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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

If Mr. Roosevelt's Message to Congress contains few surprises and many iterations, it also embodies not a few fragments of political wisdom. It maintains, at any rate, the tone of a Roman Dictator for which one instinctively looks in his utterances. Mr. Roosevelt's critics do not quarrel with him for his honesty, but because they feel that the emergencies of the last few years have been met too much in the spirit of a text-book of political science; that in his desire to rid the country of financial abuses the President has tended to ignore the essential complexity of financial institutions; that he has seldom advanced beyond outlining his general trend of policy in dealing with affairs of pressing importance. In a word, it is felt in certain quarters that Mr. Roosevelt is less capable of performing the administrative functions of a President of the United States than those of the uncrowned head of a constitutional monarchy; or, to put the same idea into a more concrete form, that his attitude has been rather like that of a strong-minded King of England or of a somewhat restricted Kaiser of Germany. Mr. Roosevelt, though the staunchest of American patriots, is not American enough in his methods to please every section of his countrymen. He has the high political virtue of making good enemies, and we venture to think that whatever his merit on a critical issue of the first practical importance he is just the man to magnetize the too widely scattered elements of sound and honest political feeling in the United States. His policy is constructed on simple lines, and it is therefore distrusted by those who fail to realize that directness of aim is the first requisite of a Statesman; it is, in part, destructive of great roguery on a scale not inconsistent with great power, and it is therefore mortifying to the individuals whose influence is menaced and to the classes dependent on that influence. America does not perhaps need a Dictator, but at this juncture Americans might fare worse than to be guided by a man of large views who sees the sores of the commonwealth and is resolved to cut them away. If the American people would content themselves with developing an efficient administration under the guidance of the President rather than seek to burden him with the more than supportable load of every department, they would have small reason to quarrel if the President could not bring to every detail of government the special knowledge of the head of a department.

Yet this is the sum of the indictment against Mr. Roosevelt. In the Mother Country—as many Americans are even today ready to call England—to which the United States owe the bulk of their constitution, the voice of Mr. Cortelyou on the financial crisis would be accepted as more authoritative than that of the President, so that it would be deemed superfluous to speak in the words of the New York *Globe* of "the crudity of view that the President has shown in discussing money problems." The President should be concerned, as he has been concerned, with the principle of the situation, while the exposition of the Government's policy should be left, as it has been left, to the Financial Secretary; unless, indeed, the financial concerns of the United States are so all-absorbing as to coincide with its national concerns. But that this is not the case is demonstrated quite convincingly by the issues touched upon. It is not only with trusts and interstate commerce that the Message deals, but with all the current issues of the day; and if this proves anything at all it is that the President cannot perform the functions of a dozen departments without sacrificing either his breadth of view as the head of the Government or his practical efficiency as a hydra-headed administrator. Since Mr. Roosevelt prefers to have a policy rather than a panacea he chooses to appear as something of a Cromwell. "Liberty,"

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he says, "does not become a liberty to wrong others," and he makes this conviction the keynote of his Message, as he has made it the keynote of his political action. Again and again that principle has been laid down; it crops up, not only in the attack on the trusts and railroad companies but in the proposal for an income-tax and an inheritance tax, in the suggested reform of the Presidential campaign expenses, even in the discussion of foreign relations. The President is not exactly on the defensive in the sense suggested by the *Globe*, but he is certainly on the defensive in the sense of being prepared to uphold the best traditions of American Government; that is to say, he is both anxious to rebut the stupid charge brought against him that he is responsible for the financial situation, and to make clear once and for all the scope of his intentions. Thus, he defends the voyage of the Fleet to the Pacific by stating what was in his mind. The United States must be ready to do hard hitting: parrying, as he said, never yet won a fight. He is warm in his mention of Japan without failing to tell us why it is essential to defend the Pacific Coast. This, in all conscience, is a different thing from coming to Congress hat in hand, with explanations which are excuses. Mr. Roosevelt cannot combine in his person all the virtues of an ideal statesman, but there is much to hope when the President of the most conservative of constitutions dares to make clear to himself, to the country, and to all the world the great evils which are to be attacked. For, in attacking them, the President courts the retaliation of his most powerful enemies.

"THE RING" IN ENGLISH.

Dr. Richter has so high an opinion of English singers and instrumentalists, that it was at his suggestion the promised cycle of "The Nibelungs' Ring" in January and February at Covent Garden was decided upon. The great conductor has thrown himself with characteristic enthusiasm into the scheme, and it is pleasant to insular pride to note how many genuinely British artists are to take part in the performances. Everyone will look forward with interest to the *Siegfried* of Mr. Walter Hyde, so lately singing in musical comedy, and the *Brunnhilde* of Miss Agnes Nicholls.



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NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE EMPEROR AT HIGHCLIFFE.

His Majesty returned from Cricket to Highcliffe on Thursday evening, and yesterday drove in his automobile to Southampton Water, where the "Hohenzollern" lay at anchor. The Emperor took luncheon on board the Imperial yacht, at which Colonel Stuart Wortley and Mr. Cooper, with their wives, were His Majesty's guests. In the evening at Highcliffe, General Swaine and Sir James Reid, the King's physician, were invited.

THE "MAURETANIA" MAKES NEW RECORD.

The new Cunarder "Mauretania" has arrived at Queenstown from New York after a passage of 4 days, 22 hours, 29 minutes, thus creating a new record for the east-bound trip.

A STRIKE AVERTED.

The disagreement between the cotton-spinners of Manchester and their employes, which threatened to paralyze the cotton industry of Lancashire, has been happily settled.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

MR. CORTELYOU'S REPORT.

The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Cortelyou, in his Annual Report issued at Washington yesterday, points out that, although it is true that a number of his countrymen and many banks had held back their money, other patriotic citizens had not allowed themselves to be influenced by the excitement of the moment but had co-operated with the banks to support credit and to restore confidence. The events of the past year, says the Report, should serve as a warning that, in order to prevent such calamities, wise laws should be framed and passed as soon as possible, so that a greater elasticity in the currency may be brought about. The framing of such laws must be left to Congress.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

DOCKYARD WORKERS STRIKE.

A Brest telegram states that the new French battleship "Patrie" was unable to proceed with her trial trip on Wednesday owing to 200 artificers from the Loire dockyard, who were employed on board, ceasing work, in consequence of a decision by the Dockyard authorities to introduce the eight-hour-day with a corresponding reduction of wages.

THE MOROCCAN SITUATION.

GENERAL DECLINES PEACE OVERTURES.

It is reported from Lalla Marnia that the Moroccan tribes in the field against General Liautey are daily receiving reinforcements, their numbers now being well over 12,000. It is now confirmed that emissaries from several tribes have arrived in Ujda, offering to surrender, but these overtures have been declined; General Liautey will not accept their submission until exemplary punishment has been inflicted.

FRENCH TROOPS CAPTURE A VILLAGE.

A telegram from Lalla Marnia states that the market-village Aghbal was taken yesterday by French troops, of whom 1,500 were engaged. The place was defended by many Moroccans, who were dispersed by artillery fire. The attacking force, after capturing the place and burning a Caid's house, retired to the camp at Martinprey, harassed during the retirement by the Beni Snassen who, however, were repulsed with loss. The French casualties were slight, two men only being wounded.

GERMAN CLAIMS SETTLED.

The correspondent of the *Kölnische Zeitung* in Tangier reports that the order for the payment of

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