

If The Past Could But Teach Us!

"I am aware that many object to the severity of my language; but is there not cause for severity? I will be as harsh as truth, and as uncompromising as justice. On this subject I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation. No! No! Tell a man whose house is on fire to give a moderate alarm; tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the hands of the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen; but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present. I am in earnest—I will not equivocate—I will not excuse—I will not retreat a single inch, and I WILL BE HEARD. The sparrow of the people is enough to make every statue leap from its pedestal, and to hasten the resurrection of the dead."

The words were written more than seventy years ago; written by the man whose name history links most closely with the struggle for the overthrow of negro chattel slavery. William Lloyd Garrison. They are from the salubrious of the first issue of "The Liberator," dated January 1, 1831, and they represent the principles from which Garrison never swayed throughout the thirty years his agitation covered. They express the creed of one who, judging by results, was one of the most successful agitators on record, and even thirty years ago there must have been thousands of sturdy, liberty loving Americans who knew by heart the passage quoted. Today, though we are in the full swing of another and vastly greater Abolition movement, it may well be doubted if one out of a million Americans knows the passage.

So bold was the attack, so firm the position taken, that within a few months a whole nation, which had never given the inquiry of chattel slavery so much as a passing thought, had taken the alarm. Threats against Garrison's life were numerous. The Mayor of Boston was urged to stop the publication of "The Liberator," as inciting to rebellion. In the District of Columbia, seat of our national Capitol, it was made a crime to take "The Liberator" from the postoffice. In South Carolina a statute was passed under which \$1500 reward was paid for the conviction of any one circulating the paper. The Georgia legislature offered \$5000 for Garrison's arrest and conviction. Yet Garrison—unlike the leaders of the modern Abolition movement was pre-eminently what is called a religious man. He was a passive resister; he took his anti-slavery arguments largely from the Bible; he sought converts mainly among the religious. Facts, however, eventually made him wiser, and it was not long before he was to write: "Considering their influence and the force of their example, undoubtedly the worst enemies of the people of color are professors of religion."

Privilege seeds danger as surely as the fox terrier seeds the rat. The slaveholding oligarchy of the South, and their Northern allies, knew immediately that Garrison was the man to be suppressed; precisely because he was not a politician, because he would not compromise, because he insisted on presenting chattel slavery as a crime against humanity, to be wiped out immediately and at any cost. He had not come into the agitation so trim and dandy votes. He had come as a bull into a china shop, determined to smash the stock and put the establishment out of business. In 1832, when the first Anti Slavery Society was formed, the account of the meeting reads that "Mr. Garrison was firm in the conviction that the vitality of the movement depended upon a frank avowal of fundamental principles, however unpopular they might be." In "The Liberator" of April, 1833, he wrote: "I will not waste my strength in foolishly endeavoring to bend down this great Bastille with a feather. I will not commence at the roof and throw off its tiles piecemeal. I am for digging under its foundations and springing a mine that shall not leave one stone upon another."

There was an established anti-slavery movement when Garrison came into the fight. It had dribbled along for years, as the modern abolition movement has dribbled along; talking gaily about slavery and solemnly discussing measures that were to become operative a thousand years from date. In the South it was quite popular. About all there was to it was contained in the American Colonization Society, which proposed to ship the negro slaves to Africa. The leading anti-slavery agitators belonged to that organization, as did many of the Southern slaveholders. It was the Civic Federation of that day. In 1832 Garrison declared open war against it, saying, among other things: "It is imperative and essentially seeks up the lips of a vast number of influential and pious men, who, for fear of giving offense to those slaveholders with whom they associate, and thereby lending to a dissolution of the compact, dare not expose the flagrant enormities of the system of slavery, nor denounce the crime of holding human beings in bondage. My complaint is that they content themselves with representing slavery as an evil, a misfortune, a calamity, which has been entailed upon us by former generations; and not as an individual crime, embracing in its folds robbery, cruelty, oppression and piracy. They do not identify the criminals."

Do you think all this dead history, belonging to a vanished past? Look into the radical labor movement today and you can see in active operation every one of the divisions and struggles that terminated in our Civil War.

Read the life of Birney if you want to know how the politicians in the anti-slavery movement cursed and ridiculed Garrison, Wendell Phillips and other Direct Action men of that time, as they are cursing and ridiculing Direct Action men today. Nine-tenths of them preferred patriotism to freedom, and had only bitter jeers for those who declared that a Union founded on slavery was not worth preserving. Imagine the horror of the "respectables," who had sat complacently for years at meetings side by side with Southern planters, when Garrison pulled their pet club, their sacred church, down upon their heads. They were in the exact position occupied today by those who participate in and support land speculation, while denouncing it, theoretically, as the cause of all misery and crime. Down on them pounced an uncompromising radical and declared that to deal in slaves, or have amicable relations with slaveholders, was an individual crime. Small wonder he was unpopular.

What had happened in the South? On what was chattel slavery based? Simply on the fact that a particular section of white men had got hold of all the natural resources of the South, and had imported the cheapest labor available to produce for them the necessities of life and minister to all their luxuries. And on what, pray, is our modern slavery based except that very thing, the few having cornered the resources and working them by the cheapest labor obtainable? At bottom the processes are identical, but the modern system is, superficially, more complicated and, therefore, more confusing to the casual observer. Moreover, it affects not the negro alone but men of every race, and the line of battle extends incomparably farther. So the revolutionary development is slower.

Garrison was married and left a family. But his truly legitimate heirs were the lawless men who snatched the negro from slavery and hurried him by the Underground Railway, to freedom in Canada. The John Brown who marched to Harper's Ferry and attacked authority; the all-too-small minority which took up arms knowingly for the overthrow of chattel slavery, and to whom the preservation of the Union, and other existing social arrangements, were matters of indifference while based on slavery. That is the position we approach today, and there are now thousands of us who understand that the State may roll in splendor while the individual starves in the gutter; that our flag may wave over half the world, while our unemployed shiver in the bread-line or work themselves to death grinding out scandalous profits for the few. In Mexico they know this well; in the United States they are beginning to understand it; everywhere the new Abolition army is bucking on its armor. I should add, for the new Armageddon, but I do not wish to be taken for a Rooseveltian Socialist.

WM. C. OWEN.

A POLITICAL CARNIVAL.

The Revolution of 1910 created, thanks to the stupidity of the masses, a party of "idolatries," and this is working to the injury of the other party of collective well-being, created six years ago. This foolish error has frustrated the well-defined ideals that were embodied in the Mexican Liberal Party. The failure has been lamentable, but the idea still remains latent.

What was foreseen has happened, and, despite ridiculous peace-compacts, the contest has continued, with all the disasters consequent on the faithless betrayal of all principle. At this very moment the situation is somewhat worse than ever, and this condition will be prolonged until the course of our leaders has been purified, and their mischievous machinations exposed before the people they are sacrificing.

"Redeemers" swarm into birth, and their programmes for the hypnotizing of the boobies are the most ridiculous and fraudulent that can be imagined. Antiquated routine and revamped vagaries are placed before incautious audiences; but none of their preachments are directed toward the revolting proletariat. On the contrary, the leader-devote themselves, with crushing insistence, to keeping the proletariat chained to the car of abject misery.

Disinherited comrades! On you is imposed the duty of not allowing yourselves to be dragged to your sacrifice, and into fratricidal war, by the wheedling promises of the evil or military chieftains of the contending parties. If the campaign must go on let it be for your own benefit and not to hoist any ambitious tongue into power. ("El Ahuizote"—Mexico's leading comic weekly.)

TO LABOR UNIONS.

The "Syndicalist Literary Bureau" has written us, asking how it can obtain the names of Union and other workingmen who have been in social struggle. We can think of no other way than that of inviting labor organizations throughout the country to send in details, either to the editor of this section or to S. T. Hammersmark, 706 Pacific Ave., Tacoma, Wash.

It seems to us that the appeal is most timely, for labor is being attacked remorselessly by the enemies of direct action, and the public at large has but a dim conception of the fire to which organized labor, in particular, has been subjected, or of the extent to which its most active and self-sacrificing members have suffered. Union secretaries and others who answer this appeal may feel assured that such information as they send will be held confidential, on the one hand, and given wide circulation, on the other. The bureau writes us that it can see its way to the publication of an article on the subject, in one of the noted magazines, and it is organized to break, into the public press, at every point available, with just such matter. On this question of Direct Action, and of the violence that naturally accompanies a struggle so one-sided, labor at present is standing almost entirely on the defense. It should not. It should spare no pains to show the world how fierce has been the other side's assault. For example, there have been few wars more ruthless than that waged by the Steel Trust.

Let us pick up the gauntlet and ourselves move to the attack.

THE TRUE ALARM.

Treating of the increasing persecution of journalists, for which the Mexican government is apologizing with the plea that public confidence must be restored, "El Noticiero Mexicano" (Mexico City), says editorially: The general alarm is due, not to the publication of the facts, but to the facts themselves.

The alarm is due to the continued bleeding of the national treasury, which has been reduced to indigence, the alarm is due to the continuous call for new loans and taxes, which now mount up to millions on millions—to figures previously unheard of and well nigh incredible. The alarm is due to perception of the bottomless abyss, on the edge of which we stand and into which the slightest push may precipitate us. The alarm is due to the contemplation of the national territory, inundated with blood, misery and injustice.

The alarm is due to the uncultivated fields, the uncared crops, the misery which reigns, the empty hearths, the burned towns, the orphaned children, the widowed wives, the immense misfortunes of the nation. This is the real alarm; an alarm which is throwing the nation into panic and is the product of the acts of officialdom.

UNLICENSED FORCE.

Many will condemn the use of force by these men, largely because they hold no licensed authority to use it. These are the people who uphold the officers of the law in whatever brutality they indulge. The student who sits calmly and surveys the sociological field will have neither blame nor praise to offer. He realizes that their action is but a manifestation of a mighty problem, the greatest problem of the age—and that prejudice for or against will add only confusion to the solution. He sees that it was either fight this way or submit quietly to the humiliating exactions of the steel trust, and that the men chose to fight. That they failed proves only that the odds were against them. The contemplation of this kind of strike carried out on a large scale staggers the mind, and the student sees no logical reason for it not being developed and expanded if conditions make it an alternative to industrial slavery.

He hopes to see the education of the workers proceed with sufficient rapidity to avert the necessity for a long siege of guerrilla warfare. But that there will eventually be a clash of forces between the trusts and the workers, the conduct of the steel trust easily foreshadows. (Jay Fox, in "The Syndicalist.")

CUT OUT THE GRAFT.

Why shouldn't the needy do their own begging? This "The Melting Pot." Why tolerate the rick-off enjoyed by the Salvation Army and other middle-men? Let the municipality furnish the poor with their own iron pots, bells and mortars, and let them line up on the sidewalk—to do their own collecting. Admirable ideal! Educational, economical, self-helpful. "The Melting Pot" adds this pious thought: "Nor need such an arrangement begin or cease with the Christmas holidays. Let the thing go on all through the year. It would cost much to provide iron pots, bells and mortars and caps and bonnets for the victims of Mammon, and it might prove a valuable lesson to all of us to drag these outraged poor out of their hovels and give them the sidewalks and corners. Christmas isn't the only day in the year the poor get hungry, and they don't need a Salvation Army hand and public show to make them eat."

As a Protean artist Uncle Sam is hard to beat. If it suits his convenience he can change from a rabid revolutionist into a dove of peace, with remarkable dexterity. When he needed a certain strip of land for the completion of the Canal, he did not hesitate to finance a revolution in the republic of Panama; and today, with equal ease and greater effrontery, he would be glad to step in and stifle the libertarian aspirations of the Mexican people to protect the commercial interests of a few yankee buccaners. It is gratifying in the extreme to know that the only thing that deters him from realizing the dream of his heart is the hostility manifested by the people. ("Why?")

If the trade unions in this country show only a slight disposition to struggle according to the rules of the game, it is due solely to the fact that radicals have forsaken them for the discussion of Plato, Nietzsche and Stirner after a six-bit dinner, and that corrupt leaders and crafty politicians have converted them into a vast arena, to draw support for gratification of their political ambition. If today they only know how to fight clumsily, let us not withdraw from them the militant minority who can teach them how to fight with dexterity for a definite aim. ("Why?")

Mexican Notes.

The latest number to hand of "La Nacion," dated Jan. 20, informs us that, by order of Gen. Aureliano Blanquet, no trains to Toluca are running. This in consequence of continued Zapatista activity. Toluca is a city of about 26,000 inhabitants, situate in the State of Mexico. Jan. 15 it was reported that the Federal troops had retaken Santa Maria, in the same State, which had been captured by Genevevo de la O and the Miranda Brothers, who sacked Ayotzingo. The same Zapatista leaders were also reported as having been repulsed at Amecameca, which they had threatened, and also at Toluca and Toluca, near Atlixco. The Mexican City press estimated their force as numbering two thousand.

Mexico City, Puebla, Vera Cruz, Guerrero and the Northern border have produced the chief fighting news during the past week. Rumored movements in Vera Cruz resulted in the sending of the cruiser Wheeling, to protect American lives and property, as it was stated. For the same reason the Denver was sent to Acapulco, which appeared likely to fall into the possession of the rebels.

Under date of Jan. 17 "El Diario" reported Orozco as having joined forces with Marcelino, near Gallegos, in Chihuahua. It said: "He has an important force, and his men are well armed and have artillery." Juarez has been once more a center of disturbance, and was believed to be about to fall once more into rebel hands. According to a Washington despatch, dated Jan. 24, Brig. Gen. Steever, in command of the United States forces along the Texas border, had informed the War Department that the reinforcement of the federal army by seven hundred men had raised the garrison to the thousand mark, and removed all immediate fear of danger.

An informal armistice which had lasted five days ended Jan. 28, following a conference between Mexican Consul E. C. Lorente and Salazar's representative, it having been found impossible to come to terms. David de la Puente, Orozco's former artillery chief, had joined Salazar, being at the head of two hundred men, and the joint forces are estimated at fifteen hundred. The air had been for some time full of rumors of approaching peace in Chihuahua, mainly through the efforts of Pedro Lascurain, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who has returned to Mexico City from Washington, D. C. El Paso papers reported him as being accompanied by Lloyd Griscom, the New York lawyer, Thomas Ryan and officials of the Northwestern Railway, and as having been in conference with railroad officials, mining men, etc., before leaving El Paso. Since returning to Mexico City he has given out formal statements to the press in which he says that the American government "will continue to maintain a policy opposed to intervention, always provided that events in Mexico do not give support to the work of their adversaries." Lorente reports also that he found it impossible to consider favorably the proposals of Salazar and other Northern rebel leaders, which contained, among other things, pledges that the Plan of San Luis Potosi, looking to the immediate expropriation of fraudulent land monopolists, should be enforced.

There has been much talk to the effect that Emiliano Zapata was willing to make terms, but this also has come to nothing. Ernesto Madero, Minister of Finance, has filed a report, according to which the public debt has increased \$13,278,994 during the past twelve months, and the treasury has now on hand in cash, \$48,532,445. (He estimates the revenue for the year 1913-14 at \$129,607,000 and states that the expenditures will be increased correspondingly, to bring about pacification. Much stress is laid on the continued increase in the production of metals and on the agricultural strength of the country, as exhibited during the past twelve months, despite revolutionary disturbances. The "Los Angeles Times" editorially trusts that his optimistic views of the future are justified and will be realized.)

A LITERARY BUREAU.

In October last I resigned the editorship of the English section of "Regeneracion," largely because it appeared to me that the English-speaking revolutionary element in this and other countries had become fully and soundly assimilated to the Mexican Revolution, while the vast conservative element which it is indispensable to reach still lay entirely beyond our touch. This seems to me applicable to all radical agitation.

Since then I have been endeavoring to enlist interest in a Syndicalist Literary Bureau, which should carry on correspondence and agitation throughout the country, making use of the established channels of publication to spread its propaganda. Personally I am of the all-too-common type that prefers the writing of articles to the drudgery of circulation management; but experience has convinced me, at least, that circulation is the important thing.

Small, independent publications, which invariably involve heroic sacrifice, are invaluable. One hopes to see them multiply a thousandfold. They reach, and affect profoundly, that small minority which always has to act as movers. But if that minority does not proceed to carry on the work; if it flops in a corner by itself instead of breaking fresh ground at every possible point; if it becomes worse than useless. It becomes a sect—a logic-chopping circle; a mutual admiration society.

I can go to our library any morning and run through fifty articles on various phases of the social question, as they appear in newspapers and magazines which reach many millions. There will be hardly one of those articles which has not good in it, and generally they will have been written with the best intentions. There will be hardly one of them that, from the

advanced standpoint, is not marred by serious errors; nine-tenths of which arise from sheer ignorance. There are comparatively few of the papers and magazines, in which such articles appear, that do not welcome intelligent criticism. In fact many of them run special departments established for that purpose.

Here, then, to the thought of some of us, is an enormous field, aching to be tilled. It calls for individual effort. It calls for the existence of a body of men sufficiently sensible to understand that they are injuring themselves when they rest in inactivity, and that they are injuring themselves still more profoundly when they merely hold down chairs at meetings, or act as whoopsters up for such celebrities as visit their localities from time to time. That spells mental and moral rot, against which surely, sensible persons will guard themselves. On the other hand, he or she who is truly interested in this struggle of the ages, and understands that we are now passing through the greatest of all revolutions, will feel an urge to self-expression. That urge must be satisfied, and the individuals who feel it should understand that they must somehow break new trails and find a way.

I know that such a plan has been discussed from time to time by many of those whose names are household words in the revolutionary movement. Probably it fell through because such men are always overwhelmed with work.

Here I have no space to dwell on details, but I wish to show the enormous advantage that would accrue to our struggling revolutionary press. If, for example, a member of the Literary Bureau were writing to correct misstatements as to Syndicalism, he would refer, quite naturally, to some article in "The Syndicalist" that elucidated the point at issue. If the question were as to the respective teachings of Socialism or Anarchy on a certain matter, he would quote leading organs on either side. If the course of the Mexican Revolution were involved, he would cite "Regeneracion," and soon, in this way, the extent of the papers quoted would be called to the attention of thousands who never had heard of them. It seems to me that the advertising possibilities are boundless.

A beginning has been made, and it is always the beginning that is so hard. W. C. O.

FREE SPEECH?

Is there no parallel between the gag of the burglar and the gag of the law? Why does the burglar use a gag? If it because he wants to get away with your goods, and he doesn't want you to make an outcry and call the neighbors. He knows he cannot convince you by argument that it is entitled to the goods and that it is really to your best interest to pass them over to him.

Capitalism holds up the toilers; it robs them of their labor and is enjoying life to its fullest on the result of its plunder. Naturally it doesn't want to be deprived of its special privilege, therefore it puts the gag of the law in the mouth of any one who attempts to make an outcry. So long as the toilers submit meekly to the hold-up and have nothing but praise for the glorious system that skins them, they can gorge themselves on free speech. The constitution and the declaration of independence are taken down from their abiding place among the romantic fiction of the eighteenth century and read to the sovereign citizens as a solemn reminder of the special dispensation Providence has bestowed upon them in this free country. ("The Syndicalist.")

GOING SOME.

What are the rich about? We have always said that, under the existing city administration, with its thousand and one revolutionary measures and appeal to popular passion, life among the well-to-do has become not worth the living. It now appears that they have not even the right to live, as shown by the latest statistical report of automobile and motorcycle accidents in Los Angeles during the past twelve months.

Dashing hither and thither in their luxuriously appointed limosines, the working class knocked down and ran over no less than 1877 persons last year. On the machines needed for this nefarious work they squandered nearly \$12,000,000.

Straws show the direction of the wind. We have maintained steadily that this city is run exclusively for the benefit of the workers, and it is submitted that the foregoing figures establish our position.

PLUTOCRACY'S MURDERS.

A suicide commission to study the causes and prevention of self-destruction is proposed by Coroner Hoffman, of Chicago, Ill., U. S. A., in his report just issued, covering four years.

The most significant statement in the booklet is the information that in 1911 there was an increase of 25 per cent in the number of suicides over 1910. Five hundred and twenty-three coroners' inquests returned the verdict of "death by suicide" for the year. Of 18,700 deaths in four years, 2,023 were suicides.

The statistics of this office show that 54 per cent of all suicides are those over forty years of age. It is not far-fetched to suppose that a large number of the industrial army who find themselves permanently out of employment through no fault of their own save old age should seek solace in a self-chosen death, says the report.

In noting the increase in the number of suicides during my administration of the office of coroner, I believe it is high time that the subject of suicide be intelligently studied by our community. After due consideration I believe it advisable that a suicide commission be appointed by our city council which will give the entire subject thorough study and investigation. ("Middleton Guardian," Eng.)

RALLIED IN FORCE.

The International Rally, held at T. M. A. hall, Sunday evening, Jan. 26, brought a full house, and quite a thousand must have been present. This was the more gratifying as the meeting had been arranged hastily and advertised scantily. It was called to discuss the Mexican Revolution and explain its connection with the worldwide struggle for economic freedom. J. F. Moncalano, the new editor of "Regeneracion" and formerly editor of "La Luz," Mexico City, made a speech that moved the audience profoundly. He pleaded powerfully for closer union among the Mexican workers in the United States and urged the establishment of headquarters in Los Angeles, where lectures should be given, classes established, and such work as that carried on by the Feffer Modern Schools set on foot.

M. Fasano spoke in Italian, depicting the development of the revolutionary movement during the past two years, and its connection with and influence on the agitation in Spain, Italy and other Latin countries. The editor of this section gave a historical survey of the changes wrought since the overthrow of Diaz, less than two years ago, as showing the awakening of the spirit of revolt among a people that had been cowed into dumb submission. He spoke especially of the railroad and other strikes now prevalent in Mexico, wherein the operatives are holding out for terms they would not have dreamed of demanding under Diaz, and holding out successfully.

It is planned to hold another and similar meeting next Sunday week.

OUR BRITISH SISTERS.

The reprisals being taken by the British suffragettes will add immense weight, in the near future, to the most powerful of all arguments—violence. We do not enter on the slippery grounds of ethics, which vary with time and place. We do not say whether violence should or should not be the most powerful of arguments. In the first place, it is the universal argument of governments, which, supporting the most inequitable division of social wealth this world has known, rely exclusively on violence, and would not last twenty-four hours were it not for their recognized ability to terrorize the unarmed.

In the second place, violence is the cornerstone of majority rule, under which the minority has to submit voluntarily under penalty of being clubbed into submission. Finally, history furnishes us with not one example of a great social change, profoundly affecting vested interests, which has not realized itself through violence.

The historical argument is in itself conclusive, for what man has done consistently through centuries man will do again; and assuredly, there is nothing in the events now passing beneath our noses to justify the pious aspirations of those who pray that history may change its course. The entire horizon is crimsoning with violence. Ask Gen. O'Leary that he thinks about it. He is on the other side, but he is not a dreamer. He sees the storm gathering and hoists his danger signals, untrammelled by the tutored battlements of the "Los Angeles Daily Times."

ENTITLED TO PAROLE FEBRUARY 28th.

The first third of the penitentiary term to which our companions were condemned, will end at the time we start these lines; and at the same date, according to the United States law, Ricardo Flores Magon, Enrique Flores Magon, Librado Rivera and Anselmo L. Figueroa, should be entitled to freedom and parole.

The federal law of the United States voted by the congress in 1910, liberates the prisoner as he finishes the third part of the condemnation. The greater part of federal prisoners are being constantly freed from the penitentiary at the end of the first third of their sentence.

Why, then, should Magon and our companions be an exception and the government deny them their liberty?

It depends on our actions whether they will be forced to return to prison, or not.

Urge William H. Taft, by letter, to liberate our companions on the 28th of February, 1913.

Foreign companions, protest to the American consuls, ministers and ambassadors in their respective cities, against the continuance of imprisoning Magon and companions. Demand their liberty on the day mentioned above.

THE EDITOR'S OFFICE "REGENERACION"
(We ask the radical press to reproduce this article.)

IMPORTANT.

The companions who wish to apply to the government of the United States on behalf of the liberty of our brother workers of the Junta Organization of the Mexican Liberal Party should fill out this coupon and send in sealed envelope to William H. Taft, Washington, D. C., U. S. A. In case there is more than one companion in one place in favor of it, sign your names on a slip of paper and enclose WITH COUPON.

COUPON

TO WILLIAM H. TAFT.
The White House, Washington D. C.
According to the franchise known as "Liberty on Parole," Ricardo Flores Magon, Enrique Flores Magon, Librado Rivera and Anselmo L. Figueroa, members of the Junta Organization of the Mexican Liberal Party ("Junta Organizadora del Partido Liberal Mexicano") should be liberated from the McNeil Island Penitentiary of Washington the coming 28th of February, 1913.

The prison in which these men are suffering, not only punishes them for the violation of the so-called neutrality laws, but even for liberal laws which they advocate and for desiring the advancement of the revolutionary cause. Yet your government repeatedly allows politicians to violate those very same laws, as you yourself proved by permitting the coming of the Mexican soldiers to American soil, and allowing Francisco I. Madero and Manuel Bonilla, today presidents of Mexico and Honduras respectively, to depart from El Paso and New Orleans for their countries at the head of filibuster expeditions.

For that reason, I urge on you the complete liberty of said revolutionists, whose permanency in McNeil Island, dressed in convicts' garbs, has placed the United States in an odious light before the thinking world.

Name.....

Address.....

Date.....