

LIFE, FORTUNE, HONOR.

Speech by Philip A. Fontaine at Kernersville March 19th.

The fact that some persons, without being solicited to do so, will not buy War-Savings Stamps, or Liberty Bonds, is such a strange fact to me that I feel compelled to comment upon it.

That greatest of all writings our "Declaration of Independence" was written by men who had the right conception of human liberty, and civil government, they had also sufficient courage to obtain and securely establish these two things permanently for themselves and their posterity forever. In the accomplishment of this undertaking they labored and fought under greater and more disadvantages in some respects than we in the present war against German Autocracy are fighting. In the first place: They fought not against a distant enemy who was proposing to come over to our shores and conquer us and wrest from us a united government of united hearts and minds, but our forefathers had to fight and overthrow a form of government that had already been long established over them and upon them, and of which they were at that time an integral part. They fought not as an independent and powerful united country, supported by powerful allies, respected, accredited and credited financially by all other nations, but they fought as Rebels, weak and divided among themselves, not respected, nor accredited nor credited by the nations save one; and God Bless her now!

This first reason alone should suffice to show the disadvantages under which they fought, bled and died, but succeeded and succeeded so signally, so gloriously, so nobly that the fame of their deeds was heard in every land, has always been heard, and to-day their praises are sung wherever there is a human throat and their deeds recited wherever there has been a rostrum erected by human hands, and so long as people shall love liberty and have self-government on the face of the earth, that long shall the "Stars and Stripes" wave over many lands; and proudly fly over many seas, and wherever and whenever its staff shall be planted, there shall the spirit of Liberty herself dwell forever and Self-Government, and Civil Government shall spring up among those people, tho they be black as night and ignorant as monkeys. How then was all this accomplished, if our forefathers fought under all the disadvantages of which I have spoken?

At the conclusion of this great written instrument, we find these words, or words to this effect: "And to the performance of all this we have pledged our lives, our fortunes and our most sacred honor."

Please observe: that these men did not say that they were going to pledge all these things or were willing to do so, but did say and affix their signatures to the fact that they had already pledged all, and since that time until the present, never has there been a deed, a mortgage, bond or note, tho duly and solemnly executed, acknowledged and recorded in any court house in this county, that did as completely and unreservedly convey all right and title to property as this declaration of our forefathers conveyed away from them all right to live, all right to own property and all right to claim to have honor if they failed or were "slackers" in the performance of the first two pledges. In exchange for this deed, (for such it really was, having been signed and recorded) Liberty was to be given us; those of us here tonight; also our present form of government was to be preserved, and as far as I can ascertain from history, those signers did carry out the performance of these pledges, (at any rate Lord Cornwallis has never disputed the fact) that all these things be done that we might govern ourselves.

If it took a man's life, fortune, and sacred honor, to secure our present form of government, then what does the present war call for? The Kaiser has actually taken the lives, fortunes and sacred honor away from many of our American citizens that our forefathers fought and paid for and bequeathed to us in the manner of which I have spoken; he has also authorized his soldiers to violate the purity of every woman, to blow up

every hospital, to bombard every church, to poison and maim every child, to sink every ship on the seas without warning at midnight, tho it be laden with mothers nursing their new born babies, whether any of these victims are friends, foes or neutrals, it matters not; they must be treated as he says, unless they owe allegiance to him and unless his black piratical rag, that he thinks is a flag, waves over the land of their citizenship, in fact he doesn't recognize anybody but "Gott" and himself. I challenge any one in this audience to mention a single deed, remark, policy, plan of utterance of old Wm. Hellahollerin that indicates in the remotest manner that Hellahollerin even understands a single principle that was taught by the Blessed Son of Man.

Christ said: "Blessed are the Meek." Did you ever hear of any meek people going around saying "Me and Gott?" Christ said: "Suffer Little Children to Come unto Me." Old Bill Hellahollerin says: "Entice little children to come unto me." When children came to Christ he blessed them, when they came to old Bill's soldiers for candy they were poisoned and died; in fact when we look up "Old Bill's record" we rapidly conclude that he is more like the Devils twin brother than any other hairy faced monster that has ever existed since those of the Greek and Roman myths; and the horrible truth is that old Bill is no Myth; but something even more horrible and doing more horrible deeds than the monsters that were slain by Hercules, Persens, Jason and the other celebrities of that day and time.

Life! Fortune! Honor! No, not tonight from you who are present, there are those who have given and are giving these, but we ask only of you to buy stamps, little pieces of engraved paper, that will protect the life of those of our flesh and blood who have given their lives to protect us; little stamps that represent but an insignificant portion of our fortunes; little stamps that will help Woodrow Wilson, that great man of great honor, whom we have placed in the highest seat of honor among the nations of this world, will help him maintain his honor when he declared upon his honor as a gentleman that he would dethrone that Hellion that squats on the German throne, tho it should take every man and every dollar in America to do it; every nation on earth heard him say it and every nation is spellbound watching him do it. When he declared this, he had not the money or the men, but he trusted to the honor of the men and women of America, who he believed would support his declaration. The men had honor and he has them; now come along with your dollars if you have any honor. These stamps are a question of honor; "therefore, now there abideth these three: "Life! Fortune! Honor! and the greatest of these is honor." When I recount our wrongs, our insults and the murder of our women and children, and think of how the Kaiser has given permission to us to live, under certain conditions, terms and stipulations all laid down by him, and a copy sent to our President for him to be governed by, I being an ordinary and obscure man, am unable to express my thought adequately. Our President's answer was a combination of the ideas expressed by all former patriots. It started out by saying something like "Sic Semper Tyrannis" then he casually alluded to "Give me Liberty or give me Death," also said he thought "Delce et decorum est pro patric mori" met with his approval, and that "Millions for defense, but not a cent for tribute" had once before worked pretty well, and that his imperial Kaisership could pick out any or all of these expressions as the President's answer, as they represented American policies, and were really the very crystalized thought of the American conceptions in such matters but, these expressions were merely preliminary in their character and only served to introduce our main idea or leading thought which was this:

"Wm. Hellahollerin, sir: "The time has now come, when the American nation has decided, that God helping them, they will take all the navy, all the army, all the manhood in America, every dollar, every railroad, every business, every department and finally everything and every natural resource and everything we

can find that will aid us, and we are going to employ all these in ridding the earth of the most infamous Hellion that ever crawled up on a dirty throne of a Hell-begotten kingdom where he now squats on his haunches and continues to insult Heaven, disgrace Hell, and defy civilization." And the message of our President further more said: "That while our army was attending to this job, our navy would in the meantime find recreation and amuse itself by hunting for the cowardly, slimy sea monsters that have been in the habit of hiding beneath the waters until the darkness of night would hide their slimy snouts when they cautiously poked them into the air, which they sniffed in every direction hoping to smell the blood of defenseless women and children, and when they located the whereabouts and direction of their innocent victims, they awaited their oncoming chuckling in a diabolical glee, in the very anticipation of a deed, which when done me thinks would cause every imp in Hell to hang his head in shame, and when the frightened screams of women, and the pitiful anguished cries of little children gasping and gurgling in their little throats as they sunk beneath the cold waters of death, fell upon the satanic ears of those devils, it sounded to them like sweet music; and when the main Hellion—Old Bill—heard of this deed, he promoted them and his followers and subjects celebrated this deed by rejoicing publicly everywhere.

My God! My God! I say this reverently; Men! Men! think of this, now shall Woodrow Wilson preserve his honor? Shall he make good his declaration made to all the world when he said "Every man and every dollar?" The men are accounted for, the last dollar is still withheld; it remains with you whether or not Woodrow Wilson will be able to get the last dollar or not. If he gets the men and the dollars, I pledge you my life, my fortune (such as it is) and my most sacred honor that he will most certainly rid the earth of him who now insults God, disgraces Hell and defies civilization, and that he will also make it possible for the principles of civilization and humanity to again enter and control the heart of a furious raging world, and calm that heart until the "Whit Dove of Peace" can again find a resting place among the habitations of men. And he will make the uttermost parts of every sea on this earth so safe that any mother from any land may for all time to come sit upon the deck of any ship anywhere at midnight and rock her baby to and fro and sing him to sleep as fearlessly as she does around her own fireside at home. Are you willing to give a dollar to see all this done? if so come on with it and buy a few stamps for God's sake just for the principle of the thing.

I don't know if the President used the exact words in his reply to the Kaiser that I have tried to repeat or not; he has a lofty and grand style of writing and uses big diplomatic, educated words that sound polite and complimentary, no matter who he is writing to, and what he is writing about, but in my old fashioned country-fied way, I gave you, I believe, the sum and substance of his reply in ordinary common talk like I am used to and can understand better.

What is Honor? Honor is a feeling in a man's heart that enables him and prompts him to say this, and may all the spirits of dead patriots speak this for me and through me, here it is: Rather than I should see Woodrow Wilson obey a single decree or hearken to a single mandate, or follow any advice that has emanated from that fiendish monster who is disgracing the throne of Germany seven times more than Satan has ever disgraced the throne of Hell, I would rather the sun, moon and stars would be hidden behind the cannon's smoke and the innocent laughter and childish prattle of sweet little children and the song of warbling birds and the soft lullabys that mothers sing to their babes, be drowned in the cannon's roar, and all the sweet and gentle voices of nature that makes us better men, be hushed with the din of battle and that the black mantle of death be over us until all human rights were again established and justice, freedom, and equality were given to every man, and if this could not be, then I would ra-

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ther spend my remaining days alone wandering thru broken arches, stumbling over fallen columns, beholding shattered walls and vineclad ruins where there was no life, save that of the viper and the toad, whose sad and dismal cry I could hear as it crept forth at dusk from the cold and broken remains of the hearth stone where my little children were wont to gather and say their evening prayers, I would pillow my head upon the cold sand of the desert and I would have the cold rain beat upon my face as I lay there hearing the mourning wind sing over my dead countrymen the only funeral requiem ever sung for them.

British Losses in Men on the Western Front 250,000.

Washington, May 4.—British losses in men killed, wounded, captured and missing on the western front since the German offensive began March 21 are estimated by the British Military mission here at nearly 250,000.

This estimate would appear to be in remarkable contrast to the enormous German losses in the drive. The German war office, of course, has not disclosed what its losses to the great battle have been, but the estimates of allied observers have placed them at a staggering figure. From the very nature of the fighting, military experts have pointed out, the losses of the attackers were bound to

be heavier than those of defenders, but in addition to that, the method of German attack, advancing troops in waves faster than machine guns could mow them down, must, military experts say, have entailed enormous losses.

An inkling of how serious the German losses are came some time ago when it was reported that the German military chiefs dared not disclose their extent to the German people, and therefore, were sending the wounded to Belgium. Other reports have told of railway gateways being choked with trains of wounded, while the dispatches of correspondents at the front have told how the battlefields were carpeted with gray clad bodies.

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