

JUDGE LYNCH AND HIS INFLUENCE

(JUNIOR PRIZE ORATION.)

AS we turn the pages of history and ponder the events of the past, we find that incidents which, at the time of their occurrence, were considered of comparatively little importance, have been stepping stones toward some mighty movement which has shaped the destinies of men and of nations. For instance, at the time that little fleet left Palos, Spain, more than four centuries ago and sailed away over unknown waters, the wildest flight of fancy could never have pictured the great continent it was to discover and the colossal republic which should one day arise thereon to champion the cause of the oppressed against Spain herself.

But gradually the germs of a nation were scattered along these strange shores. Colonies sprang up and flourished in spite of dangers, difficulties, and irksome restrictions placed upon them by the mother countries. In fact, these very difficulties only served to unite the widely scattered settlements, weld them into one common mass until they became a nation. And to-day we are proud of America, proud of her record, her strength, her glory; proud of the stand for the right she has so nobly taken and is so grandly filling.

It is easy, in these days of the manifestation of power and patriotism, to arouse the American people to enthusiasm by lauding their national virtues. It is more repulsive to our feelings to dwell on what we may consider a national fault, or, even worse, a national crime, but as a reasonable people, a people ambitious to excel and to perpetuate our grand institutions, it behooves us, not to stand idly gazing in rapt admiration at the beauties and perfections of the great structure of government we are rearing, but rather to give careful and thoughtful attention to the weak spots in that structure lest they develop into great flaws which may bring the whole structure crashing about our heads.

Picture in imagination, if you will, a humble home whose inmates are a father, a mother, and four children, one of which is an infant. The hour is midnight and all are asleep when suddenly voices are heard without and the sleepers awakened to find their home in flames. They seek safety in flight and are met by