

The Capital Prize in the Greatest of Lotteries

By James Morgan
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A JAPANESE having offended one of the officers of Commodore Perry's expedition, the Japanese officials properly wished to make "the punishment fit the crime," and they proceeded gravely to investigate the rank of the American. First, they learned that he was under a commodore, then that the secretary of the navy was over the commodore, and next that the president was over the secretary. Never having heard of a republic and having no conception of a democracy with a ballot box, naturally they expected finally to come to some one at the top like a Mikado. "And who is above the president?" they asked curiously.

"The people," was the American reply. But the simple chronicle adds, "Of this they could make nothing."

Of course not. That information must have been as illuminating as if some strange voyagers from Mars should alight among us with the statement that the horses drive the wagons on that planet.

How the Japanese must have looked at one another in their helpless bewilderment! A country where every man in the street is a Mikado and every boy an heir presumptive; every hat a crown, every chair a throne! The people at the top? Surely this strange, unknown land on the other side of the world must be upside down!

When Kings Ruled.

Even in our own constitutional convention, when it was suggested that the people should elect the president, a scoffing Virginia exclaimed that it would be like leaving the selection of colors to a blind man. Now that we are preparing to elect another this year, it is a good time to look back along the presidential line and to profit, if may be, by the past successes and failures of the system.

I shall begin Monday to tell little five-minute stories of the presidents that our people have chosen. It will be a brief, simple running story of our government told around the central figures in the lottery of politics and in the romance of our national life.

For our method of choosing presidents remains unique. It still is the only instance in the world where the choice of the chief of state really is referred to the masses.

By way of preface and as a background for the drama, I shall tell today something of the great office itself, beginning with the time when alarming rumors ran about the streets of Philadelphia to the effect that the fathers of the republic, behind the bolted doors of Independence Hall were plotting to set up a monarchy. They were going to make the second son of George III of England King of the United States! They were going to import a Bourbon Prince from France to rule over the infant nation!

Kings yet ruled all the rest of the world, and many Americans feared, many assumed, some hoped, that in their land a new King would take the place of the old King who had been overthrown.

Birth of the Presidency.

One delegate merely ventured the opinion that the country ought, at least, to make the attempt to get

along without a throne. Another conceded that in the end there would have to be a crown; but he wished that the unwelcome event might be postponed as long as possible.

Alexander Hamilton frankly proposed that the president should serve for life. Oliver Ellsworth of Connecticut was doubtful if "the most eminent characters" could be coaxed to take the presidency—(Pray, don't laugh)—if they were to be "degraded" again to private citizenship! Governor Morris of New York declared that it was not in the nature of man to be willing to "quit such an exaltation," and he favored a life tenure be-

longing to every foot of soil that has been added to the territory of the nation.

Above Congress and Courts.

Only on impeachment for high crimes or misdemeanors can the president be called to account. He is subject to no other process by congress or court. When Chief Justice Marshall summoned Thomas Jefferson to give testimony at the trial of Aaron Burr, the President only replied, "John

when he met young Charles Francis Adams at the White House, his patriotic soul took fresh alarm at the sight of that promising eighteen-year-old representative of the third generation of the Adamses. Taking the boy's mother aside he earnestly begged her to caution him never to harbor the hope or wish to succeed his father and grandfather except at the free call of the American people. With difficulty Mrs. Adams saved herself from laughing in his anxious face, and when his back was turned the family made merry over his absurd anxiety.

No Despot Presidents

The philosophical Franklin predicted that the Presidency would end only in a dynasty. As fieley as ever he had arranged with the royal tyrant in the past, Patrick Henry denounced the Presidential tyrant of the future, who would take the field at the head of his army fastened his galling yoke upon the necks of the people and make one bold rush for the American throne.

Seemingly the makers of the Constitution did take a bold chance with tyranny when they gave such immense authority to the President. In reality they gave him so much that he has had neither excuse nor wish to take more and become a usurper. Responsibility balances power in the Presidency, and generally Presidents have wearied of the burden laying it down with a sigh of relief.

Most Presidents have felt as Washington felt when he was accused of an ambition to prolong his rule. Jefferson describes him stalking the floor in a thunderous fury and, with words too harsh for the ears of school children, swearing that instead of seeking to be a dictator, he would rather be back on his farm than Emperor of the world.

Some Presidents have been dreary mediocrities; perhaps most of them have been only commonplace. But Americans boast, as well they may, that there never has been a bad President, never a President that has intentionally betrayed his great trust. People often wonder at this good fortune in the blindman's buff of politics. Seeing Presidents picked out of the crowd, seemingly at haphazard, they imagine there must be something in the tradition of the office itself which has the magic power to convert an unworthy man into a good President and save the country from the folly of popular nominations and elections.

The truth is, the great power of the President has a sobering effect upon the people as well as upon the Presidents. President Hayes said that a Napoleon in the White House in time of war could do almost as he pleased. Possibly he could, but it is doubtful. Anyhow, the popular instinct has seen to it that no man of that stamp has approached the White House.

The Presidents themselves form perhaps a matchless line. At least it seems to Americans that no list of premiers, no other political succession since 1789 quite measures up to the Presidential average, in ability and character. Certainly no dynast could afford to invite comparison. Neither the Hapsburgs nor the Hohenzollerns produced, in half a thousand years, two Princes who are equals in fame of Washington and Lincoln.

Kings are only accidents. If they rule by right divine, democracy cannot be led far save by the divine righteousness of character.



The White House, the Present Home of the Presidency.

cause, once a president was in, he would stay in anyhow by the power of the sword. Fearing that it would seem chimerical, James Wilson of Pennsylvania hardly dared to suggest that the people might be trusted to elect the chief magistrate.

More Than a King.

Haunted by doubt and fear the master builders of the republic had to create a new model of government. For all the nations still were beneath the rule of Princes. After only one hundred and thirty-three years there are many more republics today than there are independent monarchies, many more presidents than there are sovereign princes. Thus, from its starting point on the Delaware in 1787, republicanism has spread abroad until it belts the earth.

Nevertheless, there still is no other president like ours. The president of France—also the new president of Germany—only presides, and does not govern or administer.

Our presidency actually was created under a strange delusion. The makers of the constitution frankly intended to set up a king in all but the name.

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By that queer mischance, the elected chief of the great republic was intrusted with more power than any king is now permitted to wield. A distinguished jurist once held that only Russia and the United States "represent the principle of political absolutism and enforce it by one man's hand." Even the Mikado of Japan has his Elder Statesmen, and every European monarch or president is under the control of the ministers or a parliament.

In Wartime.

"My Lord," Secretary Seward said to Lord Lyons, as that envoy reported to the British government from Washington in the Civil war—"My Lord, I can touch a bell and order the arrest of a citizen of Ohio. I can touch a bell again and order the imprisonment of a citizen of New York, and no power on earth except that of the president can release them. Can the queen of England do as much?"

We saw in the course of the late World War an answer to Seward's unseemly boast. Parliament had to pass

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in the president as commander-in-chief of our army and navy.

When we entered the war, this country automatically passed under one-man power. Loyd George succeeded only by a revolutionary stroke in reducing the British executive to five men, and that war cabinet was

Lincoln decided by himself one sleepless night whether the Union should be defended or abandoned. Before calling the lawmakers together, he raised two armies and suspended the writ of habeas corpus. Without an act of congress he freed four million slaves by a stroke of his pen, and, at the end of the conflict, he alone dictated the terms of peace.

In all national crises the presidents have had to make the choice between peace and war. The most momentous decisions in the history of the country have rested with them. They have pushed the national boundary from the Mississippi river to the China Sea, and taken the first step in the an-

Marshall has issued his subpoena, now let him enforce it." And how could he, with the President in control of the Army and Navy and of every deputy marshall?

The person of this sceptered prince of democracy is inviolable. Constitutional students contend that even though he committed murder there is no power to arrest him for the crime. He is clearly answerable only to those from whom he received his commission—to you and me.

While Lafayette was paying his last visit to this land of his adoption, in 1824-5, he was alarmed to see John Quincy Adams, the son of a President, elected to the Presidency. Afterward,

the Presidents themselves form perhaps a matchless line. At least it seems to Americans that no list of premiers, no other political succession since 1789 quite measures up to the Presidential average, in ability and character. Certainly no dynast could afford to invite comparison. Neither the Hapsburgs nor the Hohenzollerns produced, in half a thousand years, two Princes who are equals in fame of Washington and Lincoln.

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INFORMATION TO BE ASKED IN CHURCH SURVEY OUTLINED

Scores of workers representing the co-operating churches of Richmond, will Sunday start the household survey of the city, under direction of the Inter-Church World movement.

A school of instruction for workers was held last night at the First Presbyterian church, under leadership of the Rev. Charles E. Trueblood, of Whiting and the Rev. Zerby, of Zarby, who represent the city survey department.

Richmond has been districted into 18 districts. The committee in charge urges that residents co-operate with the visitor. One card is to cover the information for one entire household, including roomers or relatives.

The survey information card is filled out by checking certain information on a standard form card. The questions asked are:

1. Description of dwelling. Detached or adjoining. (A double house to be classed as an adjoining house.) One family or two families if only one family lives in one side of a double house it is classed as a "one-family house, tenement or apartment house—floor (first, second, or third basement if the family lives in the basement of an apartment house)—front or rear—east, west, north or south side.)

2. Family name—white, negro or other color—length of residence in house—length of residence in neighborhood (this referring to length of residence in the city.)

3. Language of mother. (Language spoken by mother in the family.)

4. Names of adults in family and children.

The following questions referring to each member of the household:

5. What faith (Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Jewish, etc.)

6. Member of what church (First Methodist, Grace Methodist, etc.)

7. Church officials.

8. Attend or pray what church (if not a member of any church.)

9. Attend what Sunday school.

10. War service (to indicate "S" soldier, "N" navy, "M" marines, "R" C" red cross, "Y" Y. M. C. A. War Work, "K. C." Knights of Columbus war work, etc.)

11. Where born—in U. S. or foreign country—in city (2,500 or larger—or country.

12. Number of years in U. S. (if born in foreign country.)

13. Occupation or in school (to give occupation if working and grade if attending school.)

14. Member of union.

ROUMANIANS CONFER WITH BOLSHEVIK

By Associated Press

BUCHAREST, March 13—Rumanian delegates have gone to Warsaw to confer with Bolshevik representatives as to the situation in Bessarabia and also arrange for the return of part of the Rumanian national treasure which has been in Moscow since the German invasion of this country.

Funeral Arrangements

Ruhlen—Helen Lucile Ruhlen, 3 years old, died at the home of her grandparents, 423 South Twelfth street late Friday afternoon. She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter G. Ruhlen; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Lamb; one brother and one sister.

Funeral services will be held at the home of the grandparents at 2 p. m. Monday. Burial will be in St. Mary's cemetery. The Rev. W. J. Cronin will officiate.

Benfeldt—Funeral services for Mrs. Sophia Benfeldt will be held at the home at 2 p. m. Sunday. Burial will be in Lutheran. Friends may call Saturday afternoon and evening.

Walls—Funeral services for Roland Walls will be held in St. Andrew's church at 3 a. m. Monday. Burial will be in St. Andrew's cemetery. The American Legion will have charge of the services.

Mook—Funeral services for Ora E. Mook will be held in the United Brethren church at New Hope at 2 p. m. Sunday. Burial will be in the Mount Hill cemetery at Eaton.

McConnell—Funeral services for Andrew McConnell were held in the Wesleyan church a 2:30 p. m. Saturday. Burial was in Earham.

Bass—Funeral services for Catherine Bass were held at the home of her parents at 10 a. m. Saturday. Burial was in Earham.

Circuit Court

Wilhelmina Renk was granted a divorce from Andrew Renk on grounds of cruelty and inhuman treatment.

Ethel Park was granted divorce from Jesse Park, on grounds of cruelty and inhuman treatment and failure to provide. The plaintiff was given the custody of one minor child, aged 2, and the defendant was ordered to pay \$5 a week towards the support of the child.

Grounds of cruelty and inhuman treatment were sufficient for the court to grant. George G. Bousman a divorce from Grover C. Bousman.

Owing to the lateness of the year, enthusiastic response was lacking. Orders from the executive offices stipulated that the \$800 fund be spent before September 1.

It was upon this order that A. H. Myer, of New York City, conferred with the educational committee of the Richmond Y. Friday, and becoming acquainted with conditions, granted permission to defer the program until fall.

The motor mechanics course will be started, however, the first session to be held in the Y at 7:30 p. m. Monday. All applicants have been notified by mail.

Thirteen births is an unusually small total. Returns follow:

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Crouch, 1617 North H. street, a girl; Mr. and Mrs. Chris C. Hinshaw, 805 North G street, a girl; Mr. and Mrs. Shubel S. Cook, 314 North Ninth street, a girl; Mr. and Mrs. F. Robert McFall, 219 South Sixteenth street, a girl; Mr. and Mrs. Forrest O. Hill, R. F. D. Fountain, City, a girl; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Russell Dilks, a girl, born at Reid hospital; Mr. and Mrs. James Lykens,

Short News of City

MOTOR MECHANICS MEET

The first meeting of the Motor Mechanics class of ex-service men, will be held at the Y. M. C. A. Monday evening at 7:30 p. m. All the men who have made application for the class have been notified and a large attendance is expected.

Y DORM MEN MEET

The Dormitory Men's Bible class of the Y will hold their first session Monday night at 6:20 p. m. in the cafeteria, a dinner will be served.

FAVOR NON-PARTISAN LEAGUE

The Non-Partisan League and the American Federation of Labor were endorsed by the Central Labor council Thursday night. The endorsement was passed unanimously. Members of the council said that labor in Richmond should line up solidly for candidates who are in favor of the working man. Other business was transacted.

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY

An open house to allow the persons who were kept away at the opening Wednesday night because of the weather, will be held by the Wilmot Club Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5.

The club, a dormitory for working women, is located at North Twelfth and B streets.

GEORGE HART BETTER

George R. Hart, who has been a patient at Reid hospital, for heart trouble, has left that institution and is improving, it is learned. He is staying with relatives in Centerville.

POSTMISTRESS AT EVERTON

William Jones, the county for a week has had its first postmistress. Mrs. Henry Jernan has been appointed to take formal charge of the Everton post office and has begun her duties.