

knew it, broke it, and am lost. Bid him to keep it, and be safe."

As Chief Justice Story said:

We stand the latest, and if we fall, probably the last experiment of self-government by the people.

Within the next few months it will be decided whether the people will preserve "what they themselves have created," or whether America "is to be added to the catalogue of republics, the inscription upon whose ruins is, 'They were, but they are not.'"

LIDA CALVERT OBENCHAIN.

#### WHAT PATRIOTISM DEMANDS.

We have sympathized with all oppressed peoples—with Ireland, Greece, Armenia, Cuba. To emancipate the slave we gladly sacrificed the lives of hundreds of thousands of our soldiers. And now the American soldier, who should never shoulder a gun except in a righteous cause, is sent 10,000 miles across the ocean to shoot men whose real crime is that they wish to be free, wish to govern themselves.

To say that they are unfit for freedom is to put forth the plea of the tyrant in all ages and everywhere. The enemies of liberty have never lacked for pretexts to justify their wrongs; but, in truth, at the root of all wars of conquest there lies lust for blood or for gold.

If the inhabitants of the Philippines came gladly to throw themselves into our arms, we should refuse to do more than counsel, guide and protect them until they form themselves into a stable and independent government. What then is to be thought of those who seem resolved either to rule or to exterminate them, believing probably that the only good Filipino is a dead Filipino?

The thought of ruling over subject peoples is repugnant to our deepest and noblest sentiments. It is part of our good fortune, of our providential position and mission in the world, that our country is vast enough and self-sufficient enough to make all desire for conquest an unholy and meaningless temptation. We have room for three or four hundred millions of human beings. If more are required, and we are true to ourselves, British America will come to us without there being need of firing a gun.

We have money enough already and our wealth is increasing rapidly. What we have to learn is how to live, how to distribute our money, how to take from it its mastery over us and make it our servant.

Commercial and manufacturing competition is becoming a struggle

for existence fiercer than that which makes nature red with ravin in tooth and claw. Whereas the tendency of true civilization and religion is to convert the struggle for life into co-operation for life, into work of all for all, that all may have those inner goods which make men wise, holy, beautiful and strong—whereas, this is the tendency of right civilization, our greed, our superstitious belief in money as the only true God and Saviour of men, hurries us on with increasing speed into all the venalities, dishonesties and corruptions, into all the tricks and trusts by which the people are disheartened and impoverished.

We are hypnotized by the glitter and glare, the pomp and circumstance of wealth, and are becoming incapable of a rational view of life. We have lost taste for simple things and simple ways. We flee from the country as from a desert, and find self-forgetfulness only amid the noise and rush of great cities, where high thought and pure affection are well-nigh impossible. How far we have drifted from that race of farmers who threw off the yoke of England and built the noble state; who believed that honor was better than money, freedom than luxury and display! Their plain democratic republic is no longer good enough for us.

We are becoming imperial. We must have mighty armies, and navies which shall encircle the earth to bring into subjection weak and unprotected savages and barbarians.

We are the victims of commercialism; we have caught the contagion of the insanity that the richest nations are the worthiest and most enduring. We have lost sight of the eternal principles that all freedom is enrooted in moral freedom, that riches are akin to fear and death, that by the soul only can a nation be great.

If we but have the courage to look steadfastly and to see things as they are, we shall easily perceive that our true work lies here, and not 10,000 miles away. We are the foremost bearers of the most precious treasures of the race. In the success of the experiment which we are making the hopes of all noble and generous souls for a higher life of mankind are centered. If we fail, the world fails; if we succeed we shall do more for the good of all men than if we conquered all the islands and continents. Our mission is to show that popular government on a vast scale is compatible with the best culture, the purest re-

ligion, the highest justice, and that it can permanently endure. In comparison with this what would be a thousand groups of Philippines? What the most brilliant career of imperial pomp and glory?—"Opportunity," by Bishop John L. Spaulding, of Peoria, Ill.

#### THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD. For The Public.

Extract from a sermon preached by the Rev Quincy Ewing, in St. James Episcopal church, Greenville, Miss., from the text: "Be not conformed to this age," etc.

The apostle's advice was not superfluous, was no platitude, 18 centuries ago; it was needed, then, for the strengthening of tempting, struggling, Christ-led human souls, and it has spoken to the deeper need, it has appealed to the eternal heart-yearning, of every generation since.

For, my friends, no age has dawned upon earth since St. Paul wrote his epistle to the Romans that any Christian could conform himself to and yet remain a Christian. It is simply flattery of the centuries past and the century present to call them Christian. There has never been a Christian century, or one Christian day, in any land since the Gospel was taught from Olivet and from Calvary. There has never been a time when the strong, sure voice of some apostle was not needed to say to the men and women of it: "Be ye not conformed to this time, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God!"

The Gospel of Jesus—it has been through all the centuries a steady, white, unique light, blazing upon the highest mountain top of human aspiration; and steadily has it been seen by the eyes of the noblest of the race, and steadily approached by their upward-climbing feet; but there have been lesser low lights innumerable, shining, and flickering, and sputtering, here and there, in the wide valley of human desire, and human passion, and human weakness, and these have lighted the level pathways of most men and women in every age. Always the spirit of the time has attacked and overpowered and undone the Christianity of most Christians, by subtly, gradually, indirectly, conforming them to its less than Christly vision, its less than Christly aim.

It were perhaps an excess of optimism, or lack of true spiritual perception, which should lead us to declare that in our age the apostle's appeal has lost aught of its original timeliness.