

# The Morning Star

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1921.

## The Jackson Training School

If the boys of the state are thought to be worth saving, the legislature must support to the fullest extent the Stonewall Jackson Manual Training and Industrial School at Concord. In a recent issue of "The Uplift," we find ample evidence of the difficulties under which the institution has labored since its beginning. Mr. Cook, chairman of the Board of Trustees, says:

No movement of any kind in the state was ever started with a smaller financial appropriation. Undertaking what was an innovation in the educational life of the state, with so few friends among the politicians and representative men and women, on a meager ten thousand dollar appropriation, looked at the time to those who stood for this service as a severe test. There was no looking back. Going out into a barren and an uncultivated field, following up a sentiment, backed only by a theory, with no available site, scarcely any funds, no wealthy patrons, the cause promised slow progress, calling for cautious acts, no little wisdom, and unconquerable faith.

An appropriation of \$10,000 for the establishment of a state training school would seem to be enough to guarantee its failure, but those interested were determined not to give up. Private subscriptions increased the capital to the point where two cottages could be built, and private gifts also paid for furniture and equipment. After a two-year struggle, on January 12, 1909, the Stonewall Jackson Manual Training and Industrial School, for wayward and unfortunate boys under 16 years of age, was opened. Since then, by private or by county funds, two more cottages have been completed, Mecklenberg (County) Cottage is under way, Guilford (County) Cottage has been arranged for, and two others are assured. Private gifts have made possible the Industrial Building, a modern barn, a beautiful chapel, and other means for making school work effective.

The school is making good in its work of rebuilding the lives of boys who need a second chance. Boys called "worthless," "hopeless," "not worth killing" are found to have some spark of honor; they are given clean and wholesome surroundings, thorough school work, the opportunity to learn a trade. Skilled printers and carpenters; capable gardeners and farmers, are returned to society in place of the potential criminals sent there. The record of the past five years, the period during which the work has been conducted as originally planned, shows that 92 per cent of the boys committed there have been returned to society as useful citizens. Today, the school, with room for 133 boys, is unable to accommodate those who should have its training. The authorities are forced to distribute patronage as much as possible that all sections of the state must be served. It must be enlarged. We quote again from "The Uplift," the magazine published by the school, and printed by the boys themselves:

Those charged with the responsibility of the establishment of the institution, staying by it until it had demonstrated its usefulness to the state, pleading all the while for proper and adequate maintenance, now look forward to a willingness on the part of the Legislature to make it possible to develop the plant to a point where it can serve the fullest needs of the state, and to give it a support that makes unnecessary the crying out for the mercies of charity.

If it is humanity, justice that the state desires to hand out as its expression of the duty of civilization, it can afford to deal liberally with the Jackson Training School. If the state is looking for a bargain in dollars and cents, she will be safe in dealing liberally with the Jackson Training School; it is cheaper to prevent a criminal than to punish one and overcome the evil influences he leaves in his pathway.

## The Baseball Project

Last night's baseball meeting brought the Eastern Carolina league into sight. A preliminary, and rather casual canvas of the city has developed a degree of support that touches the baseball prospect with the glow of promise. The real canvass will begin today. Upon the result our chances of baseball this season will stand or fall. In behalf of the committee which is undertaking the canvass in a spirit of disinterested service, we would urge an equally unselfish consideration of the proposal which it is about to lay before the people of Wilmington, individually.

We are informed by England's first woman lawyer that women everywhere are throwing off the strait-jacket of morality—and "when they get it off completely, they will astonish the world." It isn't quite clear why the gentler sex should be considered as having set out to give the world such a terrible jar, but if astonishment is the objective, the course indicated is one of the shortest cuts we have read about.

## Senator Fall and Mexico

The country is indebted to the Washington correspondent of the semi-official Boston Transcript for the following foreshadowing of Mr. Harding's Mexican policy:

By common consent the Mexican situation appears to revolve about Senator Albert B. Fall of New Mexico, as far as the attitude of the United States toward it is concerned, he writes. No other voice will be so potent in directing the Mexican policy to be pursued by President Harding and Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, chairman of the committee on foreign relations. \* \* \* It is understood, however, that the senator from New Mexico has been invited to accept the portfolio of secretary of the interior, in which post President Harding desires to place him because of his intimate familiarity with most of the subjects with which that department is called upon to deal, and because, also, the new president desires that the senator shall have a seat at the cabinet table as a counsellor upon Latin-American affairs, notably with respect to Mexico.

If this be true, we are already in position to know from Senator Fall's utterances just what demands are likely to be made by the Republican administration before the Mexican government can expect to be recognized. Senator Fall is not content with the preservation of the lawful property rights of aliens, but he has very clearly indicated that he desires modifications in the Mexican Constitution so as to affect the sovereign power of that country to deport undesirable foreigners, and to regulate the privilege of aliens to teach and preach on Mexican territory.

In a recent interview he has declared: I regard such written agreement (or treaty) as absolutely essential as a prerequisite to recognition, particularly for the reason that it will stop Mexico from appealing to Latin-America should any question of dispute thereafter arise between this government and Mexico.

This is equivalent to saying that, whenever a misunderstanding arises between Mexico and the United States, the former will be deprived of the right to seek the counsel or the conciliatory offices of other Latin-American countries. This is equivalent to making a sort of dependency out of Mexico to reducing it to subordinate status comparable with that of Cuba.

The United States will not lend itself to such an unrighteous and chauvinistic course. The people of this country do not want war with Mexico, in spite of all the mouthings of senatorial and professional fire-eaters. Insofar as Mexico's attempt to confiscate the property of Americans in mines and oil wells is concerned, we have a grievance. But there is every reason to believe that this was merely a flourish on the part of the Carranza government, and express declarations from Mexican officials have been received to the effect that the objectionable article 27 of the Constitution "is not and must not be interpreted as retroactive or violative of valid property rights."

Let this be embodied in a treaty and the complaints of Fall and his followers are without substance and justification.

## Lincoln—A Common Heritage

In the marvelous processes of the years, the passions and hates of civil conflict have cooled and the wounds are healed; and while sectional feeling abides, it is but natural and must always be so in a country like America—a country of vast distances and diverse interests. Nationalism, however, overtops all minor issues, and today, on the 112th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, the whole country can meet at a common shrine and pay homage to a Great American.

His name was once so hated in the South that it could not be mentioned save in scorn, but now Lincoln's greatness of character is as easily and as willingly recognized and revered in the Southern states as it is in any other section of the common country; and today it requires no effort on the part of the South to honor his memory. The South has come to believe that had the assassin stayed his murderous hand, and had Lincoln been given the opportunity of reconstructing the Union, it would have fared as it should have fared, and the evils that have lived since the war in the South and elsewhere in relation to Southern problems, would have long since died, or had never been allowed to appear. The hurts that burned deep into the Southern heart, it is now generally believed by Southerners, would never have been inflicted if the tolerant, kindly, wonderfully simple and marvelously wise Lincoln could have lived and could have given himself and his great genius to the task of reunifying the warring sections in spirit as they were by force and harshness reunited in fact.

Much of the feeling against Lincoln in the South ought never to have attached to himself, for it was men and events clustered around the great civil disaster that inflicted on the South such ills that few vanquished nations in all history have suffered, if indeed any civilized people ever suffered them. With the passage of time, this feeling has softened, has changed, and it is without reservation that Southerners today can lay a wreath on the tomb of Abraham Lincoln, and salute him as one of America's great souls who made and who kept the greatest commonwealth in the history of mankind.

The essential humanity of the man, his tolerance, his inexhaustible benignity of soul, are as commonly revered as they are universally recognized. Out of the soil he sprang, and all his life he was as plain and powerful as his origin. Out of the pioneer soul of America he drew his spirit, and he was as wide-visioned and strong-hearted as that exalted force which transformed a wilderness into a teeming, bustling, fruitful land. Out of misery, out of untold handicaps, he rose, and every hardship he experienced, every trial he encountered, merely enlarged that native tenderness, which knew no shadow and suffered no decline.

Lincoln has grown to be a world figure. His words were upon the lips of men during the agonies of the recent war. Lloyd George found comfort in him, and peoples to whom English was unknown somehow felt his healing power. The consciousness of his serenity has an abiding value in a confused and struggling world. The unknown and undiscovered millions are ennobled by him, and the leaders of men find whispering at their hearts his prayer that they may be fitted above bickering and bitterness and cruelty—Peace, peace is what I seek and public calm, Endless extinction of unhappy hates.

Al Jennings, once a person of some renown in Southwestern outlaw circles, is spending a New York visit in the quiet seclusion of his hotel. Al ventured out the other day, only to be taken in hand by an inhospitable citizen who relieved him of \$84, and the pardon that was granted to the former bandit by President Roosevelt. The result is that the celebrated Jennings has pronounced the modern bandit "no gentleman" and New York "too wild and woolly for him." The incident should not be regarded so much as a sign of timidity on Al's part as proof of his ingenuity as a publicity-getter. Al's in the movies now.

The report that President Wilson, upon his retirement from office, will go into seclusion seems to have been misinterpreted, if not exaggerated. Secretary Tumulty is authority for the statement that Mr. Wilson will, in fact, take a rest, but that he does not intend to sever his connection with public affairs. The immediate concern of the retiring President, of course, is to regain his health. If we are to credit reports that he is in a fair way to achieve this goal, it would be reckless to imagine that he contemplates occupying a quiet corner on the shelf during the next several years.

## Contemporary Views

### BOOKS FOR CRUSOES

New York Tribune: The visiting Mr. Chesterton has raised to the level of the lecture platform the old question with which college professors delight to tantalize the freshman mind: "What books would you take as baggage if you were to be cast away on a desert island?" Men have debated for years, and will never agree, as to what masterpieces should follow the Bible and Shakespeare. But instead of debating the abstract let us consider what Alexander Selkirk, the great father of all castaways—Alexander Selkirk, who lived again in Defoe's Robinson Crusoe—actually took with him. It was not Shakespeare that helped preserve Selkirk's serenity during his four years on Juan Fernandez, but the Bible and a volume on navigation, together with a set of mathematical instruments. It is doubtful if even the Chestertons of 1713 would have included Shakespeare in their seabags, much less a humble sailor man; so when Selkirk, after a quarrel with his ship's captain, demanded to be set down on Juan Fernandez rather than sail another league with so incompetent a captain, he chose for his sojourn only the Bible and his mathematical books. How well these two elements served him is seen from these lines in Steele's account of his adventures:

"He grew dejected, languid and melancholy, scarce able to refrain from doing himself violence, till, by degrees, by the force of reason and frequent reading of the Scriptures and turning his thoughts upon the study of navigation, after the space of 18 months he grew thoroughly reconciled to his condition. This manner of life grew so exquisitely pleasant that he never had a moment heavy upon his hands; his nights were untroubled and his days joyous, from the practice of temperance and exercise. It was his manner to use stated places and hours for exercises of devotion, which he performed aloud, in order to keep up the faculties of speech, and to utter himself with greater energy."

Perhaps nothing in modern times approaches the solitude of a desert island more nearly than the life of the lighthouse keeper. It is commonly believed by the sailing parties who dispose of their old magazines at the lighthouse that the stanch old keeper of the light subsists from September to June on these chance literary crumbs. It is not more likely that he glances at them disdainfully, snorts that real life was never like this, and turns in relief to the Bible and Shakespeare?

### BRINDELL'S SENTENCE

New York World: The fixing for Robert P. Brindell of a prison term that by good behavior may be shortened to five years cannot be called unwisely lenient. Considering the havoc he wrought with the basest motives, it surely cannot be attacked as excessive punishment. Brindell sold out labor for his own pocket. No workman need be grateful to him for obtaining what seemed at the time advantages for labor. He had to have something to sell, and in the long run his exactions reared against the building trades by discouraging building, as they cruelly wronged home-seekers in that tragic shortage of accommodations which has by no means ended. No one of the thousands of poor people still compelled to live in unfit homes can think of Brindell as anything but despicable.

It is true, as counsel for the prosecution urged in recommending an exemplary sentence, that there are no mitigating circumstances in Brindell's guilt. It is black. But in modern penology, punishment of individual guilt is the minor consideration. It is the protection of society that is sought; and no one is likely to be led into imitating Brindell merely by the fact that his sentence reads five to ten years instead of fifteen years. Time alone does not measure the penalty.

Upon the outcome of the case the community is to be congratulated. The machinery of the prosecuting office and the courts has worked efficiently and without undue delay in a trial which was a model of decorum and dignity. The conviction and sentence have cleared the air. New York is a better city to live in for this justice that has been done.

Charlotte Observer: Isn't the South faring handsomely at the hands of the Republican Appropriations Committee. Experts who knew their business asked that \$148,000 be set aside for the Charleston Navy Yard. It was given \$40,000, while for Key West and New Orleans it was a goose egg. At the rate at which the Republicans are lavishing extravagant sums on government interests located in the South, they are in a fair way to bankrupt the National Treasury.

Asheville Citizen: The Senate may not be as wise as Senator Penrose fondly imagines, but it did well in refusing to join the House in cutting from the post-office appropriation bill \$1,250,000 to develop aerial mail service. Commercial aviation has become an enterprise which even financially hard-pressed Europe realizes it can not ignore.

### THE COTTON ACREAGE

Raleigh News and Observer: Cotton farmers will take more than the customary interest perhaps in the statement by a New York cotton merchant that the world outside of the planting sections is expecting, in connection with the proposed reduction of cotton acreage, that many farmers will let their neighbors do the cutting. Many farmers, it is said, haven't the will power to cut.

The fact is that the whole Southern system of farming is so wedded to cotton that reducing cotton acreage is not as easy as it looks. Small farmers who have to live on credit in the spring are compelled to plant considerable cotton as that is practically the only crop on which they can get credit. So it devolves on the more well-to-do farmers to do the bulk of the cutting. The quantity of cotton now on hand awaiting consumption by the mills shows that it is folly for the usual quantity of cotton to be raised this year. As planting time approaches the farmers need to remember the words of the cotton merchant whom we have quoted and who also says "It is a plain case of cut your acreage half in two or put in larger acreage and cut your own throat."

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