

Lafayette Young

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"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

meant many hardships, and trials, and the testing of men's mettle. He who grew up under such circumstances as then existed, and still pushed out and made a place for himself in life, bore evidence of real worth, for it was much easier to drift with the crowd than to launch out for one's self and forge ahead.

At a very early age Mr. Young was found working in his father's woolen mill, and when but a lad fifteen years of age he tried to enlist in the Union Army but owing to his tender years was rejected. He did, however, belong to the local military organization in his home town.

Mr. Young was a printer by trade and engaged either in that occupation or in newspaper work throughout the whole of his life. He learned his trade in Albia soon after the Civil War. He worked in printing offices in nearby towns and in Des Moines, Keokuk, and St. Louis. Having had but little previous opportunity to acquire an education he availed himself of the privilege of attending a night school while in St. Louis, thus fitting himself for reportorial work, and in 1870 he was city editor for the old *Iowa State Register* of this city. One year later, that is, in 1871 he founded the *Atlantic Telegraph* of Atlantic, Iowa. This he continued to edit until 1890 when he purchased the *Des Moines Capital* with which he was identified until the time of his death. Under his management the *Capital* became one of the great daily newspapers of the state.

While located at Atlantic Mr. Young was three times elected to the state Senate from the district in which Cass County was located. He served in the capacity of senator with ability and distinction, championing many important measures, among which was the original law prescribing freight and passenger rates for railroads.

In the year 1893 he was a candidate before the Republican State Convention for nomination for governor but was defeated by Hon. Frank D. Jackson. It will be remembered that the prohibition issue was the dominant political issue at that time, and that Hon. Horace Boies had twice been elected governor on the Democratic ticket as a liberal, or perhaps better to say, in opposition to prohibition. Under the circumstances it was thought that Mr. Jackson could command the votes of the liberal element in the Republican party better than could Mr. Young, whose record on the prohibition question was more pronounced. This, no doubt, led to his defeat for the nomination.

It was during the campaign in the fall of 1893 that the writer acquired more than a passing acquaintance with Mr. Young. Instead of sulking as men who are defeated sometimes do, he was out campaigning for the election of Mr. Jackson, and when the latter became unable to fill a speaking date that had been made for him at Bloomfield, at that time my home, Mr. Young was sent to fill the engagement. To say that it was done to the entire satisfaction of all who heard him is hardly sufficient, for it is doubtful if there was ever a more popular political address delivered in that place than the address delivered by

Mr. Young. He was always thereafter in great demand for an address at Bloomfield. He was, indeed, a very capable speaker. His homely illustrations and his fund of humor were great assets and made him a man to be feared in debate. We can all recall how skillfully he used to tell about the old gray mare hitched along by the side of the sorrel mule pulling the breaking plow through the stumpy ground, and how the razor-back hogs chased down the road so fast that all that could be seen was a streak of dust. Also many other homely but effective illustrations.

The friendship established between Mr. Young and the writer continued until his death. Having been out of the state when he passed away I did not see his remains, but I remember quite well the last time I met him and recall a characteristic remark which he made. The place was the Hotel Fort Des Moines and the occasion was one of the last sittings for the completion of the portrait which we are installing today. I was congratulating him upon the fact that the portrait was being made, that it was such a splendid likeness of himself and that it was being made for this art gallery, when he remarked, "Sitting for a portrait for an art gallery is very much like making a will." I did not then suspect that he would so soon pass away although I did realize that he was failing physically.

As a newspaper writer Mr. Young was exceedingly capable. He possessed a style that was attractive and forceful and which was peculiar to himself. Especially when he wrote in a humorous vein did he delight and please his readers. It has been said of him that he belonged to the "old school" of editorial writers which after all is not an unkind criticism, for in former days the editorial pages of our papers commanded much more attention than they seem to at present, and it was largely for the editorial writings that papers were taken and read, while in these later times we seem to be more interested in news, sports, and movies. Mr. Young was a very versatile writer and his work led him into many fields and gave him an unusually broad and comprehensive personal knowledge of the affairs, not only of our own, but of foreign governments. During the Spanish-American War he was with General Shafter's Army in Cuba and kept his paper filled with important war news from the very seat of activities where the results of the war were being determined.

While in Cuba he met and made the acquaintance of Theodore Roosevelt, then the colonel of the Rough Rider Regiment which won distinction on the field of battle for its daring and bravery. He evidently was won over to the Colonel, for in the Republican National Convention of 1900 he made the speech which brought Roosevelt's name before the convention as a candidate for vice president. After the assassination of President McKinley, and he had been succeeded by President Roosevelt, Mr. Young accompanied Hon. W. H. Taft, Roosevelt's secretary of war, on a tour of inspection of the Philippine Islands as one of the

guests of the Secretary. Many interesting accounts of the trip appeared in the columns of *The Capital*, and a lasting friendship between Mr. Taft and Mr. Young was established.

At a later date, that is in 1913, Mr. Young spent several months in the Balkan states as a correspondent, and in 1915 while the World War was being fought by the "over-seas" countries, and before the United States had become involved in the struggle he was a war correspondent, and was at least a part of the time at the front, for he was held as a spy by the Austrian government. The story of his captivity and of his experience within the war zone was very thrilling and interesting.

Though unsuccessful in his aspirations to become governor of our state, Mr. Young was, nevertheless, a great political power and had much to do with determining political fortunes in the state. When the memorable struggle between the so-called "Progressives" and "Stand-patters" came on, his counsel was often sought. While it is hardly fair to unqualifiedly class him with either faction, his leanings always seemed to have been with the conservative element of the party, but he was never entirely out of "speaking distance" of either faction. No one, I think, realizes that more than does the writer, and I may be pardoned for a personal reference in this connection.

It will be recalled that the contest between Hon. A. B. Cummins and a field of candidates for the nomination for governor had resulted in the nomination of the former and that the campaign which followed, as well as the campaign for the nomination, had been most bitter and factional lines were closely drawn. However, after the "smoke of battle" had cleared away neither side seemed anxious to renew the contest, in fact each side seemed to want to avoid a contest in the off year campaign which followed. The only nomination which it seemed might furnish occasion for a renewal of the strife was that of a candidate for auditor of state, the auditor being a member of the Executive Council. Several individuals had already announced themselves as candidates for nomination for that office or had let it be known that they were desirous of becoming candidates. The leaders of each side anxious to avoid a contest had begun to cast about to see if someone could not be found upon whom the opposing elements could be united, and the one man who seemed best fitted to work out such a compromise was Mr. Young.

The factions were brought together and the candidate for auditor, the writer hereof, was nominated by acclamation. Mr. Young's compromise efforts were successful where a less capable and influential man might have failed.

Mr. Young's own political career had not yet ended. The death of Senator Dolliver occurred on October 15, 1910, during the political campaign then in progress. Mr. Young was appointed to the vacancy in the United States Senate thus created, to serve until the election of a senator by the coming session of the legislature. His appointment

was made on November 12, 1910. Upon the convening of Congress in December following he took his seat in the Senate and at once took rank as one of the strong members of that body. On December 15, soon after Congress convened, he delivered a very able address, which is reported in the Congressional Record under the title, "Threatened Destruction of the Farmer's Protection." It was a speech intended to check the growth of sentiment in favor of free trade in agricultural products. It will therefore be seen that the farmer movement is not entirely a new thing. Neither are all of the arguments new. However, the chief ground for complaint then, according to Senator Young's statement of the case, was that the farmer's prices were too high. Of course this complaint came from sources other than the farmers themselves or from representatives of the farmers. The exact reverse of that situation is the chief cause of complaint now, so that the lines of argument might differ somewhat. But the following expression from the Senator's speech would sound well even in a discussion of the McNary-Haugen bill. He said, "I charge that New England is drifting to a strange interpretation of the square deal when they demand protection for their manufactured articles and free trade for their food products." This is but another way of declaring that the tariff schedules are inequitable. There is still another statement contained in that speech which is worthy of notice. In the course of his remarks the Senator inquired of his brother senators, "Did you ever go round and find out what the average man in other countries thinks of Uncle Sam and what they say about him when you are not present? If you did you will have a great deal less self-esteem than you have now." That is as good as Senator Borah or one of his colleagues could do now after the World War has been fought. We may conclude from Senator Young's remark that the feeling among foreigners toward the United States is not entirely due to the fact that the war has been fought and that they are indebted to us and we will not forgive the debt, but that the feeling is somewhat of long standing, for the Senator had been abroad and doubtless knew what he stated to be true.

In February, 1911, Senator Young delivered a Dolliver Memorial address in the Senate, which was indeed a very able effort, setting forth a comprehensive recitation of the achievements of this very able and illustrious predecessor in office.

On February 28 he delivered an address on the subject, "The Proposed American Donation to Canada." This, as the title would imply, was a speech against Canadian reciprocity. The Senator was a rock-ribbed protectionist and could therefore not reconcile himself to the idea that the American farmer could reap any real benefit from reciprocity with our neighbor to the north who had little to reciprocate on except agricultural products.

Senator Young was a candidate before the legislature to succeed himself in the Senate though he had told me when I appointed him that

he only wished to serve until a successor to Senator Dolliver might be elected. I had asked no such pledge from him, nor indeed did I desire that he make such a promise. He did not, however, announce himself as a candidate until he had taken the matter up with me and I had assured him that his candidacy would be very agreeable to me, as I had no desire myself to become a candidate and knew of no one who could better serve the state in the United States Senate than he. The contest in the legislature continued throughout the winter, election taking place in the closing days of the session when Senator W. S. Kenyon was elected. The result I think was largely due to the fact that a good deal of the old-time factional feeling still existed in the legislature and the Progressive element was against Senator Young, for no one questioned his ability. In his defeat the state lost the services of a very worthy, able and capable man.

The result of the election of United States senator referred to doubtless had much to do with the selection of delegates to the Republican National Convention in 1912, if it did not indeed determine the nomination for president by that convention. When the time came for the selection of delegates to the National Convention, Senator Cummins was a candidate for the nomination for president, but Senator Young aligned himself with the supporters of President Taft for re-nomination. Here again I may be pardoned for a personal reference. About the time that talk of Senator Cummins' candidacy began to take form, I boarded the train at Osceola for Des Moines on my return from some speaking engagement. Senator Young was on the train and the talk between us turned to a discussion of the approaching convention. It was agreed between us that we would head a movement for Taft delegates, believing that we might carry two or three districts. He asked to be permitted to publish an interview with me to which I consented, and from that time forth the fight was on. We went to the convention with sixteen Taft delegates out of a total of twenty-six from the state, or enough so that in my opinion the Iowa delegation might have changed the results of the convention had it so desired. Being a delegate to the convention myself I feel that I speak knowingly when I say that there never was a time when the nomination could have been turned to any one except Taft or Roosevelt, though the Taft supporters were willing to consider a compromise but felt that it could not be undertaken without insuring the nomination of Roosevelt. The Colonel was the immovable obstacle in the way of compromise and would not consent to the nomination of anyone but himself. Whether our course in the selection of the delegates was wise or unwise I do not now pretend to say, but it is history, and perhaps more far-reaching history than any one then knew or thought.

Mr. Young was a great reader and a student. Especially was he fond of astronomy. I once heard him say that he bought and read many

works on astronomy, usually carrying such a book in his grip when he was on a trip.

He was one of the leaders in the movement for the establishment of better roads in our state; was the chairman of our first good roads meeting back in 1910 when the township trustees, members of boards of supervisors and other opponents of the movement, captured our meeting and held the organization for one year, but they were routed at the next meeting and Mr. Young again headed the organization. He was the moving spirit in establishing the River to River road across the state, and organized the cross state trip over that road made by representatives of the College at Ames and the governor of the state for the purpose of creating interest in improving and working state high-ways.

I have already referred to the fact that Mr. Young was a war correspondent in the war zone during the early days of the World War. He had returned home before the United States entered the conflict. When a Council of Defense was created in this state Governor Harding appointed Mr. Young as chairman of the council. No one, perhaps, did more to stamp out disloyalty than he did. He went about the entire state making patriotic speeches and encouraging men and women everywhere to support the government in its war policies. This was not out of harmony with the entire course of his life, for he was reared in the home of loyal parents, his father and an older brother being soldiers in the Union Army during the war of the Rebellion. He was perhaps never more thrilled or thrilling than when talking about the "Old U. S. A." Senator Young was one of the outstanding citizens of the state. He was fearless and capable and always a leader in any movement for the betterment of his state or nation. In his death the state has lost a great man.

Curator Harlan then spoke as follows:

This occasion will inspire us forever.

Before passing title of these portraits to our Board of Trustees, I wish to present our guests to Chief Justice Evans who will speak for the board.

In the almost twenty years of my service there have been nearly fifty occasions such as this within this building. Dignity, beauty, permanence of meaning have become traditional of programs and performances. Audiences have been select without having been selected. The very spirit and genius of our state attends these ceremonies.

Today these four addresses have struck our minds into a glow of admiration for the four men who for the moment seem again to live among us. Their nearest public associates in their best work in council and in forum—the lawmakers and officials of their best days—are here. But great as were these four public lives and devoted as was

their love for state and country, that greatness and devotion were derived from love of home.

So I present as guests, first these lawmakers, these public associates. Then the families who were more in life's meanings to these four men. Of the family of Senator Dolliver here are his companion, his son and namesake, and his two daughters. Of Senator Young's, his two sons, one his namesake whose own son's name is "Lafayette Young III." Of Governor Garst's, his daughter who painted his portrait. Of Senator Cummins, here are his daughter and her son, and four of the five surviving sisters of the Senator. The presence of all these inspire us, and even under deep emotion they are inspired we hope, by this occasion.

And finally, Judge Evans, I place these canvases with the sanction of these lawmakers and approval of these relatives and friends in your keeping. Mementoes they are of four noble lives, tokens of their common love of Iowa, they are appropriate monuments to their lasting fame.

JUDGE EVANS' ADDRESS

The duty devolving upon me at this moment as trustee ex officio of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa, is to me a great personal privilege. My heart leaps to these inspiring tributes that have been delivered to this great Iowa quartet. These men were the representatives for an age; they were the leaders of an epoch. The epoch has passed; its day and its work is done. It was the epoch of the pioneer. I note that none of these great men, save Senator Young, was born in Iowa; and the Senator was born, so to speak, "on the trail." They came from somewhere else. The pioneer was migrant. He came from somewhere. His urge was for a "better country." Sometimes he abode in it, when he found it; sometimes he pushed further on. God made the pioneer and equipped him with some of the attributes of the super-man. The ways of his going were pathless; whither he went, he broke his own road. Bridgeless rivers barred his way; but he crossed them. Great steeps, unscaled and unscalable, frowned down upon him; but he scaled them.

In his going he was the captain of the covered wagon; and in his abiding, he was the rugged conqueror of the impossible. To my mind he was the personification of the poet's vision of that Youth, who climbed the mountain to its top; that

"Youth who bore mid snow and ice
A banner with the strange device
Excelsior."

I look about these walls, and the exclamation of my soul is: What a galaxy! Here is the gallery of the Pioneer. There he is; and there he is. Our brushes have painted him on the canvas and our chisels

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