

"OUR GOVERNMENT IS BASED ON THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED."
—THOMAS JEFFERSON.

The BROAD AX

HEW TO THE LINE.

"THE QUALITY OF LIBERTY WE POSSESS IS EQUAL TO THE QUANTITY OF RESTRAINT WE PUT UPON THE GOVERNMENT."
—DANIEL WEBSTER.

THOMAS JEFFERSON.
THE PATRON SAINT OF DEMOCRACY.

ON APRIL 2, 1743, one hundred and fifty-three years ago, in Shadwell, Albemarl county, Virginia, Thomas Jefferson was born. No man in this country ever contributed more to the planting and establishment of free popular government than did Thomas Jefferson. Inheriting from a noble ancestor the true spirit of liberty and independence, he became a strong and brainy leader of the little band of struggling freemen, who at last gave us this glorious land of equality which we are now enjoying.

Jefferson first appeared in public life at the age of twenty-six, being then elected to the Virginia Legislature, where he at once espoused the cause of freedom, when and wherever an opportunity offered. Here it was that he introduced a bill looking to the emancipation of the slaves, and was always found supporting any measure which tended to better their condition. He remained a member of the Virginia Legislature until the beginning of the Revolutionary War, when he became one of the leading spirits in forming and establishing the immortal principles of our free government. During the eventful period preceding the Declaration of Independence from England, Jefferson was an earnest supporter and advocate of separation, and was a member of the first Continental Congress; after which he served two years as Governor of Virginia, during which time he exhausted his slender fortune in personal contributions to the regiments from Virginia and others then fighting the battles of the Revolution. He was again returned to Congress, and as chairman of the committee on finance introduced the decimal currency now in use in this country. At the close of the war he was sent as minister to France, where he remained until called by Washington to be Secretary of State, which position he filled until 1794, when he resigned his cabinet position.

During the time of his cabinet position, he and the secretary of the treasury, Alexander Hamilton, became very much embittered on account of their divergent views. Hamilton being an extreme Federalist, and Jefferson an enthusiastic Democrat, their incompatible tendencies led them to differ on almost every question of importance. Jefferson being such an ardent supporter of the republic that he declared "That the republican is the only form of government that is not robbery and violence organized." He became astonished and grieved to hear Hamilton, Knox and others, in the cabinet and elsewhere, express a distrust for the people, and favor the acceptance of the republic as a temporary condition only, with an intent to gradually strengthen the government by gliding into a constitutional aristocracy. Thus the question of the expediency of the people to govern themselves, became the political issue, and the presidential contest in 1796, between John Adams and Jefferson, was fought on these lines; Adams, Federalist, receiving 71 electoral votes, and Jefferson 68 votes, which, under the law at that time, made Jefferson vice-president. In 1800 he was chosen president by the House of Representatives, having defeated Adams. He received a tie vote with Aaron Burr, who became his

first vice-president. His second election was almost unanimous, he receiving over ninety-two per cent. of the electoral votes. After eight years of service as chief executive, he retired a poor man, to his home at Monticello, where he lived in privacy, spending the greater part of his declining years in building up a system of education for the benefit of all the children of the State of Virginia. He died on the Fourth day of July, 1826, in his eighty-fourth year, and was buried in his own graveyard, beneath a simple stone, bearing an inscription prepared by his own hand.

In an article like this it is impossible to mention all the achievements and public service that garland the name of Jefferson, and endears him to the hearts of the American people. His authorship of the Declaration of Independence, places him on the highest pinnacle of patriotism, and accords to him the honor of being the greatest defender of human rights and personal liberty that has ever graced the escutcheon of illustrious Americans. He had no admiration for kings and aristocrats. His efforts to prevent the permanency of a landed aristocracy were crowned with success when he accomplished the overthrow, in Virginia, of the law of primogeniture and entail, so that all property was held in fee simple, and could be sold for debt. He was an earnest opponent of the union of church and state, and succeeded in the passage of a law entitled, "An Act for Establishing Religious Freedom."

This act has been regarded as one of the greatest triumphs of free government over the religious prejudices of the old world, and paved the way to the religious freedom we now enjoy.

One of his favorite expressions on this subject was: "Government has nothing to do with opinion. Compulsion makes hypocrites, not converts."

Jefferson, through his negotiations with Napoleon, made the most valuable acquisition to the wealth and prosperity of the United States that has ever been made in our history, by the Louisiana purchase, not only by getting the ownership of the most fertile tract of land in the Union, but thereby we obtained a free and unobstructed use of the great Mississippi river, giving the Middle and Western States a commercial advantage which has made them populous and prosperous. Jefferson might well be called the "plebian president;" he was plain and simple in his manner, and disliked all show of royalty. It is said that when he was inaugurated president the first time, he rode to the capital on horseback all by himself, hitching his mare to a post, walked into the building, took the oath of office, and returning, rode away to his own apartments without waiting for congratulations or ceremonies of any kind. His great popularity and strength with his countrymen, was his devotion and friendship for the common people, in whom he had the utmost confidence.

While in France as minister from this country, he would frequently enter the homes of the peasants, converse with them and eat of their plain fare in order to know their true condition. Thus we see, that by nature and training, this great man naturally became the patron

saint and father of the Democratic party.

In his untiring opposition to kings, aristocrats and Federalists, he grew to be the champion of liberty and human rights for all the people, and stood at that day as the head of that principle of local self-government, which distinguishes the Democratic party from all others, even down to the present time. The opposition to the principles of Democracy, beginning with the Federalists, has assumed many political masks, and inviting names, but it still lingers as a hidden foe, ready at a favorable moment to strive to give the people what they term "a stronger government." Indeed, it would seem that this anti-Jeffersonian spirit has in some degree entered into the very body of the old Democratic party, and like a malarious poison is infecting many with the disease of "sound money," an "honest dollar," and a "strong financial system."

Were Thomas Jefferson alive today, his logical voice and trenchant pen would speak in the strongest language against the usurpation of power by the wealthy classes, in the robbing of the people of that money of the Constitution, which he through years of struggle and toil did so much to establish and ordain. Yet, we have in our midst those claiming the mantle of the "sage of Monticello," who are seeking to tear down the very principles promulgated by Jefferson and his co-patriots. "Verily, it is not every one who saith Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven."

This is an appropriate time to remember and cherish the example and precepts of this great typical American and founder of the Democratic party. His spirit should stir again the impulses of the people, that they zealously guard the temple of liberty, and allow no invidious enemy to take from us by intrigue what is so dear to every true American—his freedom and independence.

The spirit of liberty and the bond of union was not invented, or created by fiat, but grew up as a tree under the fostering hand of such men as Thomas Jefferson. They transmitted the priceless boon to us; and, by a natural law we must send it down to posterity, a boon or a bane. As an affectionate child watches by the bedside of a dying parent, and never gives up hope while a spark of life remains, so should we stand by the glorious principles of Jefferson, and devote our best energies, even life, to save them. What is the worth of the bare walls and deserted chambers of a ruined temple?

Let us hope that the dawn is near for the return of that prosperous period which marked the administration of Jefferson, the plain old farmer Democrat, and lover of equality, liberty and justice. If we could have a revival of Jeffersonianism throughout this broad land, then we need not fear disaster to the ship of state, and the motto of "E Pluribus Unum," which was selected and proposed by Jefferson, would remain untarnished and unbroken for generations yet to come.

Unity Hall, 28 west, Third South street. Services at 11 o'clock a. m., Sunday. Rev. A. L. Hudson, Pastor. The Lesser and the Larger Hope. Special services of consecration for the young.

The great consolidated circus and aggregation of reform law makers, better known as the Republican reform Legislature of the State of Utah, will expire today from old age and starvation. The majority in both houses have run the machine to suit the g. o. p., we suppose; but when the people of the State get a chance at these fellows, every one of them will see stars before he gets re-elected. Later on the Broad Ax will show up the frailties of the majority. We are proud of the consistent and honorable course of the Democratic minority; they have a clean record.

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