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Subject:
"The South Character of the Nineteenth Century"

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This great century, "with its marvelous successes, and its equally striking failures," along intellectual, moral and social lines, is drawing to a close. In our minds it brings thoughts of the wonderful achievement of science and the future for the world of thought and life unresolved. In the future, the best gathered many facts and laid the foundation for good theory. More than all others, the commercial spirit had dominated; it has brought to light two phases of character building, and while building for the material and physical, has not altogether omitted thoughts of the ethical. And especially has this been true in this latter half. There has sprung up new ideals and aspirations in the human breast, pointing toward a soul development, along with the
great physical and mental growth. It is clearly recognized more and more that a fully rounded life has more than two phases to develop, and this recognition has forwarded the growth I now continue to pursue the way for a brighter future. Certain great leading characters dominate the spirit of every age. They are found in every walk of life. Those of whom I speak belong to the political field, and their actions to the development of nations. This field exerts a great influence upon all others and every element in it has its due effect upon the elements of others. For the better and for the political action of men, the love of truth and the will be their theorizing and the movement. The cultivation of great character in this field is one of the seeds of our age. They come to mind at present, as being of the highest type.

Our century is said in a period of upheaval and political change. New social forces were seeking for power and the agitation of new political principles was rife.
Napoleon was temporarily master of all the
nations of Europe, and, but for a fatal mistake,
might have been ruler of the world. Mistakes
such as these arouse man-kind, and though
for a time the military spirit is in ascend-
ancy, it soon gives way to the quick and
more thoughtful mode of progression. Into my
life I such a time enter the multitude
of change and the more thoughtful mind
and kindlier spirits are the result.

Our three characters enter the stage
of action at one the same time (two in 1807,
and the other in 1816) in widely different parts
of the world, and by a great stroke surrounded
by different environments, schooled to different
thought and moulded by contrasting work.
Yet all played an active part in the history
of their countries, saving them faithfully
and well. In many cases, they made the
good possible, and with their definite
and plans moulded their thoughts into
the nation accomplished their great work
and peacefully laid aside the duties of life,
through which duties, conscientiously done,
they had drawn the strength of the government and the kindly felicitous of its people.

Germany, England, and America show these great men abroad, but the world cannot but respect their work. Germany has Bismarck, England, Gladstone, and the United States, Lincoln. Why are these great national characters?

Germany, at the beginning of the century, could hardly be called a nation. The feudals system left her a rock of petty kings and free cities, and there she remained. It was a part of the great battle ground of Europe. Wars devastated and left her cities a waste, her people poor, the land almost a desert. Protestant and Catholic had done the most for her people and her country. The people had no time for thought or that of education or liberty, and as a result the rulers had remained aristocratic.

Gustavus Adolphus laid the corner stone of equality. He used in the economy of nations. Frederick carried on his great work, civilizing and making Prussia in the eighteenth
Century. His mark had carried it forward in the nineteenth.

The early life of Dismark was full much as that of any other young country youth. He was noted for being a big, bully, good-natured, reckless and wild fellow, a lad of fire and spirit, and yet he had a naturally cold mind. After spending some time at the Gymnasium in Berlin and completing his education at the University of Gottingen, he moved his year in the army.

His father's estate then required his attention, and thus we find him as a very ordinary member of the upper class spending his leisure with boon companions who were noted for their wild tastes. All this time, his latent talent seemed not yet awakened. Marrying in 1847, he settled in a home, to which he always returned, returning. His personality did not take one as being of the ordinary. Most noted were his solidity of stance, features firm in outline, with clear, deep blue eyes. His manner was genial and kind.
by, but while friends by opposition was
the one firm, by great size and quick speech.
His speech was clear and convincing;
plausible now and then by a gesture and quick
flash of the eye, he seldom wrote but was
a continuous reader. Over all this dom-
ninated a strong will power which he
tried to the utmost but have stupid. Situations
were judged quickly, and their essence
firmly fixed. The temper of the times was
his constant study. With him no two
situations are alike, and no man
should copy man himself. Though his
long for the case we shall see how done
by him followed this rule.

At the German Diet in 1857 he
may be said to have made his first appear-
ance in public life. He then succeeded in
being heard, and in bringing Russia to the
front. After this, we can read his aim. In
it he was firm and straight forward. The
unification and aggrandizement of
Germany with Prussia as the leading State
coordinates all other objects. To this he
did not hesitate to throw Austria on the
min. In 1871 war the crown of Austrian
affairs was connected with those of Ger-
man, Prussian and Austrian states.
Munich was slowly changing German
interests. He did not want for the people
luck, but with judicious foresight to which
was refined, gained his points and brought
to Germany the glory. Bismarck, he consider-
as only a working of principles, while his
was truly "iron and blood." The confedera-
cy was formed while affairs abroad were
brought into contact with France.

His opportunity had come. In the
brief but brilliant campaign that followed
the military prestige of France was taken
German National feeling was intensified
and the Empire became possible. Bismarck
being was at its head, and Bismarck its
Chancellor. It dictated terms of peace at
Versailles, and his power is shown by the
Emperor's words when he said: "Bismarck
with the Prussian sword, and Bismarck has
made her great by wisely bend-
ring the policy." Thrice ended his long struggle for German Unity. This accomplished peace must be restored, and the miseries of the country destroyed. Peace came with the restoration of France and the Triple alliance. Andustria was foreclosed by a strong protective tariff and a judicious consideration of the regulating all its conceptions. Germany was no longer a nation of doubtful politics, but of strong and nearly absolute.

Plead by the constant turmoil of intrigue, Bismarck now sought to unite, but in the universal protest that followed he found his power and used it to his advantage. It became one of his customs when opposed, to offer his resignation. But this recurred once to twice, for in 1890 young Emperor William found it expedient to replace him. And Bismarck retired to his country home where he dispenses his travels quietly and enjoys the last years of his rest and full life. German justice, such character? The nineteenth century had fulfilled his mission. Great men often reach beyond
the minds of common men and lead where the latter can not follow. Such principles may be felt for efforts to others, while to themselves, they are the dominant factors of their lives, tending them to permist, and the way though they fail in the attempt. With the highest sentiments and a Christian spirit, they accept the operation of nature as a main factor of human life, and only justly seek to pursue men to their own ends, acknowledging their mistakes of no after years that they have made them.

Glads in the "formor Englishmen of this time" was just such a man as this. Liberality of view and consistency with principles guided his actions in both private and public life.

Born as he was early in the century when England was struggling against Democracy and Napoleon, naturally mirroring the thoughts and principles of the class to which he belonged, he became a man of conservative views and action, but our shadowed all reform movements and
The Tory party contended with England, English conservatism was at its height and dominated the thought of Scotland, Church and State. Taking into consideration this fact, we cannot but see how they affected his after career.

He entered life Dec. 29, 1809, and closed the last scene May 19, 1898. He was educated at Eton and at Oxford, and in the latter school asserted the conservatism of this Tory stronghold. It afterwards turned one of his greatest defects to his advantage here, namely, that of understanding the innumerable and intricate principles of human liberty.

In 1831, after graduating, he traveled abroad, where the strife of state and democratic principles were just strongly called to his attention. In two years the "challenge of Europe to the Majesty of Government," his political career dates from 1803, when he became a representative from Newark. He gradually rose through the various departments of government,
till he became a leader of the "Liberal," and as their leader was appointed Prime Min-
ter when they were in power. It was in
1851 that he began his long fight with Dis-
craeli which continued till 1876 when Dis-
craeli retired the Passage and Gladstone un-
fused to follow. His conservative views were
outstripped by the agitation of the "Cen" law
and the "Jewish Disabilities" measure. After
this we find him at the head of the "hulls."

For conclusion, we may sum-
up very well by saying he was an un-
mixed, unimpeachable lover of truth, an
orthodox, unselfish love of all factors of life, a de-
and original thinker, and leaving a
character which was sustained by "moral
force beating its way against minds like
mine and yours."

His quick com-
mand of ideas and language drew minds
to him, and his works have built him
a place in honor of James.

He was respected and honored
by all parties. Of him, the Conservative
Premier, Marquess of Salisbury, said, "He
was now guided in all his efforts by a lofty and moral ideal. It will be remembered, not so much for his political work as for the great example, hardly paralleled in history, of a Christian statesman. The Czar of Russia wrote: "The whole civilized world will mourn the loss of the great statesman whose political views were as widely human and peaceable." Thus amid the tears fell sympathy of the world, England's dark chasm was laid to rest.

America, though her historical existence may be shorter than the other two nations of which we have spoken, has presented questions for solution and answered them by fundamental principles and established institutions, as great in just and true given to the world honorable character in their fulfillment.

This Century has brought our country face to face with the question of American sovereignty and human rights, the preservation of the Union and the establishment of
character was Abraham Lincoln, the soul of the Northern cause, and a leader not only as a political factor, but also as a social regenerator. Lincoln was born in an obscure farm of Kentucky, Feb. 12, 1809, and was refined in the controlling spirit, in the hands of an assassin, April 15, 1865. Various experiences fill his early life. Coming as he did from districts far away settled, and at a time when the hardest pioneer work was necessary, he gained little common school education. He was his own teacher and the product of his environment. Natural talent and ability created within a model self-made man.

He drifted from one calling...
In the war, serving as a soldier in the Black Hawk war, as a flat-boatman on the Mississippi, later as a surveyor, and then his genuine career brings him into the political field. He enters the legislature and soon afterward is admitted to the bar. From now on politics and the law had his constant attention. In those early years, he is a self-styled student and in both fields rises to marked attention. During his campaign for senator, he came in conflict with Mr. Douglas and they traveled over the state of Illinois together, debating the great questions that were first then appearing on the horizon of American politics. In this campaign he revealed to the people "his gift of animating his depth of judgment, and the correctness and breadth of statesmanship." Though defeated, he had gained his nod, his name and successfully coping with this latter powerful leader.

He was a close observer of political affairs, and now saw the coming of the inevitable conflict between the slave
and the free states; and upon one principle, he saw that the settlement must come. By this, he stood all through the great conflict. In 1860, he was nominated for the presidency, and elected. As president, before he left to try the great question "whether the higher minded nations should be preserved," and undertake that task was the question of slavery which he knew could not last long. With vigor he brought all the forces of the great North to bear on the question, and his triumph in the four years of struggle did not only give him a place in the American Nation as a statesman but also in the world as a whole. He placed union above state interests, and showed that states can again live harmoniously in a higher sin.

Through the great struggle, we have not ceased to trace his acts; but we always find him energetic and perceptive, though this sympathetic heart was almost crushed by the struggle. Peace
found his "full of generosity for the fall of rebellion, and kept full of true early affection for all difficulties." How he filled the North with a leader, the South a friend.

Briefly stated, his life was one of

entering labor and ceaseless devotion to principle. Three factors raised him from obscurity to the highest pinnacle of American Statesmanship, and guided the nation through its greatest trial. In action, he clearly and concisely stated his views, was sun

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solutely fair to his opponents, and never

lost himself in a maze of policies and principles but "wielded the tremendous

and severe scythe of thought and made it a guide of all his acts." He established his place

here and in the world's history. He was a true "son of the soil, type of greatness!"

Dracing as he handled these three great characteristics of the Nineteenth Century,

we find certain factors which raised

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them above the mass around them, sup

ported and guided their work and which gave it fruition by great progressi
Monuments. Though acting in widely different parts of the world, and upon different characters, they accomplished a great deal in national life and enterprise. All devoted to a grand object, they struck the laws of man's nature and social justice. They moulded the laws of government, held to a lofty purpose, and systematically worked towards the accomplishment of their ideas. Their energy was concentrated, and their plans simple and concise.

Thus they accomplished what many others failed in, because of the lack of study and the judgment of those failing. The world will remember their principles for centuries after it has forgotten the men, for they are woven into the social and political fabric of the day that every progressive movement will feel in touch with them. They lived for a purpose.