

In order to obtain any permanent greatness, the founders of the Republic recognized that we must have religious liberty. No country in the world is more favorable to the growth of religion than the United States. "I would not," says Cardinal Gibbons, "if I had the privilege of modifying the constitution of the United States expunge or alter a single paragraph, a single line, or a single word of that immortal instrument." The constitution of the United States is admirably adapted to the growth and expansion of the Catholic religion, and the Catholic religion is admirably adapted to the genius of the constitution. They fit together like two links in the same chain. There are no hereditary privileges in the Republic of the United States, no titles, no class distinctions.

According to the constitution, every native-born citizen is eligible to the highest position in the gift of the people just as the highest post in the hierarchy is open to the humblest son of the Church. In Church and State fitness and availability and not pedigree are the paramount claims to office.

In order that her humblest son without regard to his race or creed may be able to fill any office in the government, the United States has generously expended enormous sums of money in the diffusion of popular instruction, always remembering the motto of Washington and Franklin that knowledge is power.

The foundation of the Catholic University of Washington supplies a long felt want. Let us hope that it may be in some measure to America what Oxford and Cambridge in the better days were to England, "a bulwark of religious enlightenment and of constitutional freedom." Let us sincerely pray that it may be a beacon light, guiding the searcher after knowledge in the path of truth and guarding him against the shoals and quicksands of error.

God having blessed the American

nation so signally will not fail to demand a strict account from the people. It is, therefore, incumbent upon the American youth to prepare himself for his future position in society. Several great questions must in the near future come up for final settlement and it behooves us to be able to meet them in a statesmanlike manner. It must be the aim of all true Americans to keep in mind the welfare of the whole country, the wants of the West must be the wants of the East, and the solution of the great racial problem is as momentous for the North as for the South.

When the fathers of the American government founded the nation, they built better than they knew, for guided and directed by Providence they laid the foundation of the ideal state, and realized the highest conception of government. It behooves the Catholic American to be loyal to his citizenship, loyal to his home the nursery of patriotism, loyal to religion which forms the character, and loyal to his fellow-countrymen. His patriotism must not be the patriotism of the lips, but the patriotism of the heart's deeds and the life's blood. But above all, we must cling firmly to the principles of our religion, for in a strict adherence to religion lies the mainstay of the republic.

Let us always remember that this glorious republic of ours is the bright beacon kindled by patriot hands in the western sky to show the sons of men everywhere the pathway to liberty, to order, and to prosperity. Let us always bear in mind that those stars on our beautiful banner are, like the stars in heaven, glittering proofs of God's abundant overflowing mercy to men. Let us always look up to our glorious flag, and may we ever see it floating triumphantly, not a stripe erased or polluted, nor a single star obscured. Long may our beautiful banner wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave, and may our dear country ever be worthy of her proud place among the nations of the