

# The Independent

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## Survey of the World

### The Swettenham Incident

Governor Swettenham's treatment of Admiral Davis at Kingston excited much indignation and disgust there, and was deplored by the press of London and other English cities. Our Government decided to ignore it. Expressions of regret have been received at Washington from the British Foreign Office. It appears that the Admiral, upon his arrival in Kingston harbor, fired a salute in honor of Governor Swettenham before the reception of a request from the latter that this formality should be omitted, or that the Admiral's order concerning a salute was misunderstood. The Admiral hastened to apologize in a courteous letter, also referring to the landing of a patrol to guard the American Consulate, and expressing a desire, "for the cause of common humanity," to assist in clearing away wreckage and to give medical aid. He asked for the Governor's approval and spoke of the recovery, by his patrol, of a valuable safe which thieves had taken. This incident, he said, led him to think that the local police needed the assistance of his marines. On the following day (the 18th), Governor Swettenham sent to him this remarkable letter:

"DEAR ADMIRAL DAVIS—I thank you very much for your kind letter of the 17th, delivered to me this morning, for your kind call, and for all the assistance you have given and have offered to give us. While I most fully and heartily appreciate your very generous offers of assistance, I feel it my duty to ask you to re-embark your working parties and all parties which your kindness has prompted you to land.

"If, in consideration of the American Vice-Consul's assiduous attention to his family, at his country house, the American Consulate may need guarding in your opinion (he was present, and it was unguarded an hour ago) I have no objection to your detailing a force for the sole purpose of guarding it, but your party must not have firearms or anything more

offensive than clubs or staves for their functions.

"I find your working party this morning helping Mr. Crosswell to clean his store. Mr. Crosswell is delighted to get valuable work done without cost to himself, and if your Excellency were to remain long enough I am sure almost the whole of the private owners would be glad of the services of the navy to save them expense.

"It is no longer any question of humanity. All the dead died days ago, and the work of giving them burial is merely one of convenience.

"I should be glad to accept delivery of the safe which alleged thieves were in possession of. The American Vice-Consul has no knowledge of it. The store is close to a sentry post, and the officer in charge of the post professes profound ignorance of the incident. I believe the police surveillance of the city is adequate for the protection of private property. I may remind your Excellency that not long ago thieves had lodged in and pillaged the town house of a New York millionaire during his absence for the summer, but this fact would not have justified a British Admiral in landing an armed party to assist the New York police.

"I have the honor to be, with profound gratitude and the highest respect, your obedient servant."

Admiral Davis's official report, corroborated by the testimony of civilians, shows that "yielding to the entreaties of the Colonial Secretary and the Inspector of Police, who spoke for the Governor," he had landed fifty marines to prevent a threatened revolt of the prisoners in the penitentiary. On the 16th, Secretary Root had asked the British Embassy whether aid from our ships at Guantanamo would be acceptable, and had received on the 17th, from the London Foreign Office, thru the Embassy, thanks for "prompt assistance rendered." On the 22d, Mr. Haldane, the British Secretary of War, sent to our Government a message in which, after a brief reference to Swettenham's letter, he expressed his "deep gratitude to the American Admiral for the generous assistance rendered

ended with a gleeful smile, "no one ever peeped after that."

So my friend preaches Christ as best he can, with an undisturbed serenity that is as valuable as it is rare.

In other words, the time has come for the minister who wishes to have a successful pastorate to be financially independent of his church salary. Not long ago a brilliant man in Hartford preached a sermon on sane socialism. He, his wife and children starved as a consequence for two years until he captured a small pulpit in Vermont, where he is temporarily respected. If he had had an independent income the rich owner of the church would not have kept him in terror for months and then finally have "fired" him.

I advocate the discouragement of young men entering the ministry who are the poor and third-class refuse of our colleges—men who elect the Church because they have not the intellectual equipment to compete in more strenuous fields of work. This would eliminate fully 50 per cent. of the theologs. I have been thru it, and I know what I am saying. I am placing the estimate low. I would discourage the poor enthusiast for the present. Under the present conditions he cannot develop his independent manliness and live in the pulpit. If he does live, he borders close to the time-server and the hypocrite.

I would encourage the sons of rich men—who otherwise are going to seed—to become born again into a profession that cries aloud for their souls, their blood and their independence. We

want more Stokeses and Tiffanys and Johnsons. There is no profession that gives such variety, such drama, such chances for the exciting study of humanity, such opportunity for devotion as the Church. Let us proselyte the scions of the rich and thus make wealth human and redolent with *camaraderie*.

I should encourage the necessity of an independent livelihood as a prerequisite to the becoming clergyman. Dr. Collyer can make a horseshoe as well as any man. The fact that he graduated from the forge to the pulpit gives him an acceleration of power and prestige. The minister should be able to earn, if he hasn't got it, his living, outside of his pulpit. It may be in the lecture field, the making of books or metal work, or in the carving of wood or the reading of proof. In some industry or profession he should be able in the most modern fashion to earn his living at any moment. When he is a producer of wealth, as well as an illustrator of spiritual!ty, he gains the respect of the rich and touches the hearts of the poor as he can in no other way. St. Paul was a maker of tents; Jesus a carpenter. He can then preach as he wills.

I believe that there is little place in the ministry today for one who is not absolutely independent of his church salary. He is then free. He is no man's slave, and his heart beats with power. Is this heresy? If it is, you will find that the time has come when it is as necessary as the abolition of infant damnation.

NEWTON CENTER, MASS.

## Wanted—A Samaritan

BY NICHOLAS WORTH, JR.

PRONE in the road he lay,  
Wounded and sore bestead:  
Priests, Levites past that way,  
And turned aside the head.

They were not hardened men  
In human service slack:  
His need was great: but then,  
His face, you see, was black.

MONTROSE, PA