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RANDOM COMMENTS

By "PRO PATRIA"

"THE MESSENGER OF PEACE"

"Life may be given in many ways, and loyalty, to truth be sealed bravely in the closet as in the field."

The time is again ours for us to celebrate the birth of that Great Emancipator who proclaimed "Peace on earth and good will towards men," but amidst the roar of cannon, and clash of arms, the mandate is almost unheard and forgotten. However, the nations on whose side we stand are not responsible for this warfare, and are therefore, like the Israelites of old, trying to subdue a wicked enemy who gave battle, and bring about the time when permanent peace shall be realized. This is a war that was thrust upon the Allied nations, and which is being fought for the freedom of humanity. The German Monarch "drunk it with sight of power," and plunder, let loose his "dogs of war," and from the tribunal of the world's greatest advocate came the command to the allies—

"As ye deal with my contempters, so with you my grace shall deal; Let the hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with his heel, Since God is marching on."

So long as a daring despot, a selfish usurper, or an unmanageable autocrat occupies a throne, wars are inevitable if the freedom and safety of mankind is to be considered and conserved. Wars must be fought for righteousness sake, unless peaceful methods can be dictated to secure that end. History has proven that this is not always possible, as in the war which resulted in the emancipation of the slaves. That intensely humanized statesman, Abraham Lincoln, only gave his sanction to force of arms when freedom was otherwise impossible.

In this present war no time was given for compromise. With the suddenness of a titanic disaster, or an earthquake, with very little previous warning, the hosts of Germany were turned loose on Belgium and France. To fail to resist the onslaught would have been disastrous to all mankind. Few doubt the final outcome of hostilities, but the fact that there are reverses is evident. No conscientious person, German or otherwise, doubts that the struggle was provoked, and unavoidable, and that right is on the side of the Entente Allies, but all must agree that, as in the case of the Israelites, an obedience to a Higher Tribunal and an inward, as well as outward purity and strength, must be manifest before the fullest success can be achieved. "Plato" has said that, "in order to deal with evil one must be guided by a knowledge of it, not by personal experience." Goodness is essentially strong, evil is essentially weak, and the righteousness of a cause gives power of achievement, and pedestals in the heart as well as the mind that pure sense of duty which "Wordsworth" describes and which must triumph—

"Stern Daughter of the voice of God! O Duty! if that name thou love Who art a light to guide, a rod to check the erring, and reprove; Thou, who are victory and law When empty terrors overawe; From vain temptations dost set free, And calm'st the weary strife of frail humanity."

THE VICTORIES OF PEACE.

"Peace hath her victories, No less renowned than war."

All wars are not necessary. Political wars have been fought for the sole purpose of acquiring territory, and, indeed, although unjust a temporary and sanguinary success has attended such conflicts. But there are social and political conditions under which "like a storm before a calm" war is often a necessary prelude of justice and peace. Under such circumstances it is mainly for us to fight for, and it need be, die for our country, while under ordinary conditions it is patriotic for us to live for her. After this struggle a greater need than ever will present itself to re-establish and make normal our strained social, political and commercial institutions. While war devastates the world, and is marked by conquest after conquest, peace can also be marked by a steady career of victory, and with results stupendous almost beyond the conception of man. Out of the chaos of conflict will come forth the genius of scientific, and greater enterprise and invention, than the world has ever known before.

Not only will industrial progress receive greater energy, but an equal progress will be aided and inspired in educational facilities, so that our intellectual development will keep pace with our material advancement, for after all—

"The mind in its own place, and in itself"

Can make a Heaven of Hell a Hell of Heaven."

But it is one thing to know, and another thing to do. Great and mature minds have often been guilty of very shady transactions, for there is such a thing as being qualified for evil, as well as good purposes. "Minds constituted for noble ends," who have a consciousness of humanity, and are willing to share the hardships and anxieties that face struggle, are living factors in a country's advancement towards that universal era of brotherly fellowship and love which will usher in a true spirit of democracy which will establish lasting peace. What has been done with a part of our social and industrial fabric, through the energy and devotion of President Coaker, can be done with all. Unity is the key-note of all reforms. From the lines of the immortal "Shakespeare" there is little excuse for failure in preparing the common duties of life. "Tis one thing to be tempted, Escalus, another thing to fall." No temptations are too hard to overcome; certainly not those who have their birth and origin through the channels of covetousness. "Low-ell" says that "The kind of world one carries about in one's self is the important thing, and the world outside takes all its grace, color, and value from that," so that he enriches himself most who enriches mankind most. These are the things we should aspire to for "an inspiration is a joy forever, and a possession as solid as a landed estate." These are the real and lasting victories of peace.

If we accept the conditions made possible by the man who was acquainted with sorrow and grief, (who won the greatest victory of peace and over death itself), the birth of whom we have just celebrated, the lesson "to do unto each other as we would be willing to go done unto" ought to be more of a pleasure than a task, and the hope that the Eastern people saw in that star over Bethlehem would be doubly inspired in us.

"But dream not helm and harness
The sign of valor true;
Peace hath higher tests of manhood
Than battle ever knew."

We wish all our readers, and everybody, a Bright and Prosperous New Year, and may its dawn begin to usher in a new and lasting peace.

"O men and brothers! let that voice be heard,
War fails, try peace: put up the useless sword!
Fear not the end There is a story told
In Eastern tents, when autumn nights grow cold,
And round the fire Mongol shepherds sit
With grave responses listening into it;
Once, on the errands of his mercy bent,
Buddha, the holy and benevolent,
Met a fell monster, huge and fierce of look,
Whose awful voice the hills and forests shook.
'O Son of Peace,' the giant cried, 'thy fate
Is sealed at last, and love shall yield to hate.'
The unarmed Buddha, looking, with no trace
Of fear or anger, in the monster's face,
In pity said: 'Poor fiend, even thee I love.'
Lo! as he spake the sky-tall terror sank
To hand-breadth size: the huge abhorrence shrank
Into the form and fashion of a dove;
And where the thunder of its rage was heard,
Circling above him sweetly sang the bird:
'Hate hath no harm for love,' so ran the song:
'And peace unweaponed conquers every wrong.'"

Not because we have discovered that some of our idols were mere clay; not because we have been duped and deceived by those in whom we trusted; not because some men did not act on the square should we conclude that all men play with loaded dice. When fortune's frowns are darkest, when friends are few, and few of those willing to "lend a hand" to help you over the rough road, when things are at their worst, then it is that the metal of a man is put to the test. Despondency is a maggot bred only in weak minds.

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NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

(By J. T.)

The year 1917 is drawing to a close and we shall soon have entered the portal of the New Year 1918, and have made our New Year resolutions.

Some there are who may be able to look back over the past year with gratification and see all their resolutions of 1917 faithfully and steadfastly adhered to; some who may be able to congratulate themselves on keeping some of their resolutions; but many, the greater number perhaps, will see but a blurred picture—resolutions broken, hopes disappointed and blissful anticipations unrealized.

"New Year resolutions" is a topic which has supplied copy for scribes on comic weeklies since the first one was printed. But some people take New Year resolutions seriously and derive improvement and benefit therefrom. Still with the majority of us common mortals, if we make resolutions at all, they are broken before the New Year moon has waned.

This, however, should not discourage us. If we failed in 1917 we may succeed in 1918 in keeping our resolutions. If we failed to realize all our hopes and aspirations this year we should not because of that be deterred from resolving to do better the coming year. Even though we failed in all we should try again and, benefiting by the experiences which 1917 gave us, we may win out in 1918.

It is not because we have nothing to our credit from the past year's battling with the world and with ourselves but broken resolutions, wrecked hopes, neglected opportunities and, mayhap, sullied reputations, that we should not brace ourselves and face the coming year with renewed hope, firmer resolution and greater determination than ever before to redeem the past, and by our future conduct and upright dealings "live it down," and "raise our rotten opinion."

No matter how bitter have been our disappointments of the past, how great our failures which marred the pleasures and robbed us of the profits and happiness we anticipated during the year that has passed, we should write on the first page of the book of the New Year an earnest resolution to put to good use the lessons which our mistakes and disappointments of 1917 have taught us.

Try again and again. So long as we struggle onward we cannot permanently fail. The adverse tides of fortune may bear us backward for a space but success will eventually reward persistent effort in any endeavor.

The man who sits dejectedly and despondent by the grave of his dead hopes, his withered dreams and blighted aspirations, and despairs of the future because of his failures of the past is a coward and a loser underserving of success.

Only weaklings repine and, instead of keeping "pegging at it," spend their time nursing their bitterness and salving wounded self-esteem by self-pity.

Not because we have discovered that some of our idols were mere clay; not because we have been duped and deceived by those in whom we trusted; not because some men did not act on the square should we conclude that all men play with loaded dice.

When fortune's frowns are darkest, when friends are few, and few of those willing to "lend a hand" to help you over the rough road, when things are at their worst, then it is that the metal of a man is put to the test. Despondency is a maggot bred only in weak minds.

Shakespeare gives us some good advice on such conditions. Says he: "Cease to lament that which we cannot help and study help for that which we lamenteth." What use, indeed lamenting over things which our lamenting cannot help. It merely saps our energies, places a log around our necks which retards our progress. When our affairs are going bad, when the world seems against us, and we feel that matters could not be worse that is the time to take another half hitch on the "sticking post," and "screw our courage to the sticking point" and hold on. The tide won't always run in the one direction. "Times at their worst will cease, or can climb better," what they were before, and "things past remedy should be past care" is some more Shakespearean philosophy well worth entering in our book of memory for the coming year.

Passing years rob us one by one of the hopes, ambitions and plans that took form in our youthful imaginations, and at forty we look back upon the years as so many milestones marking where our brilliant hopes and blissful aspirations were dropped.

"A fool at forty is a fool indeed," may be quite true, but the greater number of men in the everyday avocations of life had not tasted success till they had passed the fortieth mile post.

Success cannot be attained in any

calling by dreaming and moping. Time, effort and perseverance are absolutely necessary to make our dreams realities.

Failure should not discourage a healthy and manly man. There have been many notable examples of men who were down and out at forty, and forty-five, and afterwards became successful and in some instances eminent men.

A week ago an old journalist met a middle aged friend and speaking of certain undertakings asked why he did not take it up. The younger man replied that he thought he was too far advanced in years to enter upon the work in question. On learning that his friend was just forty-five he said: "Only forty-five. Why, you have twenty-five of the best years of your life ahead of you."

Now this is really the case with a man of sound health. General Grant was well on in years, a notorious drunkard, and had never succeeded at anything when he entered the Union Army to fight for the North-ern in the Civil War.

There are many men who have given up the fight and drifted down life's stream with the flotsom and jetsom of the world's byways whose lot was not as desperate as was Grant's when he started in to redeem that came his way at a period in his country's history when men were being tried as never before, and from a despised and drunken failure he became the chief instrument for the preservation of the Union, and in recognition of his great service a grateful country elevated him to the highest position to which man can attain in the government of nations. The drunken, wastrel Grant, became the President of the United States. Such examples should inspire despondent ones with hope, and encourage those who are verging on despair because they are still among the unsuccessful and past forty.

And perchance it was a New Year resolution that marked the starting point in Grant's success and transformed the town drunkard into the successful and dauntless general, and finally made him President of the greatest Republic of the world. But his resolution alone could not have brought him success. It had to be backed by hard work, and Grant worked hard and won. Hard work and persistent effort wins every time in any walk of life.

Let the man who is "down and out" December, 1917, resolve to be "up and in the van of success" in December, 1918.

Don't lie down under failure. Don't let one nor a dozen failures discourage you. Don't sit down and wait for success to take you by the collar and shake you up. Get up and go after it, and keep on going even though it eludes your grasp a hundred times. You can do it if you will. The "will to conquer" wins more battles in life than people know of. It is essential to success.

Have we not heard it said from our earliest days that fortune favors the brave? But why? It is because the brave are those who grapple with the difficult things of life. They are the fighters in peace as well as in war. And the world hangs out its treasures to the men who fight and win them, and Fortune places her laurels on the brow of the man who dares to "hitch his chariot to a star," and attempts to "pluck bright honor from the pale-faced moon."

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Not the Writer

(To the Editor.)
Dear Sir,—In your issue of 24th inst. there appeared a letter from this place, signed "Full Stock," complaining of some irregularities in mail matters here. As to the accuracy or otherwise of the complaints made, I am not at present concerned, but as I am accused of being the writer of that letter, I emphatically say that I am not the writer, nor am I connected with it in any way.
The mailman and postmistress (Mr. and Mrs. Eli Parsons) are mourning the loss of an adopted son, who fell fighting in France, and I have too much personal sympathy for them in their bereavement to aggravate their trouble in any way, whatever the provocation might be.
I will thank you to corroborate this disclaimer.
Respectfully yours,
S. A. CASE.
Salmon Cove, Bay de Verde,
December 22nd., 1917.
(It is almost unnecessary for us to state that Mr. Case was not the writer of the letter referred to.—Ed.)

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