

By SPECTATOR . . .

COMMENTS ON MEN AND THINGS

In this good year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and sixty it is a far cry for a Southern man to cite Abraham Lincoln as worthy of emulation by our national government.

This is the 100th anniversary of South Carolina's secession, an act based on Mr. Lincoln's attitude. Mr. Lincoln, however, steadily refused to endorse the rabid foes of the South; he maintained his posi-

tion with calmness and dignity. I say it gladly, because Mr. Lincoln would be horrified by the national government's attitude today.

Hear Mr. Lincoln, along with some remarks by E. F. Hutton, remarks very pertinent today:

"As 1960 is the 100th anniversary of the election of the first Republican President — Lincoln by name, it will be interesting to read the touching references to him that

will be made in the GOP platform, and by their keynote orator.

"There is mighty little of Lincoln left in the GOP, just as Jefferson has been discarded by the Democratic Party.

"The Democrats have long since stopped saying that they are following Jefferson in anything they do today. But the GOP's can't disregard the fact that this is a Centennial year. They've got to say something nice about Mr. Lincoln, but what?"

They will not say that Lincoln said:

"The maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States and especially of the right of each state to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of powers on which the perfection of our political fabric depends."

"They will not say that this principle was violated by the Supreme Court in the school integration case. They will not tell that Lincoln strongly condemned the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case because it would not recognize the law of Illinois.

"They will not repeat the words of the Republican platform of 1860 which viewed with alarm the reckless extravagance which pervades every department of the federal government."

Our Northern friends may not know the real reason for the deep feeling of resentment felt by the South; they may think this resentment is based on abolition of slavery. I doubt that. The South paid an enormous price for the institution of slavery. The Emancipation of the slaves was an act of military necessity, whether legal or imagined; it did not abolish slavery in some border States.

The feeling of the South might be warm and friendly if the spirit of Lincoln and Grant had prevailed. The South having honorably fought and honorably surrendered was not readmitted to the family as we have acted toward Italy, Germany and even Japan!!

The South was stripped clean, utterly exhausted but ready to make a new start. What happened? The young people of the South and the North know nothing about Reconstruction in the South.



Read Corinthians 15:20-28

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead. (Ephesians 1:19-20)

In his play, "The Trial of Jesus," John Masefield describes a scene between Pilate's wife and the Roman soldier who reported that the tomb of Jesus was empty. Excitedly she asked him, "Do you think He is dead?"

"No, lady, I don't," he replied. "Then where is He?" she inquired. "Loose in the world," he answered. "Where no one can stop His truth." This is God's declaration to all the forces of evil. Jesus of Nazareth has broken out of earth's prison. Christ has triumphed over sin, death, and the grave! He lives today!

The resurrection message brings hope to the Christian in this dark day. Christ's mighty power within us makes us conquerors over every temptation, sorrow, or loss in this present world. Moreover, He gives us immortality!

PRAYER

Full us, O Father, with Thy mighty power so that we may be more than conquerors through Thy love. Help us to recognize Thy constant nearness to encourage and guide us always. Make us triumphant, through the power of our living Lord, in His name. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We find comfort and challenge in the words of the risen Christ, "Lo, I am with you always."

Laura S. Emerson (Indiana)

World-wide Bible Reading—Genesis 37:1-36

Japan struck us a foul blow; we lost fine ships of war, hundreds of our sailors and then followed a bloody era in which thousands of young men died in Asia and the adjacent waters. The billions of dollars spent in complete loss may not count today, but thousands of mothers and widows and sweethearts still mourn their heavy losses.

And when it was over what do we find? America rebuilding Japan; America rebuilding Germany!!

What happened in the South? Hear Elson, an Ohio scholar whose history deals with facts:

"Congressional reconstruction was thorough, drastic, merciless; a study of it enlists our sympathies with the South. The governments it set up were all temporary, and during their short existence the most corrupt in the annals of the United States. Had it not been for the summary negro laws made by some of the Southern states in 1865, and the abusive violence of President Johnson, public opinion at the North would not have sustained Congress in its methods of procedure. It is true that something more was necessary to be done for the black men than merely set him free. It seemed needful that he be protected, for a time at least, by the national arm. This was effected by congressional reconstruction and the result was a series of milder negro laws in the Southern states and the adoption of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments to the national Constitution. Aside from this, congressional reconstruction left no permanent results, and the expediency of adopting the two amendments is at this day seriously questioned and whatever their merits, they have practically ceased to be operative in the South. The Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments, it will be remembered, deal only with the states and do not protect the individual voter from local violence while casting his ballot. For such protection the negro must still depend solely on the state in which he resides. If it refuses to protect him, he has no redress.

"The governments set up during those days were scandalous beyond precedent. The old political leaders were not yet permitted to take part in the state governments. The newly enfranchised freedmen were utterly unfit to take the lead, and the result was that a class of unscrupulous adventurers from the North, packing up their goods in carpet bag, as it was said, went to the South, won the negro voters by their blandishments, and soon had the state governments under their control. The state treasuries were plundered and bonds were issued increasing the state debts to an

alarming degree. In Louisiana the public debt rose from ten to fifty million dollars in the few years of carpetbag government; in Alabama in Georgia nearly fifty million. These are but samples of all. The increase indicated no public improvements — only theft. Taxes rose to a point beyond the ability of the people to pay. In Mississippi six hundred and forty thousand acres, one-fifth of the state, were forfeited for taxes. In South Carolina twenty-six hundred pieces of land were sold for taxes in one county in a single year. The negro voters were easily led into corrupt business, but the carpetbagger always managed to get the lion's share. Here and there an ex-Confederate would join the thieving gang for the plunder there was in it. Such were called 'scalawags.'

"The better class of whites stood aghast and helpless at the further impoverishment of their already bankrupt states. Many kept a sullen, bitter silence; but the more vicious class formed a secret organization known as the 'Ku Klux Klan.'

"The carpetbag governments dis-

appeared with the withdrawal of the troops, and the state governments immediately passed again to the hands of the white men. And this was most natural. Nothing else could possibly have been expected. The white race had labored for centuries to attain self-government. It paid more than 99 per cent of the taxes. Could it be possible that the government of these great communities should be turned over to a landless, penniless, homeless, illiterate race that knew not the first principles of self-government? Such a spectacle is unknown in the world's history. Where the brains and property are on the one side and most of the ignorance and poverty on the other, the former will rule at any cost. The cost in this case was too often violence and fraud; but under the same conditions the same results must have followed in the North, or anywhere else.

"The rule of the white man is essential to southern progress. Can it be said, on general principles, or on the basis of the carpetbag governments, that the black race could have developed the South as it has been developed since the war? The

writer of this volume believes himself to be as nearly without race prejudice as a normal white man can be; but he believes that all thoughtful people will agree that the great development of the South since the war—in art, in science, literature, education, and in material resources—could not have been, except under the domination of the white race.

"Then arises the question, Why do not the two races blend and cooperate in matters of government? This brings up the so-called race problem, the most serious and menacing question before the American people today. In two respects the two races have refused to blend—politically and socially. Nor is it possible to coerce them. It is folly to attempt by legislative acts, or by moral pressure, to force unnatural relations between them. Nature seems to have drawn a line between the races that man has no power to obliterate. In matters of business the two races may have and do have the most cordial relations; but in politics and in the social circle there is a gulf between them, almost as wide now as at the close of the war."



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