Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., October 5, 1917.

A Prophet of 1852.

That American statesmanship long ago foresaw the present world struggle between democracy and autocrocy and urge an alliance of America and England to preserve the principles of representative government is interestingly brought out in the reprinting by the Manufacturers' Record of portions of Henry Winter Davis' book, "The War of Ormuzd and Ahriman," published in 1852.

The Maryland statesman saw in the failure of the revolutionary movement of 1848 in Europe a menace to the future security of the United States. Autocracy, triumphant over the liberal movement, was enthroned in Russia, Austria and France. England alone, where parliamentary reform had won its battle, stood firm against the rising waves of absolutism on the continent. Ormuzd, the good in humanity, must be defended against Ahriman, the bad, which Mr. Davis, looking into the future, saw sweeping over the world. The situation, he held, called for an Anglo-American alliance of offense and defense.

He argued "that this power (autocracy) must from necessity, on principle and by inclination be devoted to the ruin of free governments; that it is absolutely inconsistent with the existence of the English monarchy and the American Republic as free popular representative governments, and that they will be compelled, sooner or later, to defend by force of arms their freedom and independence against the intrigues, and diplomacy, the legislation, the hostilities of the despotic powers of Europe. That it is, therefore, the part of wisdom to be prepared for the advent of the inevitable day, and ready to seize the first favorable conjuncture to strike in common the first blow, and so to strike that it may be the last."

Those words were written 65 years ago, but not one of them, says the Kansas City Star, needs to be changed to make them a true prophecy of the event. Continuing, the writer argues:

"That the question we have to decide is—not whether we will live in peace and repose, or gratuitously go on in a crusade for liberty throughout the world, but—the absolute certainty of a contest with the combined powers of despotism being apparent—shall we wait until those powers, having utterly rooted out free governments from Europe shall turn their might for our destruction, alone and without allies; or shall we now seize the first opportunity of a decisive outbreak in Eeurope to aid the cause of freedom with arms and money, fight our battle by the armies of European revolutionists on the field of Europe and by the aid of our allies forever settle the question between freedom and despotism? The only alteratives are war, in Europe now, with allies—and war hereafter on our own soil, without allies.

England, Mr. Davis argued, was the only obstacle that stood between autocracy and its dominion of the world. He could not then see that France and Russia would become democracies, but it was plain to him that autocracy and democracy never could exist together, either in Europe or the world. He wrote: "So long as England exists, resplendent in all the glories of liberty, despotism can find no safe and quiet abode on the Continent of Europe. * * * How and when the assault may be made is—for the prophet or the historian. I claim to be neither. * * * It is enough to show the will, the existence of a deeply seated plan of policy—hitherto pursued consistently, resolutely and unfalteringly * * * guiding the power of the mightiest military monarchies of Europe—and that England stands in the way of that policy." In another place he says: "England must either be the accomplice, the victim or the conqueror of the allied despots."

That the author foresaw the nature and extent of the struggle that was to come is evidenced by the warning he gave his countrymen of that day not to enter it lightly or unprepared. He wrote:

"We must be ready to make costly sacrifices of blood and treasure. Despotism will deliver terrible battle ere it loose its grip on the neck of man, and the next battle will be the final and decisive one. It will be no passing cloud; but neither sun nor stars shall appear for many days after its fury bursts over the world; and they that love fair weather and smooth seas should pray that that day be put far from them."

It was put far from the day of the statesman who saw it coming, but it came, and the forces are the forces he foresaw—autocracy against democracy. The elements of the alignment are different than he could foresee, but its fundamentals are unchanged. The hour being come, it is for democracy, having struck its blow in common as he urged, "so to strike that it may be the last."

Pennsylvania Soldiers to Get a Vote.

Pennsylvanians in military service outside the State will vote November 6 under the same plans of sending commissioners to where the troops are stationed as were followed out last year.

Secretary of the Commonwealth Woods was instructed by the Governor to make the plans. The vote commissioners will be appointed later by the Governor. They will go to almost any point in America where troops are stationed and probably to Europe also. No provision was made for voting in the primaries.—Reformatory Record.

What Adam Missed.

At the close of his talk before the Sunday school the parson invited questions. A tiny boy, with white, eager face, at once held up his hand.

"Please, sir," said he, "why was Adam never a baby?"

The parson coughed in doubt as to what answer to give, but a little girl the eldest of several brothers and sisters, came promptly to his aid.

"Please, sir," she answered, smartly, "there was nobody to nuss him."

THE DEAR OLD FLAG.

(Tune—"The Old Gray Mare.")

The Dear Old Flag, she's just what she used to be,
Just as she ought to be, just as she'll ever be.
The dear old flag is just what she used to be
Many long years ago.
Many long years ago, many long years ago, (D. C.)

The brave old flag, she'll float over land and sea,
Emblem of Liberty, fearless of Germany;
The brave old flag is just what she used to be,
Many long years ago.
Many long years ago, many long years ago, (D. C.)

War Jobs for Middle Aged Men.

London.—If you read the news stories of the German air raids on London, you saw prominent mention of London's special constables.

And there arises a story of interest to every one of the hundreds of thousands of men in the cities of the United States, who are too old to come under the American draft and are doing their bit in the war by joining the Home Defense Leagues now organized as police adjuncts in all the larger cities.

The Special Constabulary is London's Home Defense League.

It numbered on July 19, the latest date at which figures are available, 19,250 men. I believe the Home Defense League of New York city, the largest in the United States, numbers some 8,000.

London's force, however, was no new thing, although this was the first time in its history it ever was called upon to perform anything like its present variety and duration of work. I am told that the last time it was called to duty was during the Chartist riots of the '40's or '50's.

It sprang into action within seven days after war was declared on August 4, 1914, although within 24 hours after the war mobilization order went out its head, Sir Edward Ward, K. C. B., K. C. V. O., had been in his office in Scotland House, on the Embankment, getting its wheels into movement.

Sir Edward is chiefly known in the United States through his work as transport officer in the Boer war. "The greatest transport expert since Moses" was what they called him in South Africa. More recently, he has been permanent Under-Secretary of State at the War Office. His title in the constabulary is chief staff officer, and he is theoretically at the command of Sir Edward Henry, Commissioner of Police for the Metropolitan Area, although practically the Special Constabulary carries on as an entity in itself.

Under Sir Edward Ward are 1,050 officers of the Special Constabulary, of which all are volunteers, serving without pay. These include commanders (positions which are analogous to the inspectors' offices in the New York police department), assistant commanders, chief inspectors, inspectors and sub-inspectors. There are also sergeants, who, however, are not reckoned in the London Special Constabulary as officers.

The rest of the 19,250 special constables of the force are men from all classes of society.

They include even a score of men of the nobility, comprising the headquarters' central detachment, who have offered themselves for, and are doing, common patrol duty as special constables. Most of these are on night shifts, patrolling the gardens of Buckingham Palace from 9 p. m. to 9 a. m.

The remainder are engaged in all the variety of duties which usually fall upon regular policemen.

A good number of them are patrolling night and day the "vulnerable" spots of London, its waterworks, etc. —work which in the United States is usually given over to the National Guard. Night and day these volunteers pace their beats, and many a story of heroism lies in their lonely watches. Drowning men have been fished out of dark canals, runaways have been stopped and armed and desperate criminals have been overpowered by these dauntless volunteers of the special constabulary.

Yet there are no medals to cry their heroism into public notice.

Only one medal is given by the special constabulary, and that is for "long service."

It is a small bronze badge, awarded to men who have performed 150 duties, a duty being defined as four hours' work. Sometimes it is pinned on in the presence of two or three companies of the special constabulary, but more often it is awarded in comparative privacy.

And of the nearly 20,000 men now in the force, 11,000 have been awarded the long service medal.

It is a mute, inglorious job, this job of being a special constable. And for that, all the more glory to the men who have shouldered its burdens without hope of reward of any sort! Perhaps the fashion may be started in America.

A probation period of 20 duties is imposed at one's entrance into the Special Constabulary, and until it is served, no uniform is allotted. This, at the prescribed limit of four duties a week (or 16 hours' service a week), is a five weeks' period of probation, during which the probationer is given only a police whistle, a truncheon and an armlet with which to identify himself to passersby as a special constable. This armlet, of black and white stripes, worn on the left forearm, is seen everywhere in the streets at city-wide emergencies, such as air raids, which necessitate the calling out of the entire special constabulary force. Whenever you see the special constables out in force, it's a good sign there is a raid coming.

When the probationer has served out his twenty duties, he is equipped with a special constable's uniform, which is exactly like that of the metropolitan police, the helmet with chin strap, like those you've seen so often in pictures of London "bobbies."

There is, however, a force of 7,762 of the same 20,000 men who are not put in uniforms. They are known as firms' own men, and are sworn in to guard the plants where they are employed. They, like the rest of the specials, have all the powers of policemen when called to duty, but are never equipped with more than armlets, truncheons and whistles.

The personnel of the Special Constabulary keeps changing with a fair degree of rapidity, due to the military needs. From 12,000 to 14,000 men have passed through its ranks into the British army since the war started. Their places are rapidly filled, however, and the Special Constabulary still aids the police in the huge area outside the city of London proper, which is covered by the metropolitan police, or an area defined roughly as within a radius of 16 miles from the city.

They are divided into lettered companies, as are the metropolitan police, Company A, of the specials working in co-operation with Company A of the metropolitan police. (Letters I, O, Q, U, and Z are missing from the list of company letters, by the way. Nobody knows exactly why. It's merely "always been that way."

They have been of steadily increasing assistance to the metropolitan police, as the war has kept cutting into the ranks of the regular force. And this, I think, is prophetic of the Home Defense League of the United States.

——The recent erection of a banana-flour factory in Tabasco, Mexico, has aroused great enthusiasm among agriculturists of that State, according to a news item appearing in the August issue of El Universal. The planting of bananas there has been neglected of late, and the establishment of this factory will revivify the industry. The equipment was purchased in the United States.