

## The Democratic Way to Victory

"WHERE, O WHERE has my little dog gone?"

"I wonder what's become of Sally?" So go the lines of songs of yesterday. And what has become of the wintergreen and peppermint smell of Grandma's room that lingered after Grandma was gone? Wonder what's become of Grandma, too, and the knee-held coffee grinder, and the clock with the carved wood insides, and watering troughs, and the spring in our legs, or that other spring that's in the blood, after winter?

But most of our wonder concerns the whereabouts of folk who once believed the causes of war to be mainly economic in origin and dared (we relish the word) to teach this belief. Aye, we remember how objectively they dissected and then revealed these causations and how courageously they drew and quartered the acts of States and individuals from Alpha to somewhere approximating Delta in the alphabet of time. And what accent there was on our own bellicose days, particularly 1812, the Delta minus. Aye, we speculate:

Could it be that these mentors, philosophers who professed a science of ethics based upon natural law and hence universally true, have resorted to another



concept? Do they now geographically bound truth on the north by the Whatsit River, on the east by the Styxian Sea, on the south by the umpty-eighth parallel plus two minutes ten seconds, and on the west by the Gitchee Gummee? We don't know; we wonder.

Have they changed now that we as a nation are fighting for the right to continue in a beloved way of life against aggressors ruthless and resourceful? Is that the price or part of it for achieving national unity?

Is it necessary to ignore the causes of this war because we would survive as a nation and so make available to all men the four freedoms outlined by our President and Commander-in-Chief? This writer does not think so. The "four freedoms" need to be taught and understood; the democratic criterion underlying each must be comprehended and assimilated.

In the enemy camp of Totalitaria the people are commanded to believe; they work and fight and die in ignorant obedience. Let it be the quiet virtue of democracy that her people work and fight and die knowing what it's all about, and let them believe by knowing.

Let them believe that at the end of the struggle lies the possibility of applying that knowledge to prevent a recurrence of the dirty, paradoxical business of killing men so men may live in happiness, and free.

Again—we wonder how it may be done without men knowing, and without knowing men teaching.

G. B. BRINGMANN

## The Freeman

*A Monthly Critical Journal of Social and Economic Affairs*

Published monthly by The Freeman Corporation, a non-profit corporation, at 30 East 29th Street, New York, N. Y. Officers and Directors: Lancaster M. Greene, Chairman; Anna George de Mille, President; Otto K. Dorn, Secretary-Treasurer; William H. Quasha, Counsel; Ezra Cohen, John C. Lincoln, Leonard T. Recker. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1897. Single subscription, one dollar a year; five or more, eighty cents each. Title registered U. S. Patent Office.