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NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1898

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SURVEY OF THE WORLD.

The President's Message.

The third and closing session of the Fifty-fifth Congress commenced December 5th. In his annual message the President reviews the history of the war with Spain, beginning with the diplomatic negotiations which preceded the outbreak of hostilities and with which the public is already familiar. The important passages are those relating to the government of the islands which Spain has given up. Discussion concerning the course to be taken with respect to those islands "which will come to us" is deferred, the President says, until after the ratification of the treaty of peace, and in the meantime it will be his duty to continue the existing military government and "give to the people security in life and property and encouragement under a just and benevolent rule." Cubans who have been led to regard our policy with suspicion may be enlightened by the President's remark that it is our duty to assist the Cuban people in forming "a government which shall be free and independent, thus realizing their best aspirations." But our army will occupy the island until complete tranquillity shall have been restored. Secretary Alger's recommendation for the enlargement of the regular army has the President's "unqualified approval." The volunteers are to be mustered out after authority to increase the number of regulars to 100,000 shall have been granted. Secretary Long's list of fifteen projected battleships is also approved, with the recommendation for the revival of the grades of Admiral and Vice-Admiral. The President asks for authority to correspond with the Powers concerning an agreement to exempt all private property at sea from capture during war.

Other Topics Considered.

The President renews his recommendation of a year ago in favor of legislation requiring the Treasury Department to set apart all greenbacks redeemed in gold and to pay them out only in exchange for gold. The condition of the Treasury, he says, amply justifies the "immediate enactment" of this legislation. It is estimated that the deficit for the current fiscal year will be \$112,000,000. It is recommended that definite action as to the Nicaragua Canal be taken "at this session." Reference is made to Nicaragua's disregard of the request of our Government that the *status quo* should be preserved until the close of this session of Congress. "Our national policy," the President says, "now more imperatively than ever calls for the control" of the canal "by this Government." Among the other recommendations in the message are those favoring the appointment of a commission to study Chinese trade and markets, and of another to inquire as to the cause and the prevention of yellow fever. It is pointed out that the extradition laws should be revised. Spain spent \$3,000,000 per annum in the support of steamship lines for her colonies. The President says we should not do less for the encouragement of regular and frequent steamship service between the States and our new possessions. Our envoy to Turkey has been instructed to press for a settlement of the claims arising out of the destruction of the property of American missionaries in 1895. Our nation, it is said, should lend countenance and aid to the Czar's beneficent project for promoting peace. The President reports that our relations with Great Britain "have continued on the most friendly footing." With refer-

THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS IN THE INDEPENDENT.

BY THEODORE L. CUYLER, D.D.

THE INDEPENDENT was twelve years old when I sent my first article to its columns, and as I am the sole survivor of its corps of contributors in 1860, it may be no breach of modesty if—at the request of its editor—I furnish a few personal reminiscences—or what Chester Harding used playfully to call “a bit of egotistography.” The paper itself I had read with eager delight from the day when it was first launched as the bold and brilliant champion of Free Soil and Free Speech, of Temperance and of about every wholesome moral reform: It was thoroughly evangelical from the start. The character of its first editorial staff, Dr. Joshua Leavitt, Dr. Leonard Bacon, Dr. Richard Storrs and Dr. Joseph P. Thompson, insured its loyalty to the good old faith committed to the saints. The managing editor was the veteran Joshua Leavitt, who added the industry of a beaver to the courage of a lion. He had been associated with Charles G. Finney, in the great religious revivals of 1832 and 34; he had been associated with the Tappans in launching the anti-slavery movement and with Justin Edwards in launching the temperance reform. I shared a state-room with the glorious old man on the steamer that carried a large party of us down to witness the restoration of the Stars and Stripes on Fort Sumpter—in April 1865. No man did more to shape the early character of THE INDEPENDENT than Joshua Leavitt; let his name be held in grateful veneration at this time of the paper's Jubilee.

Although I had been a devoted reader of this journal, I never had written a line for its columns until my old friend Mr. Henry C. Bowen met me one day (in April, 1860) at the Fulton Ferry, and said to me, “You shall not get into that horse-car until you promise to send me an article for the INDEPENDENT.” Mr. Bowen to his dying hour was a man who never yielded in any matter, great or small, that he ever undertook, and I surrendered on the spot. I sent him immedi-

ately an article entitled “The Cedar Christian,” which afterward became the first chapter of a small volume bearing that name.

That article was the first of a series that has continued to this time, and the whole number of articles contributed to these columns amounts to *five hundred and ninety*. This is an average of more than one in each month for thirty-eight years; and while writing for this paper I was writing also for some other papers, in addition to the pastoral charge of yonder noble Lafayette Avenue Church. That many of these articles bearing on Christian experience were fashioned from material used in the pulpit must have been obvious to their readers. I have found journalism an immense advantage in the pulpit, as well as the pulpit a fountain-head for journalism; and I have thought that it would be a good idea to require students for the ministry to prepare a few articles for the press during their last year in the seminary. It might teach them something in the art of putting things, and if they became adepts in writing for religious journals they would soon discover that a consecrated type reaches much further than a consecrated tongue.

A large number of contributions which I have made to this paper have gone into a more permanent form than the fugitive issues of a widely circulated weekly. Many of them have been incorporated into volumes entitled “Thought-Hives,” “Cedar Christian,” “Heart-Life,” “Wayside Springs,” “Christianity in the Home,” “Pointed Papers” and two or three other books. A half dozen of these volumes have been translated into Swedish; two of them into the Dutch, and many of my articles have come back to me in Spanish, German, French, Chinese and divers other dialects. They have been widely printed in India and Australia, and it has been a source of satisfaction to their author that they have reached all sorts and conditions, from the loftiest to the lowliest.

The first time that I met Abraham Lincoln, his first salutation was, "I keep up with you in *THE INDEPENDENT*." It ought to be said that the martyred President had always been a diligent reader of this paper, and it had done its full share in educating him for his noble championship of Human Rights.

Infinitely more to me than any pecuniary compensation which my articles have yielded, has been the gratifying assurance that they have been used for the promotion of evangelical religion. They have been read aloud in many prayer-meetings, especially in the West, and often in devotional meetings across the water. Policemen and railway employees in England have thanked me for them when they have been reprinted in British religious journals. Some of them have been blessed to the conversion of souls, and others have given comfort to the bereaved, and imparted an up-lift to the weak and the weary. It has been my aim not to reach the highly cultured few, but the great average mass of my fellow-creatures on the practical questions of every-day life. In no single article have I been intentionally unfaithful to the old and ever-blessed Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is dear to Christians of all denominations and which the more it is preached the less likely it is to wear out. How many copies of them have been printed it is impossible to estimate accurately; but

from the press of *THE INDEPENDENT* they could not have numbered less than fifteen millions. To God be the praise for whatever good they have done.

I wish that I had the space to pay fitting tribute to that noble band of choice spirits who were contributing to these columns between thirty and forty years ago. Horace Greeley—the acknowledged king of American editors—found time amid his exacting labors on *The Tribune* to send hither many racy and vigorous contributions. The fiery-souled Dr. Stephen H. Tyng, then rector of St. George's Church, sent the articles on Sunday Schools, which afterward appeared in a volume, and Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe contributed one of her most popular stories. Some of my beloved old friend John G. Whittier's best later poems first saw the light in these columns. The genius of Bishop Gilbert Haven sparkled in these pages; Henry Ward Beecher's *Star Papers* blazed brilliantly; the fertile pen of "Grace Greenwood" enriched almost every issue of the paper, but that charming writer, though still living, has ceased to be on the staff of constant contributors. Its writers depart, but the paper abides; and its veteran friends whom I first addressed eight and thirty years ago will heartily join with me in wishing a long and Heaven-blessed life to the grand old *INDEPENDENT*!

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

WHEN WINDS ARE RAGING.

BY HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

FROM *THE INDEPENDENT* OF OCTOBER 21ST, 1852.

WHEN winds are raging o'er the upper ocean,
And billows wild contend with angry roar,
'Tis said, far down beneath the wild commotion,

That peaceful stillness reigneth, evermore.

Far, far beneath, the noise of tempest dieth,
And silver waves chime ever peacefully,
And no rude storm, how fierce soe'er he fieth,
Disturbs the sabbath of that deeper sea.

So to the heart that knows thy love, O Purest!
There is a temple, sacred evermore,
And all the babble of life's angry voices
Dies in hushed stillness, at its peaceful door.

Far, far away, the roar of passion dieth,
And loving thoughts rise calm and peacefully,
And no rude storm, how fierce soe'er he fieth,
Disturbs the soul that dwells, O Lord! in
Thee.

O rest of rests! O peace, serene, eternal!
Thou ever livest and Thou changest never;
And in the secret of *Thy presence*, dwelleth
Fullness of joy—forever and forever.