherto the Americans have gone through the fearful ordeal of civil war. With a strange apathy they made no adequate exertion to avert such a calamity. The pungent Thos. Carlyle described their then condition as "a foul chimney that must burn itself out." After thirty years accumulation it has become foul again. But this time, instead of brother striking brother, it is the worst spectacle of all, that of son striking mother. Truly, indeed, we may exclaim "the age of chivalry must be gone!" when that is the apparent attitude of our big Anglo-Saxon brother on this continent towards our august mother. The naturally noble, moral, and intelligent of every land, all lovers of freedom, irrespective of nationality, must instinctively pray for the continued stability and prosperity of Britain as the one great force that maketh for truth and righteousness. Towards the better portion of the people of the United States let us manifest an abiding faith and confidence that national chaos, with all its concomitant miseries may be averted.

May the rod for its own scourging, which the nation has made for itself, have its instructive warning so that its practical application may be avoided.

What is noble to them and to us must be mutually esteemed and venerated. Yes!

"What is noble? is the sabre
Nobler than the humble spade?
There's a dignity in labour
Truer than e'er pomp arrayed!
They who seek the mind's improvement
Aid the world in aiding mind,
Every great commending movement
Serves not one, but all mankind."

Such is the philosophy of Britain's power before the world to-day. Her just ambition and aspiration are to do good, and not abuse power. The United States ought to be her strongest ally, friend, and brightest hope. To the people of the United States, as to ourselves, we can conceive of no higher and nobler aim and ambition. God grant wisdom to the Anglo-Saxon to espouse it as a living faith, a faith that he would deem it an honour to die for.

ROBT. CUTHBERT.

* * *

A Forgotten Result of the Monroe Doctrine.

THERE is one point in connection with the Monroe Doctrine which is too much overlooked, and which we should like to bring to the attention of thoughtful Americans. This is the enormous deduction which the Monroe Doctrine makes from the general wealth and happiness of the world. Its first consequence is that the mighty continent of South America, which would maintain the entire white race of the world in comfort and prosperity, is nearly wasted and will continue wasted until that far-distant period when the population of the United States, having overflowed Canada and Mexico, finds itself once more too numerous for its habitation, and begins to pour still further southward, and through the Nicaragua Canal into the independent States on the Pacific Ocean. It is the opinion of the ablest naturalists that South America is, on the whole, the richest division of the world, and the one in which the human race, being aided rather than resisted by Nature in producing food, may with its perpetual toil reduced within less exhausting limits, reach the highest level of culture and civilization. A white people which could earn its keep with four hours' labour, ought, on the average, to be a higher race than ours. The continent covers nearly eight million square miles, that is, is equal to forty times the area of France; it contains all climates, especially an unusually healthy variety of the sub-tropical climate; and it may be broadly asserted to be culturable throughout, and owing to its lofty plateaus, to be culturable for two-thirds of its extent.