

The United States of America.

Analyses.

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It was when the flames of persecution were awfully raging, that a frail vessel might have been seen to leave one of the English ports, “leaving” as it has been said, “the [...] of life and death,” bound for an unknown and savage country. The [rude] [...] came on, struggling manfully with the mighty waters of the Atlantic, while its passengers regarded all their misfortunes as being ominous of evil, but they were prepared for the worst, for they Puritans. They had fled from the torch and faggot to preserve inviolate their religion, and to worship God, as they pleased. Little did they then know, that they would be the founders of the greatest country in the world- The United States of America. And what was this country, to which they were bound? Was it an enlightened country? No. Was it peopled by civilized beings? No. It was a country, abounding in extensive forests, large rivers, great lakes and mighty swamps, inaccessible to every one unacquainted with the nature of the country. Its inhabitants were Indians, of whose former history little is known.

As the settlers increased as to number, the marks of civilization began to be apparently seen. The Red Man groaned, as he saw the hunting-grounds of his forefathers [...] to Art. The country then became a British Province, that is, it was under the government of the British. But as the colonies increased, so did the impressment of the Americans, as they were styled, increase. Soon, however, a spirit to resist the encroachments of the mother country, Great Britain, was imbibed by the people, and in a short time, powerful fleets and armies were seen contending with the rustic inhabitants, untrained as to war, of America. Thus commenced the Revolutionary war, the result of which is familiar to every American. This country was, at that time, called the “Thirteen Provinces” as is consisted of thirteen states, which, prior to the Revolution, were subject to Great Britain. But on the fourth day of the July, 1776, on that day, which is sung by the Lord, extolled by the philanthropist, and praised and commemorated by the historian; on that day, fifty-five men, bold and patriotic, stepped forth, and acknowledged, and announced their willingness to sign the Declaration of Independence, which absolved the American people from the power of their hego-lords, the British, and which may be properly called the covenant, which binds together the U. States. This declaration was signed, while the U. S. were wading in [...];

while its extensive fields, from dreary Massachusetts to sunny Georgia, were crimsoned with the blood of both the oppressor and the oppressed, and while human skeletons were bleaching in the heat of the sun. Since the termination of the first war with England, the U. S. have been steadily increasing in every thing, which appertains to the advancement of a nation's interests and welfare.

Gradually its territory has extended, until it possesses the greatest amount of land in North America.

Thirty-one states, together with a vast amount of territory west of the Mississippi, constitute what is now known as the United States of America. It is bounded on the north, by the British Possessions; on the East, its shores are washed by the briny waters of the Atlantic; on the South, the healthy breezes from the Gulf of Mexico, fan into perfection the beautiful flowers; and on the West, naught is heard, save the continual roar of the Pacific, as its mild and peaceful waters are rendered turbulent by the violent, western winds. All of these states are equally free and independent, united, as it were, into a common sisterhood. Prosperity smiles on this happy country. At the cold north and east huge columns of smoke, proceeding from immense factories, may be seen winding their way through the aerial regions, to assume their position in the ranks of their sister clouds; at the south the fields are covered with the great staple, cotton, with the ebony faces of thousands of Africa's sons looking down condescendingly upon them; and in the west, the mighty west, steamboats are ploughing their way through the deep waters of the rivers, and civilization is advancing swiftly into the innermost portions of the of the United States.

The government of the United States is a Republican Government, that is, it is ruled by persons, whom the people choose for a stated period of time. This government is pure. No crowned monarch ever wared his sceptre over this fair country; no walls surround these beautiful cities; no do the people thereof bow, as in token of humble, slavish, obedience, to the black cap of Tyranny. Why then is there such rapid advancement? Why are the Arts & sciences so extensively cultivated? To what may the prosperity and happiness of the nation be attributed? Because the sun of Liberty shed its heat and light over this fair country, gradually increasing, until terror has stricken the monarchs of Europe, and they "instinctively feel for their crowns, lest they might decay." It was here that Liberty was first appreciated; it was first here that Liberty,

“The tyrants frown did mock,

And his chain did unlock,

And freed the oppressed.”

When we reflect at what great a price this liberty was bought, how careful should we be to keep it, and to subvert everything, which would serve to make it fall!

Liberty should be our first care; the union of these states next. Liberty and Union are linked together, they are inseparable. The convulsions that destroy the one, must ruin the other. And when either is in danger from domestic or foreign troubles, how earnestly should we strive to preserve them, and to keep them in their onward courses. Where the yawning gulf of fanaticism threatens to sink this vessel of state, it behooves patriots and lovers of the union to sever the party ties, and to unite upon a man, upon whom they can depend, in whom they can confide.

When the old ship of state is blown hither and thither by the winds of Abolitionism and sectionalism, it is the duty of every one, who acknowledges himself an American, to do all in his power to prevent it from being swallowed up by the Charybdis of Dissolution.

The preservation of this Union should be a care, ranking inferior to none, for we are warned from behind by the voices of our forefathers, who bequeathed to us so great a legacy as these states, and from before by thoughts of a future progeny, to whom we should transmit this country, which as yet remains untarnished.

We should bear it in mind that this country is the “observed among all observers,” we should remember, too, that we are regarded with an attentive eye by all the crowned heads of the East-led World. The formation of this government was simply an experiment, to prove that human affairs might be stable as well as free. This country holds out her hands to the oppressed of all nations and invites them to come; and enjoy the comforts afforded by a free country. But countries must not impose upon our hospitality; they must not pack off upon us their paupers, beggars, and criminals.

In passing over the historical facts of this country, its inhabitants and their character and reputation should not be omitted. What [...] Who are the inhabitants of this country? They are a race of people brave, bold, and independent; they consider themselves equal by nature, no discrimination is made on account of birth or education—all, all, are free. They are not divided—there are no patricians; there are no plebeians. The government is not hereditary. The poorest person, the most obscure individual, has an opportunity to become the Chief Ruler, as well as the most wealthy.

What is the spirit of these people? What are their characters? Its sons are noted for their manly bearing, bravery, and independence. Let but the trumpet of war be sounded, and despite the little feuds existing between the different sections of the country, with firm tread and fixed resolution “to conquer or die”, the sons of the bleakly North and of the “Sunny South,” will march to the battlefield. They shall be stimulated by the bravery of those, who have gone before, and who will serve for precedents to future generations. The names bravery of a Green and a Stork at the North, of a Washington and a Marion at the South, will urge them on. These as we have such omens of success and prosperity, as we can confide in the bravery of the people, cherish these benign institutions, the freedom of the press and liberty. Let us hope that the “line

is not far distant when the proudest exclamation of man will be ‘I am American’” Let us defend our ancestral honors; let us live for “Our country – our whole country, and nothing but our country!”

Apr. 3rd, 1857 E.Mitchell

Our country is in such a position, as never fails to excite the admiration of all other countries, which are either destined to be free, or to be forever damned with a tyrannical government; the jealousy and the envy of the world is excited. They admire us because we are in such a situation as almost to demand admiration; they are jealous of us, because they fear that the propitious circumstances, under which government was founded, and that liberty will contribute greatly to our promotion in all those things, which relate to prosperity, and we are envied because of our happiness. And why? Why is this? It is not only because we have free institutions, but because we regard the diffusion of knowledge as essential to human happiness; because we regard ignorance as a crime, which casts back as much opprobrium upon a nation, as really criminal deeds do upon their perpetrator. Our country occupies the highest position in the commercial world as well as in the political. The seas seem to be whitened with the sails of our ships, which crowd around our shores, and which daily go forth to perform their accustomed route. For every country vessels, laden with the productions of America, are found, at whose mast head floats the stars and stripes, which has proudly waved over many a well fought battle. True, America can not boast of as many ships as some nations, but it can boast of the courage of its people, in which the strength of a nation lies. If it ever has the opportunity again of testing the bravery of its people, it will prove it to the sorrow of the attacking or attacked nation. Let but the invader step his foot upon this soil consecrated to liberty, and thousands of brave hearts, holding in mind the reminiscences of yore, will enlist around the standard of Freedom. “To Arms” will be the cry it will reverberate from the shores of the Atlantic to the Pacific. It will go forth, and striking the Rocky Mountains, it will ring again and again throughout this country. Liberty will send forth a hasty summons, and will call forth from the bench, the lawyer, the preacher from the pulpit, the farmer from his plantation, the merchant from his desk, and the laborer from his toil. The rich and the poor alike will respond to the cry.

The bird of freedom will flap its wings over the American standard, around which and over which, will the spirits of those, who fought and died in the cause of liberty, keep their vigil.

Liberty will look on from afar, and cry out with a Stentorian voice to her steady army

“Now by your children’s cradles, by your father’s graves, Be men to-day, Columbians, or be for ever slaves.”

Then will victory perch upon the Americans’ standard, and bid the tyrants power depart.

“Great God! we thank thee for this home.
This bounteous birthland of the Free;
Where wanderers from afar may come,
And breathe the air of Liberty!
Still may her flowers untrampled spring,
Her harvests wave, her cities rise;
And yet, till time shall fold his wing,
Remain Earth’s loveliest Paradise!”

Eugene S. Mitchell,

Macon,

Geo.

April 3rd, 1857