

OUR REPUBLICAN SPIRIT THEN AND NOW.

Edwin D. Mead in the Springfield Republican.

Switzerland and Brazil have already recognized the new republic of Portugal; Great Britain has conditionally promised recognition, and the welcomes from other powers will rapidly follow. Meantime we are informed that our own state department will act with "judicial caution." There was a time when we were not so cautious in extending the right hand of fellowship and welcome to an aspiring new republic or republican effort. It was not so long ago, as history goes; but it was before we were spending 70 per cent of our total national income on military expenses; before we had a "dependency" whose millions of people are almost unanimous in desiring independence of our rule, only kept in subjection by a strong army; before the head of our army was in the habit of making speeches urging that the republic "out-German Germany" in public military education and preparation, and before this redoubtable rough rider's old chief lieutenant, now an ex-president of the United States, went stumping the country in behalf of a bigger navy for—God knows what. Militarism and enthusiasm for democracy never go together. They never did, and they never will. When our present wretched fever has run its course and we have returned to sanity and health, we shall return to ringing utterance of our old republicanism, and run no risk of being at the tail end of the procession which celebrates the birth into the world of an aspiring and heroic new republic.

It is profitable, by way of comparison with our present "judicial caution," to turn back the pages of our history a little and see what the spirit of our government and people was touching such matters 60 years ago. That was when the Hungarians under Kossuth were in revolution, aspiring for independence. President Taylor, without waiting for their setting up a firm and stable government, sent a special agent to Europe to watch the progress of the revolution, with the intention, as he afterward informed the Senate, of acknowledging the independence of Hungary if she succeeded in setting up a government *de facto*. When this proceeding became known, it was considered by the Austrian government as offensive, and its representative at Washington, Mr. Hulsemann, complained of it in an official letter not couched in too courteous terms. The answer of our secretary of state touching the relations of the United States toward the people of other countries seeking through revolution to establish free institutions is a letter which should never be forgotten when this republic confronts such situations. This was in 1850, and Mr. Fillmore had succeeded Gen. Taylor in the presidency. The name of our secre-

tary of state at that time was Daniel Webster. His letter to Mr. Hulsemann fills a dozen pages in the large volumes, and every page is edifying and calculated to stir the noblest pride of the true American; but I shall quote simply from the brief passage in which Mr. Webster asserts the same right on our part to welcome the rise of republican movements in Europe which European monarchists were so freely exercising to criticize the "foolish" strivings of democracies and the "disorder, commotions and evils" to which all deviations from monarchy "necessarily lead." The sovereigns who then formed the European alliance, he reminded the Austrian diplomat, "have in their manifestoes and declarations denounced the popular ideas of the age in terms so comprehensive as of necessity to include the United States and their forms of government." It was known and admitted by intelligent powers all over the world "that the prevalence on the other continent of sentiments favorable to republican liberty was the result of the reaction of America upon Europe." The government of the United States had heard the European denunciations of its fundamental principles "without remonstrance or the disturbance of its equanimity;" but "the United States may be pardoned," said Mr. Webster firmly, "even by those who profess adherence to the principles of absolute government, if they entertain an ardent affection for those popular forms of political organization which have so rapidly advanced their own prosperity and happiness. They cannot fail to cherish always a lively interest in the fortunes of nations struggling for institutions like their own. They have abstained at all times from acts of interference with the political changes of Europe; but when they behold the people of foreign countries, without any such interference, spontaneously moving toward the adoption of institutions like their own, it surely cannot be expected of them to remain wholly indifferent spectators."

I believe that our people to-day are not indifferent spectators of the brave republican uprising in Portugal, and that a prompt official expression of sympathy would warm the popular heart, as the strong republican action of Zachary Taylor and Daniel Webster warmed the popular heart 60 years ago. Our business is to keep the United States the "source and center" of democratic influence for the world to-day, as they so proudly knew it to be then. There is no other so effective way to do it as in being quick to welcome and to help strong and noble struggles for freedom in the hour when help is worth something. Then it is that the brave nation acts, without waiting until the critical hour and the chance for virtue are past and it has become clear even to judicial caution that it is "prosperous to be just." Why were we so quick to recognize the republic of Panama, and by our recognition assure it standing and permanence? Was it because we felt republicanism there so much

more stable and worthy than in Portugal to-day? It will be a sad day for the great republic of Washington and Lincoln when its motives come under the suspicion of the unregenerate, and sadder when they fail to be the brave and heroic motives of the lovers of liberty.

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THE BALLOONS AND THE TARIFF.

J. W. Bengough in the Toronto Globe.

Old Peterkin, with Globe in hand, was reading out the news,

While his clever little grandson ran an auto on the floor;

He had read about bilingual schools and Chance's baseball views,

And various other matters, while the youngster asked for "more";

He was a thoughtful little boy,

Though he sat playing with a toy.

Then grandpap read how three balloons from Yankee Doodle's land

Had alighted in Ontario, somewhere up Cobalt way, Whereon the juvenile remarked: "I scarcely understand;"

And in a thoughtful attitude he ceased his childish play.

Says he: "If that can really be,
It must be a calamity!"

"Why, no, my boy," his grandpap said; "no one was hurt at all,

Th' balloonatics are all quite safe so far as we are told."

"But what about our industries? and where's our tariff wall?

Suppose they've brought in Yankee goods, won't we be undersold?

Grandpap, I really fail to see
What good a tariff is," said he.

"Balloons can carry lots of stuff as well as ships and cars,

And how can customs officers get at 'em with a tax?

The thing's impossible, which proves that tariff bolts and bars

Are just expensive nuisances—red tape and sealing-wax;

Grandpap," said he, "the thing's too thin,
They've got to roof the country in!"

"My child," Old Peterkin replied, "your reasoning is sound;

A system that won't always work's a system that's untrue;

Protection that cannot 'protect' unless it's on the ground

Is a hollow fraud and mockery—that is my settled view."

"Grandpap," replied the kiddie, "Gee!
You're a philosopher, I see!"

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Eat, drink and be merry to-day, for to-morrow you may diet.—Chapparral.

BOOKS

THE STRUGGLE FOR MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE.

The Life and Times of Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla.
By Arthur Howard Noll and A. Philip McMahon.
Published by A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago. 1910.
Price, \$1.00 net.

When Mexico celebrated last month the one-hundredth anniversary of her independence, the hero of the nation was Hidalgo, a radical priest and militant patriot, whose call to arms in 1810 was the beginning of the struggle for freedom from Spain.

"At 5 o'clock on Sunday, the 16th of September," writes his biographer, "Hidalgo gathered his host in the patio of the parish church of Dolores and rang again his liberty bell. The priest said mass, the worshipers being a motley crowd of men armed with lances, machetes, pikes and the few weapons secured from the soldiers of the queen's regiment. He then addressed his congregation in words well calculated to incite them to insurrection. He drew a picture of the evils which rested over them; the iniquities of the Government to which they were subject and the advantages of independence. His venerable appearance, his voice and manner, and his attractive words aroused in them the greatest enthusiasm, and they gave a great shout, 'Viva Independencia! Viva America! Muera el mal gobierno!' (Long live Independence! Long live America! Death to bad government!)

"It was in accordance with the time-honored custom of Latin peoples (originating in times long antecedent to the printing press, and when few of the people could read) that every revolution should begin with a *viva voce* proclamation. Therefore this shout, this battle cry was accepted as a proclamation of the popular demands for a new order of things. It has ever since been known as the *Grito de Dolores*."

Less than a year later Hidalgo met defeat and death. But others continued the struggle and in 1822 Mexico was recognized as an independent monarchy by the United States, and became a republic three years later. After fifty years more of turmoil, "a grateful country made Porfirio Diaz chief magistrate," who "added to his patriotic zeal a wisdom which has enabled him to adapt the Constitution to the highest needs of the country; to establish good government, which shall serve the best interests of the people; and to elevate Mexico to condition of prosperity and happiness at home, and to a position among the nations of the earth which commands the respect of all."

Such praise of Diaz the reader may find hard to