Five Minute Chats on Our Presidents

By JAMES MORGAN

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MARTIN VAN BUREN

1837—Martin Van Buren inaugurated eighth president, aged 54.
Revolution in Ontario.
Revolution in Texas.
The Seminole war.
1840—The sub-treasury law.
Van Buren defeated for re-election.
1844—Defeated for nomination.
1848—Free soil candidate for president.
1862—July 24, died at Kinderhook, N. Y., aged 79.

THE most notable event of Van Buren's administration was the occurrence of one of the great panics from which in the nineteenth century the country regularly collapsed every 15 or 20 years, as in 1819, 1837, 1857, 1873 and in 1893. Those periodic prostrations always followed wild debauches in speculation, but since it is convenient and consoling to blame some one else for our own sins, the president invariably has been made the scapegoat in each period of hard times.

No doubt Jackson's removal of the public deposits from the United States bank caused financial disturbance and his distribution of the federal surplus among the state treasuries also was disturbing. The government, the banks and the people generally had all merrily joined in sowing the wind, whose harvest was the whirlwind of 1837.

The nation had been indulging in the first of its big western booms. The river steamboat aided to open up new regions, where mushroom states, in ambitious emulation of New York and its Erie canal, ran wild in appropriations for the building of canals. Van



Martin Van Buren.

Buren was the first president-elect to ride in a train even part of the way to Washington, and the expansion of the steam railway system was beginning to inflame the national imagination.

When the day of reckoning and remorse came; when bread riots broke out; when laborers stood in line near New York to get jobs at a wage of $4 a month and board; when banks suspended payments in coin, and when business houses were tumbling into bankruptcy, the bankers and business men, who had always been violently anti-Democratic, turned upon Van Buren and pointed their accusing fingers at the White House. The foremost man of business in conservative New England, Abbott Lawrence, did not hesitate to hint to a public meeting in Boston, the incendiary suggestion that the time might come for forcible resistance to the government, when the crew, as he said, would have to mutiny and seize the ship of state.

Van Buren faced the gale without bending. He rose above political maneuvering and the temptation to flatter the mad passions of the hour—and preserved an attitude of masterful inactivity!

The president did call congress in extra session, but only to recommend the adoption of the sub-treasury system. The banks having failed, he proposed that Uncle Sam, like a timid old woman, should lock up his money in the bureau drawer. And the economic folly of the sub-treasury was persisted in until the establishment of the federal reserve system.

It was squally weather all around, with the costly Seminole war dragging its slow course through the malarial everglades of Florida; with embarrassing revolutions on both sides of us, in the revolted Mexican province of Texas and in Ontario.

The defeats of the Democratic ticket in the off years plainly foreshadowed the ill-starred president's own defeat in his candidacy for re-election in 1840. No prophet was needed to write the refrain of the popular campaign song of the Whigs:

Van! Van!
Is a used up man.

Nevertheless Van Buren remained in active politics 10 years. For still another 10 years he lived on in retirement at Lindenwold, his country estate in his native village, where he died in the midst of the Civil war.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR SEPTEMBER 5

THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE.

LESSON TEXT—I Kings 5:1; 8:66.
GOLDEN TEXT—Mine house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.—Isa. 56:7.
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—II Chron. 2:1; 3:17.
PRIMARY TOPIC—God's House.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Solomon Builds the Temple.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Putting Our Best Into the House of God.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Value of a House of Worship.

I. Solomon's Preparation (5:1-18).

He secured from King Hiram:

1. Wood for beams, ceilings, sheeting, and chambers around the holy house.

2. Stones for the great foundation. These were secured from the Phoenician quarries and also from the mountain upon which the temple was built. They were so shaped that when the temple was erected there was no sound of a hammer heard.

3. Skilled workmen. Among the Israelites were not to be found men skilled in this kind of work, so the king arranged with Hiram to furnish capable men.

II. Solomon Building the Temple (6:1-38).

1. The location—Mount Morah (II Chron. 3:1). This was a suitable location, as it was here that the Lord appeared to Solomon's father, David.

2. The dimensions and materials. "If a cubit was 18 inches, the temple proper was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and 45 feet high."

3. The contents: (1) Brazen altar; (2) laver; (3) golden candlestick; (4) cherubim.

III. The Dedication of the Temple (8:1-66).

The dedication of the temple was arranged to take place at a very favorable time. The success of an undertaking is largely determined by the time in which it is held. This was arranged to take place at the most joyous of the several representative gatherings of the Jews. The dedicatory services consisted of the following:

1. Bringing up the ark (vv. 1-11). The ark was God's dwelling place. The ark with the two tables of stone under the mercy seat shows God manifesting himself with his people on the ground of a law perfectly kept and sins atoned for by the shedding of blood. Following the completion of the sacrifice, the temple was filled with the glory of Jehovah.

2. Solomon's address to the people (vv. 2-21). He pointed out to the people that God had chosen David to be king, yet for certain reasons did not allow him to build the temple, but promised that his son should do the work. Now that the work was done, the temple was built, and the ark of the covenant was in its place, they could be assured that God had raised him up in the room of his father.

3. Solomon's dedicatory prayer (vv. 22-53). The ark having been placed in a most holy place, and the address to the people having been ended, the king pours out his soul to God in prayer. In this prayer Solomon gratefully acknowledges God's goodness in the past, giving glory to him, and pleads that his promise to his father be verified (vv. 22-26). He prays that God's eyes may continually be opened towards the temple which he had now taken possession of (vv. 27-38), so that (1) in case of contention between parties he would judge between them (vv. 31-32); (2) in case of being smitten by the enemy, even though they had sinned, upon confession of the sin, God would forgive and restore (vv. 33, 34); (3) in case of famine as chastisement for sin, upon confession and prayer before the temple, God would forgive and send rain (vv. 35, 36); (4) in case of pestilence and sickness, if they prayed to God toward the temple, God would hear and forgive (vv. 37-40); (5) in case of the coming of the foreigner, who comes at the news of God's greatness, praying toward Jerusalem, his prayer should be heard (vv. 41-45); (6) in case of going out to battle, their cause should be maintained (vv. 44-45); (7) in case of being in captivity because of sin, God would hear their prayers and restore (vv. 46-53).

4. Solomon blesses the people (vv. 54-61). On the strength of the covenant promises, he invokes God's presence always to be with them and to keep them faithful, and exhorts the people to have their hearts perfect before God, walking in his commandments and statutes.

5. Solomon and the people offer sacrifices of thanksgiving (vv. 62-66). The joy of the people was full; they blessed God and the king.

Poverty Treads on Heels.

There is nothing keeps longer than a middling fortune, and nothing melts away sooner than a great one. Poverty treads on the heels of great and expected riches.—Bruyere.

Every Day the Best Day.

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Evidence of Weakness.

Neutrality, as a lasting principle, is an evidence of weakness.—Kossuth.

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5/14/20
THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BRYAN ASSAILS COX AND H. S. CUMMINGS

Calls Choice of Democratic Convention Chairman a 'Tragedy' for the Party.

COX CANDIDACY A DISGRACE

His Nomination Would Be an Insult by the Liquor Forces, Nebraskan Asserts.

Special to The New York Times.

LINCOLN, Neb., May 13.—William Jennings Bryan turned his political batteries tonight on Homer S. Cummings, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and Governor Cox of Ohio. In a statement given out here he says:

"The selection of Chairman Cummings to sound the keynote of the Democratic National Convention is worse than a comedy. It is a tragedy. It is a melancholy beginning if the Democrats have any intention of making a campaign this year. If the Democratic Party is to be wrapped in a 'wet' shroud, locked up in a Wall Street safe and buried at sea, Cummings is just the person to officiate, but his selection is a serious handicap if the party proposes to appeal to the progressive sentiment of the country."

Mr. Bryan calls the Cox candidacy a disgrace. He says:

"The fact that the Democrats of two dry States, Ohio and Kentucky, have instructed for Governor Cox makes it proper to consider his position on the liquor question. It is becoming every day more and more apparent that he is the man about whose standard the wet forces will gather.

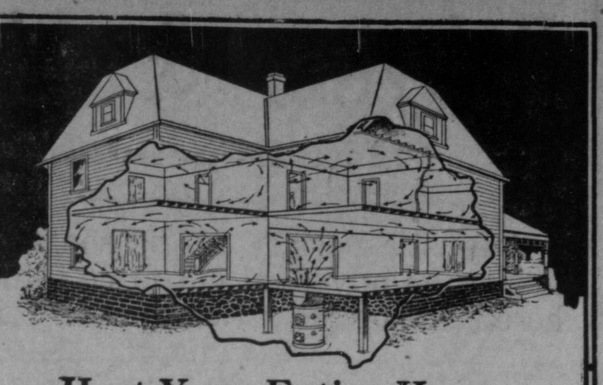
"Governor Edwards is a joke. A drunkard in the last stages of delirium tremens would have sense enough to know that Edwards has no chance of nomination. Senator Hitchcock did not have any chance even before the Nebraska primary, hence he had nothing to lose. Governor Cox is their man and he has fairly won the dishonor that he seeks.

"After disgracing his State he aspires to a position in which he could disgrace a nation. For years the men engaged in the liquor business have been the real anarchists of the country, far more dangerous than the professional anarchists. Governor Cox has become their candidate.

"His nomination would make the Democratic Party the leader of the lawless element of the country and his election, if such a thing were possible, would turn the White House over to those who defy the Government and hold law in contempt.

"There is no likelihood of his nomination and no chance of his election if nominated, but why should any Democrat be willing to support a man whose nomination would insult the conscience of the nation? For the triumph of prohibition is a triumph of the nation's conscience."

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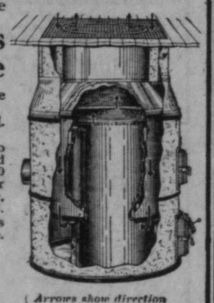
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