

one a descendant of English people; the other, of Norse extraction. One day the Englishman dined with the Norwegian. "Say", said the Englishman, in the course of their conversation, "do they have windowpanes in Norway?" No doubt the Englishman thought that the Norwegians, except for the enlightening influences of America, were a sort of low-browed cavemen. Well, dinner came to an end, and the Englishman proceeded to stretch himself in front of a beautiful picture of the Trondhjem Cathedral. "What a wonderful edifice!" he exclaimed. "And what beautiful windows!" he added. "Pray, tell me what manner of building this is". "Oh", replied the Norwegian host, "That is only an old Norwegian shack built 900 years ago".

3. As to Claims to Americanism.

A prominent Norwegian-American, born in this country, was taking a railroad trip in South Dakota. An Englishman, born in England and still an English^{citizen} after many years in this country, sat down by his side. They began to converse about this and that, about the immigrants, citizenship, voting, etc. The Englishman argued that ^{vta} English~~men~~ were the only Americans, the rest were "foreigners" and had no business in America. He himself voted and felt that he had the right to, although he would never give up his citizenship in England. The "foreigners", he claimed, should never have the right to vote. Finally, he came to his destination and proceeded to get off the train. "And what ^{is} your name, kind sir?" he asked. Our Norwegian friend told him. "Ah!" said the Englishman, "I see. One of these foreigners".

Now, Norwegian-Americans are not foreigners, even though

most of them can speak two languages or more. Fully 80% of the Norwegian-Americans have been born in this country. Nearly all of those born across the seas have taken out ~~the~~ their citizenship papers. For a century the Norwegians have been coming to America to make it their home, and no people in the world in their former home have been ~~so~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~way~~ ~~as~~ ~~well~~ ~~prepared~~ for American citizenship as have the Norwegians. Norway is the only country in Europe that has never had a nobility. The Norwegians were the first Europeans to set foot on American soil, having come to Greenland in 876, 900 years before the Declaration of Independence. They came to Vinland in 1000 and kept up intercourse with America until 1476, the year before Columbus went to Iceland. England itself is more Scandinavian than Saxon. Hallet shows that it was two-thirds Scandinavian at the start, the Angles and Jutes having come from Denmark. During the greater part of 400 years England was in the hands of Danish and Norwegian Vikings who settled England, made its laws and mingled their blood with the Anglo-Saxons. The Normans who conquered England in 1066 were Norsemen. Most of the English immigration to the United States has come from the Norwegian counties of England, just as most of the Irish immigration has come from the Norwegian element in Ireland, and most of the French stock in America has come from the Norwegian sections of France. The Norwegians came over with the Dutch in 1614 and later, and the first white child born in New York was a Norwegian lad. Wall Street was once owned by a Norwegian girl. The Norwegians took active part in the Revolutionary War and every subsequent war. 8% of the total Norwegian population enlisted in the Civil War against slavery; 6% of the Norwegians were enrolled as soldiers during the World War, while only 4% of the country at large was drafted. The Pilgrim Fathers themselves were mainly of Norwegian

descent, and the Norwegian-Americans have full right to sing:

"Land where my fathers died,
Land of the Pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring".

3. As to Achievements and Opportunities.

When Roosevelt visited the Panama Exposition at San Francisco in 1915, he dropped into the Norway Building and took a stand before a map showing the extent of Norwegian shipping-- Norwegian ships in every port in the world. "Norway", said Teddy in his emphatic way, "you have made good". These words can be applied just as emphatically about the Norwegian people in America. Yet it seems hard to make the so-called American recognize the splendid achievements of the Norwegian-American, to such a degree that the Norwegian-American can have the same opportunities. The president of a normal school in North Dakota, for instance, was asked why he did not employ any Norwegian teachers at his school. The state is overwhelmingly Norwegian, and the students at this school have more Norwegians than all other races combined. "I tell you", he answered, "I do not think that there are any Norwegians in the United States that could teach at a normal school". The state university and the normal colleges of Minnesota have never had a Norwegian president. Teachers of Norwegian descent have been practically barred from entering the higher positions. The city of Minneapolis, with 75,000 people of Norwegian ancestry, does not have one Norwegian on its school board. These are illustrations of the handicaps placed ~~minimally~~ that our ambitious Norwegians must suffer. Yet they make good; they come to the front. The Centennial will no doubt remove many handicaps and open many a door of opportunity to the Norwegian-American.

IV. That We May Better Face the Future.

As a rule the future is brightest for those people who have an inspiring history , who know their history and are proud of it. To him that hath shall be given. The Jews are more successful ^{than the Negroes}, largely because of their history. American history is mainly New England accordingly and New England has influenced America more than any other section of people. Norwegians could be more influential if their history were better known and if they themselves stood up more stoutly for their ideals. The Norwegian Centennial should make it plain to the Norwegian-Americans that they have a proud history , and it should inspire them to still nobler deeds. As Norwegian-Americans we should be able to face the future with a new pride, faith and prayer.

1. With Respectful Pride at past Record.

Anyone who knows anything reliable about the character and work of the Norwegian pioneers in America must respect them and be proud of their record. "Lives of great men all remind us that we can make our lives sublime". Very inspiring are the biographies of our great men , and the story of thousands of our fathers yet unwritten and unsung. But anyone who will listen to these stories will no doubt feel with Vinje:

"That father could accomplish
Deeds , which all ages grace,
And such a record furnish
Which time can not efface,
Has oft sustained my spirit
From dawn till day was done, --
A fortune 'tis of merit
Of noble blood to come".

2. With Renewed Faith in Our Heritage.

In 1 Pet. 2:9 Peter, in addressing the Christian congregations, calls them a "peculiar people". It might be said that every nation is a peculiar people, called of God to perform a peculiar service for mankind. The Norwegian people in times past have been called to perform a great mission in the world--they have been " sowing in the morning , sowing seeds of kindness, sowing in the noontide

and the dewy eve"; they have been the bearers of personal independence and liberty under law, they have been champions of the home and the school, the church and the state. Mallet says that all the states of Europe "owe originally to the northern nations whatever liberty they now enjoy, either in their constitution or in the spirit of their ~~liberty~~ governments; for the North was the forge of those instruments which broke the fetters manufactured in the South". The Centennial will renew and enforce the faith in our precious heritage.

3. With Thankfulness and Prayer for Future Successes.

It is good to give thanks, and it is pleasant. We owe thanks to Norway as well as to America, to America as well as to Norway. We owe thanks to our Norwegian pioneers and their neighbors of the many nationalities. We owe thanks to God, the Giver of every good and perfect gift. The Centennial will make people want to give thanks. ~~There will be many songs~~ The people will praise the Lord with hearts and hands and voices. Songs of thanksgiving will swell the breeze from thousands and millions of happy lips:

"Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;

Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee".

C. Conclusion: Value of the Centennial.

Like all centennials, this Norwegian-American Centennial will have immense value as a day of reckoning and of inspiration. Great people everywhere commemorate their great events ~~with~~ by means of Centennials. America has had several such centennials within the memory of this generation--at Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, Buffalo, Portland, San Francisco, San Diego, for example. In 1920 there was a Tricentennial celebration at Plymouth Rock. This Norwegi

ian Centennial will in some measure do for the people of the Norwegian Mayflower that came over in 1835 what the celebration at Plymouth Rock did for the people of the English Mayflower that came over in 1620. It will be an event never to be forgotten. Prince and ~~President~~ will be there, bishops and governors, the high and the low in every calling, old and young, The past will be clarified, the present will be intensified, the future will be magnified.

We shall again see Olong Pearson, Lars Larson, Ole Johnson, Ole Hettletvedt, Elling Eielesen, Claus Clausen, F.C.W. Dietrichsen,

H.A.Stub, H.A.Preus, B.J.Muus, Paul Anderson, P.A.Rasmussen,

Laur. Larsen, ^{Hans Heg, Hermann Hagman, E. J. Hornum, Peter Hauum, Knute Nelson, T.H. Dahl,} and thousands of other well-known pioneers

pioneers as they lived and labored that we might gain wisdom and happiness

happiness, and that we might lead such a life that Norway should not be ashamed of us and America should

not regret that she had invited us to her shores. The celebration will be like a river of living water, like the Mimir's Fountain

of Norse mythology. Those who drank of this fountain got knowledge and wisdom. Odin himself, king of the gods of Norse mythology,

came and begged a draught of this water, which he received, but he had to leave one of his eyes in pawn for it. Here at the Norwegian

Centennial everyone is invited to come and drink, without money and without price. Tens of thousands will accept the ^{gracious, generous} invitation and

come. They will go away refreshed, inspired, convinced that in the household of God the Norwegians are a peculiar people, and vow-

ing to be true to their highest ideals. The Centennial will in wise weaken their allegiance to America. Quite the contrary. And the

Norwegian-Americans will sing as never before:

#Gedimbe

"Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,

To Thee we sing:

Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light,

Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King".