

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

Extract from a Letter Written by Abraham Lincoln to H. L. Pierce and Others, Springfield, Illinois, April 6, 1859—Reprinted from "Letters and Addresses of Abraham Lincoln" Unit Book Publishing Co. 1905.

The principles of Jefferson are the definitions and axioms of free society. And yet they are denied and evaded, with no small show of success. One dashing calls them "glittering generalities." Another bluntly calls them "self-evident lies." And others insidiously argue that they apply to "superior races." These expressions, differing in form, are identical in object and effect—the supplanting of the principles of free government, and restoring those of classification, caste, and legitimacy. They would delight a convocation of crowned heads plotting against the people. They are the vanguard, the miners and sappers of returning despotism. We must repulse them, or they will subjugate us. . . . Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and, under a just God, cannot long retain it. All honor to Jefferson—to the man who, in the concrete pressure of a struggle for national independence by a single people, had the coolness, forecast, and capacity to introduce into a merely revolutionary document an abstract truth, applicable to all men and all times, and so to embalm it there that to-day and in all coming days it shall be a rebuke and a stumbling-block to the very harbingers of reappearing tyranny and oppression.

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PHILIPPINE NOTES.

Extracts from a Letter Written by Dr. D. J. Doherty from Manila, Under Date of June 8, and Published in the Springfield Republican of Sept. 13, 1906.

William Jennings Bryan blazed a wide trail in these islands. The Filipinos speak loudly in his praise, and build great hopes on his influence with the American people. If they were incorporated into the Union, as a State, they would to a man vote the Democratic ticket. Bryan's letters on the Philippines have been eagerly awaited, and his argument in favor of their independence is comforting to all Filipinos. During his railroad trip in Luzon, the Bryan party used two new coaches that had been ordered especially for the Taft Congressional visitors, but arrived too late to be used by them. The railroad officials tendered the free use of the coaches, but the Filipino Reception Committee, knowing Mr. Bryan's views on railroad passes, declined the tender and paid 300 pesos for his trip.

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The return of the Commissioners from their summer capital at Benguet has enabled the public to learn that the franchises recently granted to the railroads are perpetual. The Filipino people had hoped and prayed and protested against giving perpetual franchises, but in vain. They asked that the question should be left open until the Legislative Assembly meets; but their request was unheeded. So the Islands are now bound by a perpetual obligation and a government guarantee. On the other hand it

should be said that the franchise is not exclusive, and that the government reserves the power to regulate rates.

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THE TREND TOWARD DEMOCRACY.

From Mr. Bryan's Speech at Madison Square Garden, New York City, Aug. 30, 1906.

In several of the nations of Europe the legislative department of government is more quickly responsive to public sentiment than is our Congress. In England, for instance, where the ministry is formed from the dominant party, when an election is held upon any important issue the government proceeds to put into law the will of the people expressed at the polls.

While our system is superior in many respects, it has one defect, viz., that Congress does not meet in regular session until thirteen months after the election. During this period there is uncertainty, long drawn out, which to the business community is often more damaging than a change of policy promptly carried into effect. Would not the situation be improved by a Constitutional amendment convening the first session of Congress within a few months after the election, and compelling the second session to adjourn several days before the following election? Such a change would not only serve legitimate business interests and give the public the benefit of more relief through remedial legislation, but it would protect the people from the jobs that are usually reserved for the short session, which is now held after the election, and when many of the members feel the less responsibility because of their defeat at the polls.

In all the countries which I have visited there is a demand that the government be brought nearer to the people. In China a constitution is under consideration. In Japan the people are demanding that the ministry, instead of being chosen by the Emperor from among his particular friends, shall be selected from Parliament and be in harmony with the dominant sentiment; in India there is agitation in favor of a native Congress; in Russia the Czar has been compelled to recognize the popular voice in the establishment of a Douma, and throughout Europe the movement manifests itself in various forms.

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THE COLOR LINE BELTS THE WORLD.

A Portion of an Article by W. E. Burghardt DuBois, Which Appeared in Collier's Weekly for October 20, 1906.

The tendency of the great nations of the day is territorial, political, and economic expansion, but in every case this has brought them in contact with darker peoples, so that we have to-day England, France, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Portugal and the United States in close contact with brown and black peoples, and Russia and Austria in contact with the yellow. The older idea was that the whites would eventually displace the native races and inherit their lands, but this idea has been rudely shaken in the increase of American Negroes, the experience of the English in Africa, India and the West Indies, and the development of South America. The policy of expan-