

For fools see not the proofs that are not displayed,
 And blame the tree, but not the roots decayed.
 From this, howe'er, the friend of truth refrains;
 He overlooks an individual's stains,
 And never strikes with might a withered bloom;
 But national sin will get its dreadful doom.

AN ICELANDER.

PURPOSE IS DESTINY.

The people have not voted for imperialism; no national convention has declared for it; no congress has passed upon it. To whom, then, has the future been revealed? Whence this voice of authority? We can all prophecy, but our prophecies are merely guesses, colored by our hopes and our surroundings. Man's opinion of what is to be is half wish and half environment. Avarice paints destiny with a dollar mark before it, militarism equips it with a sword.

He is the best prophet who, recognizing the omnipotence of truth, comprehends most clearly the great forces which are working out the progress, not of one party, not of one nation, but of the human race. History is replete with predictions which once were the hue of destiny, but which failed of fulfillment because those who uttered them saw too small an arc of the circle of events. . . .

The ancient doctrine of imperialism, banished from our land more than a century ago, has recrossed the Atlantic and challenged democracy to mortal combat upon American soil. Whether the Spanish war shall be known in history as a war for liberty or as a war of conquest; whether the principles of self-government shall be strengthened or abandoned; whether this nation shall remain a homogeneous republic or become a heterogeneous empire—these questions must be answered by the American people—when they speak, and not until then will destiny be revealed.

Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved.

No one can see the end from the beginning, but every one can make his course an honorable one from beginning to end by adhering to the right under all circumstances. Whether a man steals much or little may depend upon his opportunities, but whether he steals at all depends upon his own volition.

So with our nation. If we embark upon a career of conquest, no one can tell how many islands we may be able to seize, or how many races we may be

able to subjugate; neither can anyone estimate the cost, immediate and remote, to the nation's purse and to the nation's character; but whether we shall enter upon such a career is a question which the people have a right to decide for themselves.

Unexpected events may retard or advance the nation's growth, but the nation's purpose determines its destiny.

What is the nation's purpose? That purpose is set forth clearly and unmistakably in the first sentence of the constitution: "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and to our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America." —William J. Bryan, Washington, D. C., February 22.

JAPANESE FARMERS.

So much has been said recently of the industrial development of this country that one is apt to take us as an industrial nation. The fact is, we are essentially an agricultural country, having 70 per cent. of our people in pursuit of agriculture.

As yet, the farming industry in this country is largely carried on by peasant proprietors, and the land is quite evenly distributed among them. It is officially estimated that 56 per cent. of the whole farming population are those who own land of less than two acres each, 29 per cent. are those who own between two and three and one-half acres each, and the remaining 15 per cent. are those who own over three and one-half acres each. Although industrial development and social progress is slowly but irresistibly forcing us to the era of landlordism, only 26 per cent. of the farming population are cultivating on tenancy at present.

As a rule, life conditions prevalent among peasant proprietors as well as tenant farmers, represent the lowest type of Japanese life. For our present purpose, we select one typical case from the province of Owari, one of the fertile districts in this country. The family under our observation consists of five members—husband, wife, parent and two children, one of whom is old enough to assist his parents in the field. This family cultivates, on a tenancy, one and a half acres of rice field and one acre of dry field, both of good fertility and capable of yielding two crops in a year. The rice field yields on an average 60 bushels. Seventy per cent. of the yield is given in kind or

in cash, according to the market value at the time, to the land owners as rent. In other localities this percentage varies, but in no case does it amount higher than 75 per cent. or lower than 60 per cent.

The farmer's share, therefore, amounts to 18 bushels, which, estimated at the ruling price of one dollar per bushel, will bring \$18 as the farmer's income. Besides this, there is an additional income of \$4.50 by disposal of bundles of straw accrued. This brings the total amount to \$22.50 as the farmer's earning from the cultivation of rice.

The winter crop, for which no rent is paid—or, rather, is paid in advance by the rice crop—is a source of far more important income to the farmer. It is the general practice among farmers inhabiting the districts in question to lay out rice plots, drained of water, of course, for the cultivation of rape-seed plants. The yield of the farmer by this means comes to about 41 bushels, and estimated at the rate of 61 cents per bushel, it represents an income of \$25. The stalks are not valueless. They fetch about \$1.50 for the whole area. Thus, the winter crop of the farmer brings to the pocket of the farmer a sum of \$26.50 as his net earnings.

[The writer then enumerates the crops raised as the dry field spoken of above. First is barley, valued at \$24, of which \$14 goes as rent for the field. From the stalk the farmer gets \$1.50. From the various summer crops planted after the barley has been harvested he obtains \$30.75, a total income of \$91.25. The article continues:]

On examining the living expenses of the farmer's family, we find that owing to the higher cost of rice, they subsist on rice evenly mixed with barley. Fish, which is one of the common foods with other classes of our countrymen, is a thing of luxury for them, and they partake of it on the occasion of village festivals only. The chief item of food is mixed rice, which costs for the whole family \$3 per month. For fuel 90 cents is spent, for clothing 45 cents, for repair of furniture and tools 45 cents, and other expenses, including public burduns, foot up to \$1.25 monthly. The whole expenditure thus comes to \$6.05 per month, or \$72.60 per year. To this, the outlay on account of manure, amounting to \$15 per year, must be added, and there remains \$3.65 to be expended for incidental purposes.

Turning our attention to peasant proprietors, we observe no marked difference in their life conditions in comparison with tenant farmers. True, they are not liable to give up the greatest