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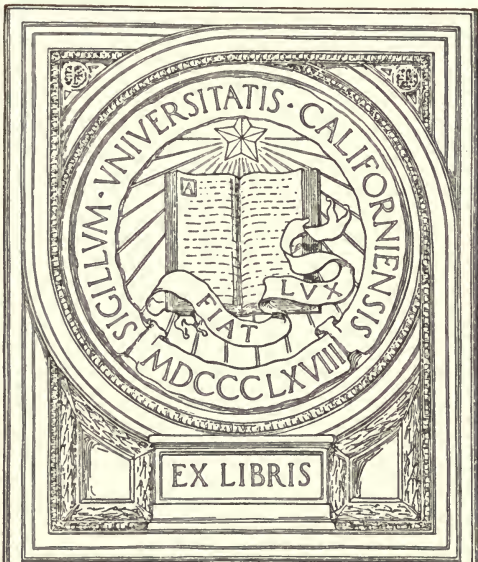
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A Statesman's Words.

EXTRACTS FROM A FEW  
OF THE  
SPEECHES  
OF  
HON. JAMES A. GARFIELD.

FINANCE.

"DIVORCE OF BANK AND STATE"—NO GOVERNMENT BANK.

"It is the experience of all nations, and it is the almost unanimous opinion of all eminent statesmen and financial writers, that no nation can safely undertake to supply its people with a paper currency issued directly by the Government. And to apply that principle to our own country, let me ask if gentlemen think it safe to subject any political party who may be in power in this Government to the great temptation of over-issues of paper money in lieu of taxation? In times of high political excitement, and on the eve of a general election, when there might be a deficiency in the revenues of the country, and Congress should find it necessary to levy additional taxes, the temptation would be overwhelming to supply the deficit by an increased issue of paper money. Thus the whole business of the country, the value of all contracts, the prices of all commodities, the wages of labor, would depend upon a vote in Congress. For one, I dare not trust the great industrial interests of this country to such uncertain and hazardous chances.

"But even if Congress and the Administration should be always superior to such political temptations, still I affirm, in the second place, that no human legislature is wise enough to determine how much currency the wants of this country require. Test it in this House to-day. Let every member mark down the amount which he believes the business of the country requires, and who does not know that the amounts will vary by hundreds of millions?

"But a third objection, stronger even than the last, is this: that such a currency possesses no power of adapting itself to the business of the country. Suppose the total issues should be five hundred millions, or seven hundred millions, or any amount you please; it might be abundant for spring and summer, and yet when the great body of agricultural products were moving off to market in the fall, that amount might be totally insufficient. Fix any volume you please, and if it be just sufficient at one period it may be redundant at another, or insufficient at another. No currency can meet the wants of this country unless it is founded directly upon the demands of business, and not upon the caprice, the ignorance, the political selfishness of the party in power.

"What regulates now the loans and discounts and credits of our national banks? The business of the country. The amount increases or decreases, or remains stationary, as business is fluctuating or steady. This is a natural form of exchange, based upon the business of the country, and regulated by its changes. And when that happy day arrives when the whole volume of our currency is redeemable in gold at the will of the holder, and recognized by all nations as equal to money, then the whole business of banking, the whole volume of currency, the whole amount of credits, whether in the form of checks,

**drafts, or bills, will be regulated by the same general law, the business of the country.** The business of the country is like the level of the ocean, from which all measurements are made of heights and depths. Though tides and currents may for a time disturb, and tempests vex and toss its surface, still, through calm and storm the grand level rules all its waves and lays its measuring-lines on every shore. So the business of the country, which, in the aggregated demands of the people for exchange of values, marks the ebb and flow, the rise and fall of the currents of trade, forms the base-line from which to measure all our financial legislation, and is the only safe rule by which the volume of our currency can be determined."—*Speech in the House of Representatives, "Currency and the Banks," January 7, 1870.*

## RESUMPTION.

"If one thing was settled above all other questions of financial policy in the American mind at that time, [1860,] it was this, that the *only sound, safe, trustworthy standard of value was coin of standard weight and fineness, or a paper currency convertible into coin at the will of the holder.* That was and had been for several generations the almost unanimous opinion of the American people.

\* \* \* \* \*  
 "War, the imperious necessities of war, led the men of 1861-'62 to depart from the doctrine of the fathers; but they did not depart from it as a matter of choice, but compelled by overmastering necessity. Every man in the Senate and House of 1862, who voted for the greenback law, announced that he did it with the greatest possible reluctance and with the gravest apprehension for the result. *Every man who spoke on this subject, from Thaddeus Stevens to the humblest member of this House, and from Pessenden to the humblest Senator, warned his country against the dangers that might follow, and pledged his honor that, at the earliest possible moment, the country should be brought back to the old, safe, established doctrine of the fathers.*

"When they made the law creating the greenbacks, they incorporated into its essential provisions the most solemn pledge men could devise, that they would return to the doctrines of the fathers. The very law that created the greenback provided for its redemption and retirement; and whenever the necessities of war required an additional issue, new guarantees and new limitations were put upon the new issues to insure their ultimate redemption. They were issued upon the fundamental condition that the number should be so limited forever that under the law of contracts the courts might enforce their sanction. The men of 1862 knew the dangers from sad experience in our history; and, like Ulysses, lashed themselves to the mast of public credit when they embarked upon the stormy and boisterous sea of inflated paper money, that they might not be beguiled by the siren song that would be sung to them when they were afloat on the wild waves."—*Speech in the House of Representatives, "Repeal of the Resumption Law," November 16, 1877.*

"Scarcely had the echoes of their cannon died away when they set about the work of redeeming these pledges. In 1866, by the almost unanimous voice of both houses of Congress, the work was commenced for the redemption and cancellation of these notes. The great revenues of the nation were applied to this purpose and to the reduction of the interest-bearing debt.

"Hardly had the great cost of the war been stated when the nation was menaced with the formidable threat of repudiation. The worst elements of American politics were appealed to, and the passions of selfishness and cupidity were summoned to the aid of those who joined in the assault on the public faith.

"The autumn of 1867 and the spring of 1868 were days of darkness and gloom; but during the summer and fall of 1868 the Republican party appealed with confidence to the American conscience to put down repudiation in every form, to keep the public faith, and pay the sacred obligations of the war to the uttermost farthing.

"No issue was ever more sharply defined than that on which the presidential canvass of 1868 was made. That issue was declared in the national platform of the Republican party, and the victorious results were announced in the first message of Grant, wherein he stated that—

"To protect the national honor every dollar of Government indebtedness should be paid in gold unless otherwise expressly stipulated in the contract. Let it be understood that no repudiator of one farthing of our public debt will be trusted in public places, and it will go far toward strengthening a credit which ought to be the best in the world."

"This victory was sealed by the first act of Congress to which President Grant gave the approval of his signature. It was a victory won in the name of the public conscience, the public honor, the public faith—in the name of truth. From that moment the public credit was enhanced, month by month, and the national faith met no shock until the great struggle of 1870, when a most formidable attempt was made to break down the barriers of public confidence and launch the Nation again upon a career of irredeemable paper money expansion."—*Speech in House of Representatives, "Currency and the Public Faith," April 8, 1874.*

#### CURRENCY NEEDED IN THE COUNTRY.

"The amount of currency needed in the country depends, as we have seen, upon the amount of business transacted by means of money. The amount of business, however, is varied by many causes which are irregular and uncertain in their operation. An Indian war, deficient or abundant harvests, an overflow of the cotton lands of the South, a bread famine or war in Europe, and a score of such causes, entirely beyond the reach of legislation, may make money deficient this year and abundant next. The needed amount varies also from month to month in the same year. More money is required in the autumn, when the vast products of agriculture are being moved to market, than when the great army of laborers are in winter-quarters, awaiting the seed time.

"When the money of the country is gold and silver, it adapts itself to the fluctuations of business without the aid of legislation. If at any time we have more than is needed, the surplus flows off to other countries through the channels of international commerce. If less, the deficiency is supplied through the same channels. Thus the monetary equilibrium is maintained. So immense is the trade of the world that the golden streams pouring from California and Australia into the specie circulation are soon absorbed in the great mass and equalized throughout the world, as the waters of all the rivers are spread upon the surface of all the seas.

"Not so, however, with an inconvertible paper currency. Excepting the specie used in payment of customs and the interest on our public debt, we are cut off from the money currents of the world. Our currency resembles rather the waters of an artificial lake, which lie in stagnation or rise to full banks at the caprice of the gatekeeper.

"Gold and silver abhor depreciated paper money, and will not keep company with it. If our currency be more abundant than business demands, not a dollar of it can go abroad; if deficient, not a dollar of gold will come in to supply the lack. There is no legislature on earth wise enough to adjust such a currency to the wants of the country."—*Speech in the House of Representatives, May 15, 1868.*

#### INCREASE OF THE CURRENCY IS TAXATION.

"No such change of values can occur without cost. Somebody must pay for it. Who pays in this case? We have seen that doubling the currency finally results in reducing the purchasing power of each dollar one-half; hence every man who held a legal-tender note at the time of the increase, and continued to hold it till the full effect of the increase was produced, suffered a loss of fifty per cent. of its value; in other words, he paid a tax to the amount of half of all the currency in his possession. This new issue, therefore, by depreciating the value of all the currency, cost the holders of the old issue \$175,000,000; and if the new notes were received at their nominal value at the date of issue, their holders paid a tax of \$175,000,000 more. No more unequal or unjust mode of taxation could possibly be devised. It would be tolerated only by being so involved in the transactions of business as to be concealed from observation; but it would be no less real because hidden.

#### ITS CHIEF BURDEN FALLS ON THE LABORER.

"But some one may say, 'This depreciation would fall upon capitalists and rich men who are able to bear it.'

"If this were true it would be no less unjust. But unfortunately the capitalists would suffer less than any other class. The new issue would be paid in the first place in large amounts to the creditors of the Government; it would pass from their hands before the depreciation had taken full effect, and passing down step by step through the ranks of middle men, the dead weight would fall at last upon the laboring classes in the increased price of all the necessaries of life. It is well known that in a general rise of prices, wages are among the last to rise. This principle was illustrated in the report of the

Special Commissioner of the Revenue for the year 1866. It is there shown that from the beginning of the war to the end of 1866, the average price of all commodities had risen 90 per cent. Wages, however, had risen but 60 per cent. A day's labor would purchase but two-thirds as many of the necessaries of life as it would before. The wrong is therefore inflicted on the laborer long before his income can be adjusted to his increased expenses. It was in view of this truth that Daniel Webster said in one of his ablest speeches :

*"Of all the contrivances for cheating the laboring classes of mankind, none has been more effectual than that which deludes them with paper money. This is the most effectual of inventions to fertilize the rich man's field by the sweat of the poor man's brow. Ordinary tyranny, oppression, excessive taxation, these bear lightly on the happiness of the mass of the community, compared with a fraudulent currency and the robberies committed by depreciated paper."*

\* \* \* \* \*

"All debts would be canceled, all contracts fulfilled by payment in these notes— not at their real value, but for their face. All salaries fixed by law, the pay of every soldier in the Army, of every sailor in the Navy, and all pensions and bounties would be reduced to half their former value. In these cases the effect is only injurious. Let it never be forgotten that every depreciation of our currency results in robbing the one hundred and eighty thousand pensioners, maimed heroes, crushed and bereaved widows, and homeless orphans, who sit helpless at our feet. And who would be benefited by this policy? A pretense of apology might be offered for it, if the Government could save what the people lose. But the system lacks the support of even that selfish and immoral consideration. The depreciation caused by the overissue in the case we have supposed, compels the Government to pay just that per cent. more on all the contracts it makes, on all the loans it negotiates, on all the supplies it purchases; and to crown all, it must at last redeem all its legal-tender notes in gold coin, dollar for dollar. The advocates of repudiation have yet been bold enough to deny this."—*Speech in House of Representatives, "The Currency," May 15, 1868.*

#### THE GUILTY DEMOCRACY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BLOOD AND COST OF THE REBELLION.

"My friend from Indiana [Mr. NIBLACK] is not himself an extreme partisan. But he has said some things just now which deserve an answer. He says that if the glory of the war belongs to the Republican party, then the results of the war, the expenditures of the war, and the burdens laid upon the people in consequence of the war, fall also to our share. A part of this statement I indorse. But, Mr. Chairman, I desire to ask that gentleman and his party a question. Suppose that in the year 1861 every Democrat north of the Potomac and the Ohio had followed the lead of Grant, and Douglas, and Dickinson, and Tod, and all the other great lights of the Democratic party, had thrown away the Democratic name and said that they would be Democrats no longer, as we said we would be Republicans no longer, but all would be Union men, and stand together around the flag until the rebellion had been put under our feet. I desire to ask the gentleman, if these things had happened, how long the war would have lasted, how much the war would have cost? *I do not hesitate to say that it could not have lasted a month, and the expenditures of the war would never have exceeded \$10,000,000.\** I say, as a matter of current history, that it was the great hope of the rebels of the South that the assistance of the Democratic party of the North would divide our forces and overcome all our efforts; that at the ballot-box the Democrats at home would help the cause which they were maintaining in the field. It was that, and that alone, which protracted the war and created our immense debt.

"I come, therefore, to the door of your party, gentlemen on the other side, and I lay down at your threshold every dollar of the debt, every item of the stupendous total which expresses the great cost of the war; and I say if you had followed Douglas there would have been no debt, no blood, no burden. I will not stop here to call up before your door also the long line of ghosts of slain heroes, our brothers who fell at the hands of rebels, in consequence of your sympathy and encouragement."—*Speech in House of Representatives, "Public Expenditures," March 14, 1870.*

\* By an official statement recently sent by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Senate of the United States in reference to a resolution of inquiry, it appears that the expenditure of the United States, necessarily growing out of the war of the rebellion, from July 1, 1861, up to June 30, 1879, reached the enormous aggregate of \$6,189,929,903.58.—*Congressional Committee.*



## RECONSTRUCTION—GOD VISIBLE IN RECONSTRUCTION.

"I cannot forget that we have learned slowly. \* \* \* I cannot forget that less than five years ago I received an order from my superior officer commanding me to search my camp for a fugitive slave, and if found to deliver him up to a Kentucky captain who claimed him as his property; and *I had the honor to be perhaps the first officer in the army who peremptorily refused to obey such an order.* We were then trying to save the Union without hurting slavery. \* \* \* It took us two years to reach a point where we were willing to do the most meagre justice to the black man and to recognize the truth that

" 'A man's a man for a' that !'

"Sir, the hand of God has been visible in this work, leading us by degree out of the blindness of our prejudices to see that the fortunes of the Republic and the safety of the party of liberty are inseparably bound up with the rights of the black man. At last our party must see that if it would preserve its political life, or maintain the safety of the Republic, we must do justice to the humblest man in the Nation, whether black or white. I thank God that to-day we have struck the rock; we have planted our feet upon solid earth. Streams of light will gleam out from the luminous truth embodied in the legislation of this day. This is the *ne plus ultra* of reconstruction, and I hope we shall have the courage to go before our people everywhere with 'This or nothing' for our motto.

"Now, sir, as a temporary measure, I give my support to this military bill properly restricted. It is severe. It was written with a steel pen made out of a bayonet; and bayonets have done us good service hitherto. All I ask is that Congress shall place civil governments before these people of the rebel States, and a cordon of bayonets behind them.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Now, what does this bill propose? It lays the hands of the Nation upon the rebel State governments, and takes the breath of life out of them. It puts the bayonet at the breast of every rebel murderer in the South to bring him to justice. It commands the army to protect the life and property of citizens whether black or white. It places in the hands of Congress absolutely and irrevocably the whole work of reconstruction.

"With this thunderbolt in our hands shall we stagger like idiots under its weight? Have we grasped a weapon which we have neither the courage nor the wisdom to wield?"—*Speech in House of Representatives, February 12, 1867.*

## GENERAL WINFIELD S. HANCOCK'S COURSE IN LOUISIANA.

"I will allude to one example where he [President Andrew Johnson] has found in a major-general in the army a facile instrument with which more effectually to obstruct the work of reconstruction. This case is all the more painful, because an otherwise meritorious officer, who bears honorable scars earned in battle for the Union, has been made a party to the political madness which has so long marked the conduct of the President. This general was sent into the district of Louisiana and Texas with a law of Congress in his hand, a law that commands him to see that justice is administered among the people of that country, and that no pretense of civil authority shall deter him from performing his duty, and yet we find that officer giving lectures in the form of proclamations and orders on what *ought to be the relation between the civil and military departments of the Government.* We see him issuing a general order, in which he declares that the civil should not give way before the military. We hear him declaring that he finds nothing in the laws of Louisiana and Texas to warrant his interference in the civil administration of those States. It is not for him to say which should be first, the civil or the military, in that rebel community. It is not for him to search the defunct laws of Louisiana and Texas for a guide to his conduct. It is for him to execute the laws which he was sent there to administer. *It is for him to aid in building up civil governments, rather than preparing himself to be the presidential candidate of that party which gave him no sympathy when he was gallantly fighting the battles of the country.*

\* \* \* \* \*

"With such a combination against us, does any one suppose that we can take one step backward; much less that *we will permit an officer of our army to fling back in our faces his contempt of our law, and tell us what policy shall be adopted?* It was reported in the public papers only yesterday, that the Governor of Texas had informed General Hancock that murderers in Texas could not be punished by the civil law. Yet this general sends back word to the Governor of Texas, that he does not wish to interfere in any civil matters.

Sir, he was sent down there for the very purpose of interfering in such matters as the non-punishment of murderers."—*Speech in House of Representatives, January 17, 1868.*

## THE EXTRA SESSION.

### NULLIFICATION.

The three great "grievances" at this session of the Democracy were: First, pretended military interference with elections; second, the jurors' test oath, and, third, several sections of the law relating to supervisors and marshals at national elections. The removal of these was demanded by the Democracy, accompanied with the threat that if not removed they would, by withholding the necessary appropriations, practically suspend all the functions of government. In response to these demands Mr. Garfield said:

"We declared our willingness on this side of the House, first, to pass a bill which the Senate, a Republican Senate, sent to us repealing that section of the statute which prescribed a test oath for jurors. We were ready then, we are ready now, to pass that bill just as the Senate sent it to us at the last session. Second, we said then, we have frequently repeated the offer this session, and we say now, that we have never voted for a law to make use of the Army to run elections. We have said repeatedly that there never was in this country, and there is not now, such a law, and we do not desire such a law or such a practice; and that if any act was needed to prevent the running of elections by bayonets we were ready to help prevent it. These two propositions we offered at the close of the last session in order to remove any real or apparent ground of complaint on those two scores, provided that, on the other side, the third demand, namely, the repeal of the laws relating to supervisors and marshals, should be abandoned.

"These offers were rejected with arrogant contempt, and the extra session was forced upon the country."

"Soon after this session began we were tendered an army bill that had in it, not a repeal of the law of 1865, alleged to be an offense, not that, for we tendered that, and 109 Republicans voted to repeal it and not one Republican voted against the repeal, while every Democrat in this House voted against its repeal. Instead of a repeal it was proposed so to modify the law of 1865 as to enlarge its restrictions beyond the Army and Navy, and make it a crime punishable by imprisonment or fine, for any civil officer of the United States to employ any armed force, soldiers or citizens to keep the peace at the national elections. In other words, we were tendered a proposition which swept the whole circle of the civil powers with its prohibitions, and prevented the civil authorities of the Nation from preserving the peace at the elections of our national legislatures or protecting supervisors in the execution of their duties.

"That assault upon the law we resisted as one man. But while we resisted we protested that we were not and never had been advocates of running elections by bayonets.

"Though that bill, with its revolutionary menace, passed both houses, it was wrecked upon the rock of the Constitution, and went down, leaving not a spar afloat on the face of the political waters."—*Speech in the House of Representatives, June 11, 1879.*

### JUDICIAL APPROPRIATION BILL.

"The issue is narrowed down to this: The gentleman tells us that he and his associates are determined that there shall be appointed no marshals, deputy marshals, or assistant marshals to execute the laws of the Union, as embodied in title 26 of the Revised Statutes; that they have devised and agreed on this clause in the conference between the two houses so as to prevent the enforcement of that part of the existing law. This makes a sharp issue which everybody can understand."

"But not being able constitutionally to repeal them, [the election laws,] gentlemen on the other side say, 'We will prevent their enforcement.' And, in attempting this, they attack the Government in a very vital part. They know that the whole country, without regard to party, needs to have the courts of the United States open to all suitors. They know that justice ought to be administered in every district and circuit court of the United States.

"They know that United States prisoners are locked up, some under

sentence of our courts, others awaiting trial; and that the Constitution provides that all who are held under charges shall have speedy trial. The great duty, the imperative obligation, to provide for the speedy and prompt administration of justice rests upon members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike. But the majority of this House have segregated from all the other appropriations of the year this one for the judicial expenses of the Government, and now offer an appropriation of two and a half millions of dollars, and say, not to us alone, but through us to the Nation and to all the officers of the Nation, that this money of the people, which has been paid into the National Treasury for the very purpose of maintaining the courts, shall not be used for that purpose, only on condition that the Democratic party shall be permitted to couple with it a provision that certain laws of the land which they cannot repeal shall not be enforced; nay, more, that for the coming year these laws shall be nullified. In short, *we are told that we must submit to the nullification of the election laws, or the courts of the United States shall be closed, the prisoners awaiting trial shall be discharged or shall be held untried, against the constitutional provision in their behalf, and that no provision shall be made even to feed them. It is to be made unlawful to try them, unlawful to keep them, and it is unlawful to discharge them.* With these hard conditions you have fettered the appropriations, the use of which reaches to the very vitals of national justice. You say, 'Take these appropriations, coupled with the nullification of certain laws, or you shall not have them at all.'

"Gentlemen, we earnestly desire to go home. We have borne the burden of this long, weary, and profitless session until we are anxious to go to our homes and rest and give the country rest. But we cannot, even under the persuasive heat of the dog-star and the pressure of this weary and distasteful work, accept the dishonor which the bill offers. It is a moral bribe to us to consent to the nullification of laws which you seek not to improve but to destroy. We cannot, we will not, consent.

"You have retained in this bill a clause which, if it becomes a law, will place the President of the United States between two fires—the fire of this law if he disobeys it, and the fire of Heaven if he violates his oath by obeying it."—*Speech in the House of Representatives, June 19, 1879.*

#### MILITARY INTERFERENCE WITH ELECTIONS.

"Let me recall a little history. When flagrant war was raging, when eleven States were banded against the Union to destroy it, and the theatre of war spread over five or six States that adhered to the Union, there was in fact military interference at the elections—it was the military interference of the armed enemies of the United States.

"I once voted at an election where there was a very serious military interference. In the autumn of 1862, under the heights of Missionary Ridge, near the city of Chattanooga, when 5,000 Ohio soldiers under the laws of that State were permitted to vote, I, in company with my comrades, voted for a governor of Ohio.

"While we were voting, the shells from the batteries of armed enemies of the United States were bursting over our heads, and some of our voters were killed while in the exercise of their right of suffrage as citizens of Ohio. That was the only military interference with elections that I ever witnessed. Now, it was to prevent that kind of military interference that the armies of the United States in time of war kept off the armed enemies of the United States in the State of Kentucky and in other border States while elections were being held there. And in order that, in the performance of that necessary duty, they might not interfere with the freedom of elections and the right of citizens, the act of February, 1865, was passed while our guns were yet smoking, and while we were yet in line of battle. Even in that act it was provided, under the severest penalties of criminal law, that no officer, civil, military, or naval, should interfere with the right of any man to vote, or should undertake to prescribe qualifications for a voter."—*Speech in the House of Representatives, April 26, 1879.*

#### ARMY AS AN ORDINARY POLICE FORCE.

"Now, I say that the act of 1865 was *in the interest of civil liberty*, restraining our armies from doing any wrong or committing any outrage. And in that act there occurs for the first time in the history of our legislation connected with the Army the expression, 'to keep the peace at the polls.' And even there it is used for the purpose of saying that the law does not make it a

crime punishable by fine and imprisonment for an officer of the Government 'to keep the peace at the polls,' or to repel the armed enemies of the United States. *Nothing in that law refers to the use of the Army as ordinary police force.* The marshals and their deputies are the police force of the United States. Our Army is governed by the rules and articles of war, and is always used as an army when it is ordered to execute the laws.

"The proposition to use our Army as a police, to send the soldiers out and station them one by one at the polls to run the elections as a police, is a fiction so absurd that I trust no man on this side of the House will give the least color to the assumption that he favors it by holding that this sixth section repeals, suspends, or modifies any existing statute."—*Speech in the House of Representatives, April 26, 1879.*

### THE TEUTONIC TRAITS.

"We are accustomed to say, and we have heard to-night, that he [Gustave Schleicher] was born on foreign soil. In one sense that is true; and yet in a very proper historic sense he was born in our fatherland. One of the ablest of recent historians begins his opening volume with the declaration that England is not the fatherland of the English-speaking people, but the ancient home, the real fatherland of our race, is the ancient forests of Germany. The same thought was suggested by Montesquieu long ago, when he declared in his Spirit of Laws that the British constitution came out of the woods of Germany.

"To this day the Teutonic races maintain the same noble traits that Tacitus describes in his admirable history of the manners and character of the German. We may therefore say that the friend whose memory we honor to-night is one of the elder brethren of our race. He came to America direct from our fatherland, and not, like our own fathers, by the way of England.

"We who were born and have passed all our lives in this wide New World can hardly appreciate the influences that surrounded his early life. Born on the borders of that great forest of Germany, the Odenwald, filled as it is with the memories and traditions of centuries, in which are mingled Scandinavian mythology, legends of the middle ages, romances of feudalism and chivalry, histories of barons and kings, and the struggles of a brave people for a better civilization; reared under the institutions of a strong, semi-despotic government; devoting his early life to personal culture, entering at an early age the University of Giessen, venerable with its two and a-half centuries of existence, with a library of four hundred thousand volumes at his hand, with a great museum of the curiosities and mysteries of nature to study, he fed his eager spirit upon the rich culture which that Old World could give him, and at twenty-four years of age, in company with a band of thirty-seven young students, like himself, cultivated, earnest, liberty-loving almost to the verge of communism—and who of us would not be communists in a despotism?—he came to this country, attracted by one of the most wild and romantic pictures of American history, the picture of Texas as it existed near forty years ago; the country discovered by La Salle at the end of his long and perilous voyage from Quebec to the northern lakes and from the lakes to the Gulf of Mexico; the country possessed alternately by the Spanish and the French and then by Mexico; the country made memorable by such names as Blair, Houston, Albert Sidney Johnston and Mirabeau Lamar, perhaps as adventurous and daring spirits as ever assembled on any spot of the earth: a country that achieved its freedom by heroism never surpassed, and which maintained its perilous independence for ten years in spite of border enemies and European intrigues.

"It is said that a society was formed in Europe embracing in its membership men of high rank, even members of royal families, for the purpose of colonizing the new Republic of the Lone Star and making it a dependency of Europe under their patronage; but without sharing in their designs, some twenty thousand Germans found their way to the new republic, and among these young Schleicher came."—*Remarks in House of Representatives, February 11, 1879, on the Life and Character of Gustave Schleicher.*



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