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Sample Readings from

We the People

Part of the *America the Beautiful* Curriculum

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We the People

Edited by Bethany Poore

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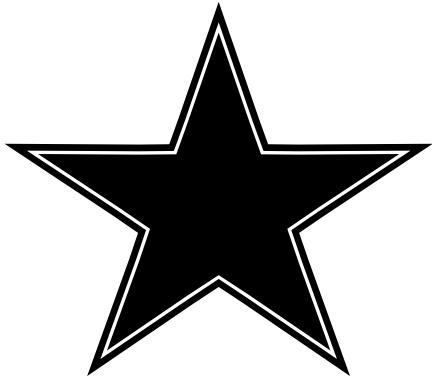


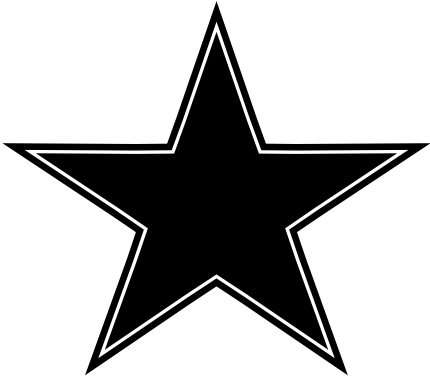
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Introduction

These letters, stories, speeches, journals, memoirs, articles, poems, songs, and documents are building blocks of the history of America. They are called original sources because they were written on the spot, as history happened. To learn history, we look both to historians who come after to describe and interpret events and to the recorded words of the people that made the history themselves—the people who were there.

We are indebted to the people who preserved these original sources: archivists of the United States government, newspapers that filed and preserved past editions, families that saved letters and journals, librarians who did not throw away all the books that looked old and tattered, and museum curators who skillfully preserved important documents. Thousands of original source materials have been lost to floods and fires, careless handling, and the trash can. We should be thankful to the people who realize that history is important: that a letter, article, or speech that seems commonplace and unimportant now will someday be history, something for people like us to read in order to understand the past.

These readings will remind you that American history is the story of real people. Like you, each boy and girl, man and woman who lived, worked, learned, loved, ate, slept, and played here in the United States is part of the story of our country. Most of the people who wrote the story of history never got their names in a book.

The ordinary people we call the Pilgrims looked from their boat toward the shore of Massachusetts, not knowing how their new life was going to be. Native American families on the Plains celebrated their favorite holiday traditions and told stories. Founding Fathers like George Washington were once young boys who had to copy their school lessons into a notebook. John Jay, after he was the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was an old man who had a loving family that came to visit him for Christmas. Travelers during the 1800s were thrilled to see the same places we get excited about today, like Niagara Falls and Yellowstone. Real husbands, fathers, and brothers bravely stood their ground at the Alamo, not knowing how it was going to turn out. Women just like your mother waited day after day for a letter from their husbands fighting in the Civil War. People across the country eagerly devoured the newspaper article describing their bachelor President's White House wedding. American housewives carefully followed the government's instructions to use less fat, sugar, and meat in their cooking so that millions of starving people in Europe would have enough after World War I. Young men from every walk of life serving in World War II soberly read the letter that their beloved General Eisenhower wrote to them before they made a brave and heroic invasion on D-Day. Grieving Americans looked to their President for words of comfort after seven astronauts perished as their space shuttle was taking off. And you, part of a movement to bring education back home, learn from your parents and other American history-makers. We're all everyday Americans, making American history—a few big events and lots of everyday life. As you learn the great story, may you be inspired to make a positive impact on the history of America. I hope you will enjoy getting acquainted with great Americans, the famous and the ordinary, in the pages of *We the People*.

Bethany Poore

We the People

contains these types of original sources:



Books & Stories



Newspaper Articles



Documents



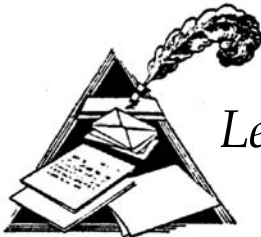
Poems



*Journals, Memoirs,
& Biographies*



Speeches



Letters



Songs



Hail to the Chief

Music by James Sanderson, 1812

Lyrics by Albert Gamse, c. early 1900s

"Hail to the Chief" is the official song played when the President of the United States arrives at a formal occasion. It was first used to honor a President in 1815, when it was played both to honor the late George Washington and to celebrate the end of the War of 1812. The first President to be honored with "Hail to the Chief" while in office was Andrew Jackson in 1829. The tune had a part in the inauguration ceremony of Martin Van Buren. Julia Tyler, wife of John Tyler, first requested that it be played to announce the arrival of the President. Sarah Childress Polk made that practice a ritual during her husband James K. Polk's presidency. He is pictured below. President Harry Truman, who was a musician and a student of music, studied the background of "Hail to the Chief." In 1945, while Truman was in office, the Department of Defense made "Hail to the Chief" the official musical tribute to the President. It is commonly played by a military band. It is most familiar as an instrumental tune written by James Sanderson, but Albert Gamse wrote the following lyrics.

Hail to the Chief we have chosen for the nation,
Hail to the Chief! We salute him, one and all.
Hail to the Chief, as we pledge cooperation
In proud fulfillment of a great, noble call.

Yours is the aim to make this grand country grander,
This you will do, that's our strong, firm belief.
Hail to the one we selected as commander,
Hail to the President! Hail to the Chief!





First Woman on the Oregon Trail

Narcissa Whitman, 1836

This is an excerpt from a journal-style letter that Narcissa Whitman wrote in 1836 while she traveled with her new husband and their mission party to Oregon.

April 1st. - Nothing of much importance occurred to-day. My eyes are satiated with the same beautiful scenery all along the coasts of this mighty river, so peculiar to this western country. One year ago today since my husband first arrived in St. Louis on his exploring route to the mountains. We are one week earlier passing up the river this spring than he was last year. While the boat stopped to take in wood we went on shore, found some rushes, picked a branch of cedar, went to a spring for clear water (the river water is very rily [muddy] at all times), and rambled considerably in pursuit of new objects. One of these circumstances I must mention, which was quite diverting to us. On the rocks near the river we found a great quantity of the prickly pear. Husband knew from experience the effects of handling them, and cautioned me against them, but I thought I could just take one and put it in my india-rubber apron pocket, and carry it to the boat. I did so, but after rambling a little I thought to take it out, and behold, my pocket was filled with its needles, just like a caterpillar's bristles. I became considerably annoyed with them; they covered my hands, and I have scarcely got rid of them yet. My husband would have laughed at me a little, were it not for his own misfortune. He thought to discover what kind of mucilage [plant juice] it was by tasting it - cut one in two, bit it, and covered his lips completely. We then had to sympathize with each other, and were glad to render mutual assistance in a case of extermination. . . .

Thursday, 7th. - Very pleasant, but cold. This morning the thermometer stood at 24 at nine o'clock. I have not seen any snow since we left the Allegheny mountains, before the 15th of March. I should like to know about the snow in New York. Is it all gone? How did it go, and the consequences? Mary, we have had a sick one with us all the way since we joined Dr. Satterlee. Mrs. Satterlee has had a very bad cough and cold, which has kept her feeble. She is now recovering, and is as well as can be expected. The rest of us have been very well, except feeling the effects of drinking the river water. I am in exception, however. My health was never better than since I have been on the river. . . . Mrs. Spalding does not look nor feel quite healthy enough for our enterprise. Riding affects her differently from what it does me. Everyone who sees me compliments me as being the best able to endure the journey over the mountains. Sister S[paulding] is very resolute—no shrinking with her. She possesses much fortitude. I like her very much. She wears well upon acquaintance. She is a very suitable person for Mr. Spalding—has the right temperament to match him. I think we shall get along very well together; we have so far. I have such a good place to shelter—under my husband's wings. He is so excellent. I love to confide in his judgment, and act under him, for it gives me a chance to improve. Jane, if you want to be happy get as good a husband as I have got, and be a missionary. Mary, I wish you were with us. You would be happy, as I am. The way looks pleasant, notwithstanding we are so near encountering the difficulties of an unheard-of journey for females. . . .





An Act to Establish the Smithsonian Institution

1846

When the United States government received Englishman James Smithson's mysterious gift in his will, Congress had to determine how to use the money to fulfill his wishes. Congress passed this bill in 1846 and it was signed into law by President James K. Polk.

29th Congress, 1st Session

Begun and held at the City of Washington and the District of Columbia on Monday, the first day of December, eighteen hundred and forty-five.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE "SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION"
FOR THE INCREASE AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE AMONG MEN.

James Smithson, esquire, of London, in the Kingdom of Great Britain, having by his last will and testament given the whole of his property to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the "Smithsonian Institution," an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men; and the United States having, by an act of Congress, received said property and accepted said trust; Therefore, for the faithful execution of said trust, according to the will of the liberal and enlightened donor

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That, after the board of regents shall have met and become organized, it shall be their duty forthwith to proceed to select a suitable site for such building as may be necessary for the institution, which ground may be taken and appropriated out of that part of the public ground in the city of Washington lying between the Patent Office and Seventh Street

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That, so soon as the board of regents shall have selected the said site, they shall cause to be erected a suitable building, of plain and durable materials and structure, without unnecessary ornament, and of sufficient size, and with suitable rooms or halls, for the reception and arrangement, upon a liberal scale, of objects of natural history, including a geological and mineralogical cabinet; also a chemical laboratory, a library, a gallery of art, and the necessary lecture rooms

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That, in proportion as suitable arrangements can be made for their reception, all objects of art and of foreign and curious research, and all objects of natural history, plants, and geological and mineralogical specimens, belonging, or hereafter to belong, to the United States, which may be in the city of Washington, in whosoever custody the same may be, shall be delivered to such persons as may be authorized by the board of regents to receive them

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That the author or proprietor of any book, map, chart, musical composition, print, cut, or engraving, for which a copy-right shall be secured under the existing acts of Congress, or those which shall hereafter be enacted respecting copy-rights, shall, within three months from the publication . . . deliver, or cause to be delivered, one copy of the same to the Librarian of the Smithsonian institution, and one copy to the Librarian of Congress Library, for the use of the said Libraries.



Over Niagara

October 25, 1901

This article appeared in the St. Paul, Minnesota, Globe newspaper the day after Annie Edson Taylor went over Niagara Falls in a barrel as a publicity stunt.

THE GLOBE

OCTOBER 25, 1901

OVER NIAGARA

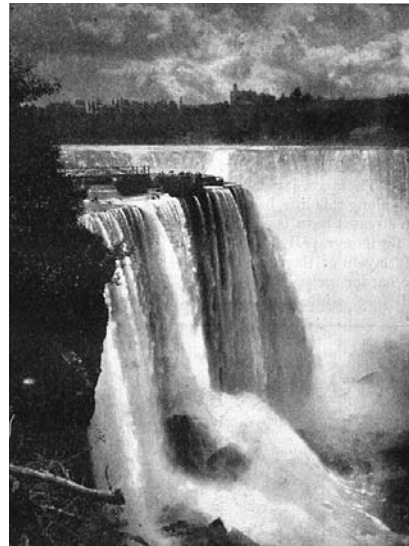
MRS. ANNIE EDSON TAYLOR MAKES THE TRIP IN A CLOSED BARREL
HAS NO SERIOUS INJURIES

Anvil in the Bottom of the Barrel Kept It in an Upright Position.

NOT A BONE WAS BROKEN

Niagara Falls, N.Y., Oct. 24—Mrs. Annie Edson Taylor, fifty years old, went over Niagara Falls on the Canadian side, this afternoon and survived, a feat never before accomplished. . . . She made the trip in a barrel. Not only did she survive, but she escaped without a broken bone, her only apparent injuries being a scalp wound one and one-half inches long, a slight concussion of the brain, some shock to her nervous system and bruises about the body. She was conscious when taken out of the barrel. The doctors in attendance upon her tonight said that though she was somewhat hysterical, her condition is not at all serious and that she probably will be out of bed within a few days.

Mrs. Taylor's trip covered a mile ride through the Canadian rapids before she reached the brink of the precipice. Her barrel, staunch as a barrel could be made, was twirled and buffeted through those delirious waters, but escaped serious contact with rocks. As it passed through the smoother, swifter waters that rushed over into the abyss it rode in an almost perpendicular position with its upper half out of the water. As it passed over the brink



it rode at an angle of about 45 degrees on the outer surface of the deluge and descended gracefully to the white foaming waters, 158 feet below.

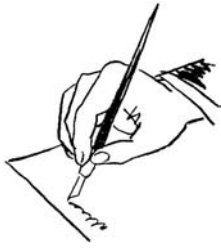
True to her calculations, an anvil fastened to the bottom of the barrel kept it foot downward and so it landed. . . . The ride through the rapids occupied eighteen minutes. It was 4:23 o'clock when the barrel took its leap. It could not be seen as it struck the water below, because of the

spray, but in less than half a minute after it passed over the brink it was seen on the surface of the scum-covered water below the falls. It was carried swiftly down to the green water beyond the scum; then halfway to the *Maid of the Mist* landing it was caught in what is known as the *Maid of the Mist* eddy, and held there until it floated so close to the shore that it was reached by means of a pole and hook and drawn in upon the rocks at 4:40 o'clock, seventeen minutes after it shot the cataract. The woman was lifted from the barrel and half an hour later she lay on a cot at her boarding place, in Niagara Falls on the American side. She said she would never do it

again, but that she was not sorry she had done it, "if it would help her financially."

She said she had prayed all during the trip, except during "a few moments" of unconsciousness just after her descent.

The barrel in which Mrs. Taylor made the journey is 4½ feet high and about 3 feet in diameter. A leather harness and cushions inside protected her body. Air was secured through a rubber tube connected with a small opening near the top of the barrel. Mrs. Taylor is a school teacher and recently came here from Bay City, Michigan.



From Audubon's Journal

John James Audubon, 1843

In March of 1843, John James Audubon and his son Victor left on a journey to research for a project called Quadrupeds of North America. Even with the objective of observing animals, it is obvious from these journal entries that Audubon always had an eye out for birds!

April 26. A rainy day, and the heat we had experienced yesterday was now all gone. We saw a Wild Goose running on the shore, and it was killed by Bell [a traveling companion]; but our captain did not stop to pick it up, and I was sorry to see the poor bird dead, uselessly. We now had found out that our berths were too thickly inhabited for us to sleep in; so I rolled myself in my blanket, lay down on deck, and slept very sound.

27th. A fine clear day, cool this morning . . . saw a few Gray Squirrels, and an abundance of our common Partridges in flocks of fifteen to twenty, very gentle indeed. . . . At a woodyard above us we saw a White Pelican that had been captured there, and which, had it been clean, I should have bought. I saw that its legs and feet were red, and not yellow, as they are during autumn and winter. Marmots are quite abundant, and here they perforate their holes in the loose, sandy soil of the river banks, as well as the same soil wherever it is somewhat elevated . . . at sunrise, we were in sight of the seat of government, Jefferson. The State House stands prominent, with a view from it up and down the stream of about ten miles; but, with the exception of the State House and the Penitentiary, Jefferson is a poor place, the land round being sterile and broken. This is said to be 160 or 170 miles above St. Louis. We saw many Gray Squirrels this morning. Yesterday we passed under long lines of elevated shore, surmounted by stupendous rocks of limestone, with many curious holes in them, where we saw Vultures and Eagles enter towards dusk. Harris saw a Peregrine Falcon; the whole of these rocky shores are ornamented with a species of white cedar quite satisfactorily known to us. We took wood at several places; at one I was told that Wild Turkeys were abundant and Squirrels also, but as the squatter observed, "Game is very scarce, especially Bears." Wolves begin to be troublesome to the settlers who have sheep; they are obliged to drive the latter home, and herd



them each night. . . . We saw a pair of Peregrine Falcons, one of them with a bird in its talons; also a few White-fronted Geese, some Blue-winged Teal, and some Cormorants, but none with the head, neck, and breast pure white, as the one I saw two days ago. . . .

29th. We were off at five this rainy morning, and at 9 A.M. reached Booneville, distant from St. Louis about 204 miles. We bought at this place an axe, a saw, three files, and some wafers; also some chickens, at one dollar a dozen. We found here some of the Santa Fe traders with whom we had crossed the Alleghenies. They were awaiting the arrival of their goods, and then would immediately start. I saw a Rabbit sitting under the shelf of a rock, and also a Gray Squirrel. . . .



Ho! for California

Jesse Hutchinson, 1849

This song of the California Gold Rush of 1849 reveals the bright (and unrealistic) hopes of men setting out to strike it rich. The last verse is a reminder of the heated controversy over slavery at the time. "Ho! for California" is a song of the Hutchinson Family Singers, a musical group that became popular in America in the 1840s and performed more than twelve thousand concerts.

We've formed our band and are well manned,
To journey afar to the promised land,
Where the golden ore is rich in store,
On the banks of the Sacramento shore.

Chorus

Then, ho! Brothers ho! To California go.
There's plenty of gold in the world
we're told,
On the banks of the Sacramento.
Heigh O, and a way we go,
Digging up gold in Francisco.

O! don't you cry, nor heave a sigh,
For we'll all come back again, bye and bye,
Don't breathe a fear, nor shed a tear,
But patiently wait for about two year.

(Chorus)

As the gold is thar, most any whar,
And they dig it out with an iron bar,
And where 'tis thick, with a spade or pick,
They can take out lumps as heavy as brick.

(Chorus)

As we explore that distant shore,
We'll fill our pockets with the shining ore;
And how 'twill sound, as the word goes round,
Of our picking up gold by the dozen pound.

(Chorus)

We expect our share of the coarsest fare,
And sometimes to sleep in the open air,
Upon the cold ground we shall all sleep sound
Except when the wolves are howling round.

(Chorus)

And off we roam over the dark sea foam,
We'll never forget our friends at home
For memories kind will bring to mind
The thoughts of those we leave behind.

(Chorus)

O! the land we'll save, for the bold and brave—
Have determined there never shall
breathe a slave;
Let foes recoil, for the sons of toil
Shall make California GOD'S FREE SOIL.

Final Chorus

Then ho! Brothers ho! To California go,
No slave shall toil on God's Free Soil,
On the banks of the Sacramento,
Heigh O, and away we go,
Chanting our songs of Freedom, O.





My Hope and My Deep Faith

Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1954

President Dwight D. Eisenhower wrote this letter to an American woman named Marie Green.

June 14, 1954

Dear Mrs. Green,

I have heard of the tragic misfortunes that you have suffered during and since World War II. To lose a son is heart-breaking; to lose a son on a battlefield has a special tragedy of its own because of the inescapable conviction that man, long ago, should have found a way to eliminate such conflicts. You have my deepest and most sincere sympathy. I wonder if I may be bold enough to tell you a little bit about one of my most profound beliefs.

I abhor war as much as I know you do. But we in America cherish the freedom we have had throughout the 178 years of our existence as a nation; we cherish it above all else and we have never hesitated when necessary to fight to preserve it. In recent years there have risen fanatical individuals, possessed of greed and lust for power, who have managed for a time to threaten our security, our safety and our freedom. To stop these aggressors, America has had to make tremendous sacrifices, both as a nation and as individuals. We have succeeded in thwarting those who have attempted to destroy us; we always will.

Now, science has provided us with weapons of unprecedented power. But I know that if we are wise enough and strong enough and courageous enough, we can eventually—and in our lifetime—turn that force toward constructive efforts for the betterment of mankind everywhere, and not permit it to be used—at least exclusively—for mankind's destruction.

I feel impelled to express my belief that the sacrifices you and thousands of other mothers have made are bringing us—in a slow and painful process to be sure—but steadily bringing us to the place where man's freedom and personal dignity will forever be secure. That is my hope and my deep faith, and I pray that it is in some measure shared by you.



Sincerely,
Dwight D. Eisenhower



Pledge of Allegiance

1954

The first version of the pledge of allegiance, written by Francis Bellamy, was published in 1892 in a children's magazine called The Youth's Companion. It was used as part of the 400th anniversary celebration of the arrival of Columbus. Though use of the pledge had long been common, the United States Congress did not officially recognize it until 1942, when it became part of the U.S. Flag Code. President Eisenhower approved a joint resolution of Congress to add the words "under God" to the pledge in 1954. On that occasion, he said, "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."

83RD UNITED STATES CONGRESS
2ND SESSION

Joint Resolution

To amend the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That section 7 of the joint resolution entitled "Joint resolution to codify and emphasize existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America", approved June 22, 1942, as amended (36 U. S. C., sec. 172), is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 7. The following is designated as the pledge of allegiance to the flag, 'I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.' Such pledge should be rendered by standing with the right hand over the heart. However, civilians will always show full respect to the flag when the pledge is given by merely standing at attention, men removing the headdress. Persons in uniform shall render the military salute."

Approved June 14, 1954.





The Situation in Little Rock

Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1957

President Eisenhower addressed the American people by radio and television on September 24, 1957, to explain the situation in Little Rock, Arkansas, surrounding the integration of Little Rock Central High School. He had earlier that day issued the order to send Federal troops to Little Rock to uphold the law.

Good Evening, My Fellow Citizens: For a few minutes this evening I want to speak to you about the serious situation that has arisen in Little Rock. To make this talk I have come to the President's office in the White House. I could have spoken from Rhode Island, where I have been staying recently, but I felt that, in speaking from the house of Lincoln, of Jackson and of Wilson, my words would better convey both the sadness I feel in the action I was compelled today to take and the firmness with which I intend to pursue this course until the orders of the Federal Court at Little Rock can be executed without unlawful interference.

In that city, under the leadership of demagogic extremists, disorderly mobs have deliberately prevented the carrying out of proper orders from a Federal Court. Local authorities have not eliminated that violent opposition and, under the law, I yesterday issued a Proclamation calling upon the mob to disperse.

This morning the mob again gathered in front of the Central High School of Little Rock, obviously for the purpose of again preventing the carrying out of the Court's order relating to the admission of Negro children to that school.

Whenever normal agencies prove inadequate to the task and it becomes necessary for the Executive Branch of the Federal Government to use its powers and authority to uphold Federal Courts, the President's responsibility is inescapable.

In accordance with that responsibility, I have today issued an Executive Order directing the use of troops under Federal authority to aid in the execution of Federal law at Little Rock, Arkansas. This became necessary when my Proclamation of yesterday was not observed, and the obstruction of justice still continues.

It is important that the reasons for my action be understood by all our citizens.

As you know, the Supreme Court of the United States has decided that separate public educational facilities for the races are inherently unequal and therefore compulsory school segregation laws are unconstitutional.

Our personal opinions about the decision have no bearing on the matter of enforcement; the responsibility and authority of the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution are very clear. Local Federal Courts were instructed by the Supreme Court to issue such orders and decrees as might be necessary to achieve admission to public schools without regard to race—and with all deliberate speed.

During the past several years, many communities in our Southern states have instituted public school plans for gradual progress in the enrollment and attendance of school children of all races in order to bring themselves into compliance with the law of the land.



They thus demonstrated to the world that we are a nation in which laws, not men, are supreme. I regret to say that this truth—the cornerstone of our liberties—was not observed in this instance.

It was my hope that this localized situation would be brought under control by city and State authorities. If the use of local police powers had been sufficient, our traditional method of leaving the problems in those hands would have been pursued. But when large gatherings of obstructionists made it impossible for the decrees of the Court to be carried out, both the law and the national interest demanded that the President take action.

Here is the sequence of events in the development of the Little Rock school case.

In May of 1955, the Little Rock School Board approved a moderate plan for the gradual desegregation of the public schools in that city. It provided that a start toward integration would be made at the present term in the high school, and that the plan would be in full operation by 1963. Here I might say that in a number of communities in Arkansas integration in the schools has already started and without violence of any kind. Now this Little Rock plan was challenged in the courts by some who believed that the period of time as proposed in the plan was too long.

The United States Court at Little Rock, which has supervisory responsibility under the law for the plan of desegregation in the public schools, dismissed the challenge, thus approving a gradual rather than an abrupt change from the existing system. The court found that the school board had acted in good faith in planning for a public school system free from racial discrimination.

Since that time, the court has on three separate occasions issued orders directing that the plan be carried out. All persons were instructed to refrain from interfering with the efforts of the school board to comply with the law.

Proper and sensible observance of the law then demanded the respectful obedience which the nation has a right to expect from all its people. This, unfortunately, has not been the case at Little Rock. Certain misguided persons, many of them imported into Little Rock by agitators, have insisted upon defying the law and have sought to bring it into disrepute. The orders of the court have thus been frustrated.

The very basis of our individual rights and freedoms rests upon the certainty that the President and the Executive Branch of Government will support and insure the carrying out of the decisions of the Federal Courts, even, when necessary with all the means at the President's command.

Unless the President did so, anarchy would result.

There would be no security for any except that which each one of us could provide for himself.

The interest of the nation in the proper fulfillment of the law's requirements cannot yield to opposition and demonstrations by some few persons.

Mob rule cannot be allowed to override the decisions of our courts.

Now, let me make it very clear that Federal troops are not being used to relieve local and state authorities of their primary duty to preserve the peace and order of the community. Nor are the troops there for the purpose of taking over the responsibility of the School Board and the other responsible local officials in running Central High School. The running of our school system and the maintenance of peace and order in each of our States are strictly local affairs and the Federal Government does not interfere except in a very few special cases and when requested by one of the several States. In the present case the troops are there, pursuant to law, solely for the purpose of preventing interference with the orders of the Court.

The proper use of the powers of the Executive Branch to enforce the orders of a Federal Court is limited to extraordinary and compelling circumstances. Manifestly, such an extreme situation has been created in Little Rock. This challenge must be met and with such measures as will preserve to the people as a whole their lawfully-protected rights in a climate permitting their free and fair exercise.

The overwhelming majority of our people in every section of the country are united in their respect for observance of the law—even in those cases where they may disagree with that law.

They deplore the call of extremists to violence.

The decision of the Supreme Court concerning school integration, of course, affects the South more seriously than it does other sections of the country. In that region I have many warm friends, some of them in the city of Little Rock. I have deemed it a great personal privilege to spend in our Southland tours of duty while in the military service and enjoyable recreational periods since that time.

So from intimate personal knowledge, I know that the overwhelming majority of the people in the South—including those of Arkansas and of Little Rock—are of good will, united in their efforts to preserve and respect the law even when they disagree with it.

They do not sympathize with mob rule. They, like the rest of our nation, have proved in two great wars their readiness to sacrifice for America.

A foundation of our American way of life is our national respect for law.

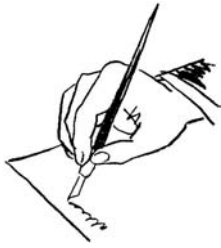
In the South, as elsewhere, citizens are keenly aware of the tremendous disservice that has been done to the people of Arkansas in the eyes of the nation, and that has been done to the nation in the eyes of the world.

At a time when we face grave situations abroad because of the hatred that Communism bears toward a system of government based on human rights, it would be difficult to exaggerate the harm that is being done to the prestige and influence, and indeed to the safety, of our nation and the world.

Our enemies are gloating over this incident and using it everywhere to misrepresent our whole nation. We are portrayed as a violator of those standards of conduct which the peoples of the world united to proclaim in the Charter of the United Nations. There they affirmed “faith in fundamental human rights” and “in the dignity and worth of the human person” and they did so “without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.”

And so, with deep confidence, I call upon the citizens of the State of Arkansas to assist in bringing to an immediate end all interference with the law and its processes. If resistance to the Federal Court orders ceases at once, the further presence of Federal troops will be unnecessary and the City of Little Rock will return to its normal habits of peace and order and a blot upon the fair name and high honor of our nation in the world will be removed.

Thus will be restored the image of America and of all its parts as one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Good night, and thank you very much.



The Northern Lights

Hudson Stuck, 1914

Hudson Stuck was archdeacon of the Episcopal Church in Alaska. He traveled many thousands of miles by dogsled to visit mission stations and seek unreached native communities. In 1914 he published Ten Thousand Miles with a Dog Sled, in which he described the landscape and climate of Alaska, native peoples and mission work among them, and his many Alaskan adventures. Following are his descriptions of two of the many times he observed the natural phenomenon known as the northern lights or aurora borealis.

This was on the 6th of October, 1904, at Fairbanks, a little removed from the town itself. When first the heavens were noticed there was one clear bow of milky light stretching from the northern to the southern horizon, reflected in the broken surface of the river, and glistening on the ice cakes that swirled down with the swift current. Then the southern end of the bow began to twist on itself until it had produced a queer elongated corkscrew appearance half-way up to the zenith, while the northern end



spread out and bellied from east to west. Then the whole display moved rapidly across the sky until it lay low and faint on the western horizon, and it seemed to be all over. But before one could turn to go indoors a new point of light appeared suddenly high up in the sky and burst like a pyrotechnic bomb into a thousand pear-shaped globules with a molten centre flung far out to north and south. Then began one of the most beautiful celestial exhibitions that the writer has ever seen. These globules stretched into ribbon streamers, dividing and subdividing until the whole sky was filled with them, and these ribbon streamers of greenish opalescent light curved constantly inward and outward upon themselves, with a quick jerking movement like the cracking of a whip, and every time the ribbons curved, their lower edges frayed out, and the fringe was prismatic. The pinks and mauves flashed as the ribbon curved and frayed—and were gone. There was no other color in the whole heavens save the milky greenish-white light, but every time the streamers thrashed back and forth their under edges fringed into the glowing tints of mother-of-pearl. Presently, the whole display faded out until it was gone. But, as we turned again to seek the warmth of the house, all at once tiny fingers of light appeared all over the upper sky, like the flashing of spicules of alum under a microscope when a solution has dried to the point of crystallisation, and stretched up and down, lengthening and lengthening to the horizon, and gathering themselves together at the zenith into a crown. Three times this was repeated; each time the light faded gradually but completely from the sky and flashed out again instantaneously. . . .

The next to be described . . . was the most striking and beautiful manifestation of the Northern Lights the writer has ever seen. It was that rare and lovely thing—a colored aurora—all of one rich deep tint.

It was on the 11th of March, 1907, on the Chandalar River, a day's march above the gap by which that stream enters the Yukon Flats and five days north of Fort Yukon. A new "strike" had been made on the Chandalar, and a new town, "Caro," established;—abandoned since. All day long we had been troubled and hindered by overflow water on the ice, saturating the snow, an unpleasant feature for which this stream is noted; and when night fell and we thought we ought to be approaching the town, it seemed yet unaccountably far off. At last, in the darkness, we came to a creek that we decided must surely be Flat Creek, near the mouth of which the new settlement stood; and at the same time we came to overflow water so deep that it covered both ice and snow and looked dangerous. So the dogs were halted while the Indian boy went ahead cautiously to see if the town were not just around the bend, and the writer sat down, tired, on the sled. While sitting there, all at once, from the top of the mountainous bluff that marked the mouth of the creek, a clear red light sprang up and spread out across the sky, dyeing the snow and gleaming in the water, lighting up all the river valley from mountain to mountain with a most beautiful carmine [red] of the utmost intensity and depth. In wave after wave it came, growing brighter and brighter, as though some gigantic hand on that mountain top were flinging out the liquid radiance into the night. There was no suggestion of any other color, it was all pure carmine, and it seemed to accumulate in mid-air until all the landscape was bathed in its effulgence. And then it gradually died away. The native boy was gone just half an hour. It began about five minutes after he left and ended about five minutes before he returned, so that its whole duration was twenty minutes. There had been no aurora at all before; there was nothing after, for his quest had been fruitless, and, since we would not venture that water in the dark, we made our camp on the bank and were thus two hours or more yet in the open. The boy had stopped to look at it himself, "long time," as he said, and declared it was the only red aurora he had ever seen in his twenty-odd years' life. It was a very rare and beautiful sight, and it was hard to resist that impression of a gigantic hand flinging liquid red fire from the mountain top into the sky. Its source seemed no higher than the mountain top—seemed to be the mountain top itself—and its extent seemed confined within the river valley.



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