

Albert B. Cummins

H. W. Byers

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We come now to the last "if," if Senator Dolliver had bridged over into old age. Hudson tells us that we live four very distinct lives, and have four very distinct personalities, childhood, adolescence, manhood, and old age. Some of us have health and fortune and achievement in one of these lives but not in the other. It may be beauty in youth, it may be dominating control in manhood, it may be serenity in old age.

Senator Dolliver would have bridged over into old age in the war and post war years, and we need not figure him in the presidency to know that at the very top of his powers, having won in the debates of the Taft Congress a leadership nobody either minimized or challenged, coming to the opening days of the war at fifty-three, he would in some way have figured as spokesman on a world stage. What might not the twenty years from 1914, the twenty years in his life from fifty-three to seventy-three, have done for a man of his large outlook, his alert sympathies, and his remarkable background of faith in the order of the universe that, whether we understand it or not, works slowly but surely to broaden and deepen and heighten the meaning of life? The mere fact that his last years witnessed his intensest efforts, that instead of accepting the easy and the comfortable way he had plunged into the very thickest of the fight, is an earnest of what the war period would have aroused in him.

But it was not to be.

And so we hang this portrait of the Senator in our gallery of notable men and women of Iowa, and we consign his part to history, and we turn again to the duties of the day and hour.

May we not all of us learn this one lesson from the Senator's life: As we give untiring energy to growing our wheat and oats and barley, not to overlook the bluebirds, the bobolinks and thrushes, as we pride ourselves more and more on our waving fields of corn, not to forget that there are sublime mornings and sunsets.

We have surpassed the records of mankind already in wealth, and all that that signifies. We ride in nineteen-twentieths of the automobiles of the world.

And yet you and I seem to know instinctively that that is not all we mean when we say America.

Senator Dolliver powerfully reinforced the most worth-while aspirations of our American life.

ALBERT B. CUMMINS

By H. W. BYERS

The place assigned to me on this program comes to me as a great joy and at the same time a task, but it is a task of love.

I knew Senator Cummins during nearly thirty-five years of his active life; knew him as a citizen, lawyer, and statesman, and during all this time his life was a constant inspiration to me. Throughout the period

there was now and then difference of opinion, but only such as naturally come from independent minds, both earnestly contending for what each believed to be right. But during all this time—during all of the ups and downs of the period—there was never a break in what to me was the closest and tenderest friendship of my life.

As a lawyer in the courts and in the office, the Senator's conduct was in constant harmony with the ideals of the profession and the obligations of the lawyer's oath—in short, he was a dignified, upright, honest lawyer.

I will never forget an incident which occurred in the early years of our acquaintance in the year 1894. During the first days of the Twenty-fifth General Assembly I was in his office to consult the Senator about some litigation in which he was interested in the western part of the state, and while there several gentlemen called upon the Senator for the purpose of securing his services in a matter then pending before the General Assembly. The spokesman of the group told the Senator the time was very important to the business they had in hand. I was about to withdraw, having told the Senator that I was in no hurry. Whereupon, he led his callers into a side room. Immediately the party was seated, and without waiting to close the door the spokesman began to tell the Senator they knew about his acquaintance with the members of the General Assembly and the great influence he had, not only with that body, but with the state officers, and told him that they were anxious to employ him to direct and secure the passage of a certain bill. The Senator asked what he would be expected to do and was told that he would be expected to see the influential members of the legislature in person and persuade them, if possible, to support the measure. The Senator's response was courteous, but firm, and the gentlemen were told that if their bill was meritorious, and they wanted him to appear before a committee and present the measure, after he had satisfied himself of its merit, he would do that, but no fee, however large it might be, could induce him to take advantage of his acquaintance and friendship with the members of the legislature to "lobby" with the members in the interest of the bill, that he had nothing but contempt for the "lobbyist."

The gentlemen, for some reason or other, were not interested in having their measure presented openly before a committee and they were courteously dismissed. I got out of this incident an inspiration and a lesson that stood me in hand in the years that followed. Later the efforts to pass the bill referred to were severely criticised by leading members of the assembly. In fact, the matter approached a legislative scandal.

From 1894 to 1900 the Senator's practice as a lawyer was constantly increasing and his influence as lawyer and citizen was felt in every community of the state. Until 1900 it could be truthfully said that he

was not only the leading lawyer in Iowa, but had the most promising and profitable law business in the state.

During these same six or eight years the Senator had not neglected the duties of citizenship, and many of the pleasant and helpful trips of my experience in the state were made in company with the Senator. During these trips I learned to know and to love Albert B. Cummins, and because of them the Senator knew that corruption and graft were fast laying hold upon our fair state and that the great demand of the hour was for leadership. He realized too the time had come for him to decide what road to follow — whether he would dodge or enlist. He enlisted, and in 1901 was inaugurated governor of the greatest agricultural state in the Union.

Then during the next seven years in co-operation with state officers, members of the legislature, and the good people generally of the state, inspired by his leadership, more legislation in the interest of the people was enacted than was ever before written on the statute books in the same period in the history of our state. Legislation in the interest of clean politics, pure elections, fair transportation charges, pure food, for the care and comfort of the sick and unfortunate, for the elevation and protection of labor, against the free pass, against unjust and unfair discrimination, against graft, greed and corruption in every form — a record so glorious and so proud that it has ever since and will always be an inspiration to the youth of Iowa.

For several years prior to the election of Senator Cummins as governor of this state the enforcement of the criminal law — laws that have to do with the morals, peace and happiness of the people, the safety and prosperity of the community, and the sacredness and purity of the home — had become so lax that conditions everywhere in the state were intolerable. In fact, an investigation made under the direction of the governor developed that indifference to and defiance of the criminal laws had reached such a stage that, "in some parts of the state the very atmosphere was poisoned and polluted with disrespect and contempt for constituted authority." In some of the cities the authorities were, in a sense, in partnership with lawbreakers. Under agreement and by payment of certain stipulated sums the saloon keepers and bootleggers were granted privileges by the sworn officers of the state. In other places they were allowed to operate their saloons on Sundays and all night, to serve lunches, have wine rooms and dance halls in connection with the saloon, all in violation of the laws of this state. Gambling houses and other questionable places were permitted to run wide open, in some places twenty-four hours of every day, and by the payment of fixed sums into the city treasury were granted immunity from arrest or interference. So outraged and indignant were the ministers, editors of some papers, and other law-abiding citizens of the state that meetings were being held at the Capitol urging that something be done to vindicate the power and authority of the state.

Right here came the first real crisis in the Senator's public career. Again it was for him to decide which road to take, for

"Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide,

In the strife of truth and falsehood for the good or evil side.

Some great cause, God's new Messiah, offering each the bloom or blight,

Parts the goats upon the left hand, and the sheep upon the right;

And the choice goes by forever 'twixt the darkness and the light."

The choice was made and it was on the side of law and order and notwithstanding the defiance of the combined forces of the liquor interests and other forces of evil, including organized crooked business generally, the order went out *to enforce the law*.

Everywhere in Iowa the lawbreakers knew Senator Cummins' character and force, and knew that as governor of the state the order would be pressed to the letter, and in less than sixty days there was not a single saloon in the state running on Sundays or running all night, nor a single open gambling place or house of ill fame, nor has there been from that day to this moment. Here in my opinion is to be found the crowning glory of our departed friend's public service while governor of the state.

In 1908, in appreciation of the great work of the Senator while governor, the people elected him to represent the state in the United States Senate. Then followed eighteen years of service in the highest legislative body of the nation. They were what might be said to be the "ripe years" of the Senator's life—years so helpful and useful to the country that out of them came great distinction and honor to the Senator and renown and glory to the state he represented.

During all of that service he supported and advanced the doctrine that "the irresistible tendency of the human race is to advancement, for absolute power has never succeeded and can never succeed in suppressing a single truth. An idea once revealed may find its admission into every living breast and live there. Like God, it becomes immortal and omnipresent. The movement of the species is upward, irresistibly upward. The individual is often lost; Providence never disowns the race. No principle once promulgated has ever been forgotten. * * * States may pass away. Every just principle of legislation which has been once established will endure. Philosophy has sometimes forgotten God, a great people never did. * * * Christianity never lived in the hearts of so many millions as at this moment. The forms under which it is professed may decay, for they like all that is the work of men's hands are subject to changes and chances of mortal being, but the spirit of truth is incorruptible. It may be developed, illustrated and applied; it can never die. It can never decline."

During these years of service in the Senate the Senator fully understood that

"New occasions teach new duties,
Time makes ancient good uncouth;
They must upwards still, and onwards,
Who would keep abreast with Truth."

Like Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, and all of the great statesmen of their time, Senator Cummins was inspired with the truth that this nation could not live standing still; that its mission was to go forward and upward. He, like they, knew that "it rested on a rock, for it rested on the people. It was gifted with immortality for it struck root in the hearts of the millions."

He knew that the responsibility of America was "to guard the idea of freedom as the fabled dragon guarded of old the very garden of Hesperides, taking good heed that liberty be not confounded with license, nor republican government with the shout of popular anarchy, nor the freedom to do wrong unpunished, nor manly independence with lawless self assertion."

He knew that its responsibility "is to keep the equilibrium between stability and advance, between liberty and law."

He believed in the doctrine of Lincoln when he said, "Let us have faith that right makes might and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it."

He, like the great English archdeacon, believed that "a man in one aspect may be but a shadow and a vapor and in another he is immortal, immeasurably infinite, and he is never so great as when he is uplifted by the aspirations of a great land."

And with Humboldt when he says, "Government, religion, property and books are nothing but the scaffolding to build a man. Earth holds up to her master no fruit, but the finished man."

And with Kossuth when he says, "Mankind has but one single object—mankind itself; and that object has but one single instrument—mankind again."

"Men," said Pericles, "are cities and not walls. The prayer of every community should ever be, 'O, God, give us men!'"

As lawyer, governor, and senator, Albert B. Cummins was such a man.

LAFAYETTE YOUNG

BY B. F. CARROLL

Lafayette Young was a native of Iowa. He was born in 1848 soon after the state was admitted to the Union. He was a pioneer in everything that the word implies. He came from that part of the state where most of the early settlers located. He was born near Eddyville, in Monroe County. The state was then only sparsely settled. There were no railroads and the wagon roads were only trails leading through the woods and across the prairies. He helped to develop the state from a great stretch of virgin soil into a great commonwealth. Pioneer life

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