

Address delivered by James P.B. Hyndman from station WHAP, New York City, on Monday, January 9, 1928, on Americanism.

Subject: THE PAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

The Pan-American Conference will meet at Havana, Cuba, on Monday, January 16. The twenty-one republics of the Western Hemisphere will be represented at this Conference. President Coolidge will attend.

The history of the twenty-one Republics of the Western Hemisphere, with the United States of America, the American Federal Republic in the lead, forms the most significant, potent, and spiritual record in the history of the world.

Yesterday, (Sunday) while I was walking on the street, there lay on the sidewalk in front of me, a beautiful calendar. Glancing at it, I noticed that it was a picture of the Liberty Bell in gold and black. I picked it up, and read the inscription: "The Cradle of Liberty." It was slightly soiled with rain and mud. I took it home and carefully washed it, pressed it out, and hung it on the wall of my study.

The Western Hemisphere was ordained by the all-knowing Mind, the omnipotent God, to be the home of Liberty. Americans! Do not your hearts burn within you at every mention of the name of our beloved America; every thought of the incomparable sacrifices and the inevitable corresponding mighty conquests of the fathers of our nation, and those of our sister republics at the lispings of the names of the immortal Washington and the lovable Lincoln, whose greatness, like the morning rays of the sun, will increase until the perfect day of liberty on the earth shall appear in its full glory.

The first effective note of liberty sounded upon this planet was struck by Christ Jesus when he said: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Not perceiving the value of the gift that the great Teacher had offered them, his hearers replied: "We are sons of Abraham, and have never been in bondage to any man. How sayest thou then, ye shall be free?"

In 1776, these words were formulated, written down, and signed with the very life blood of Christian patriots:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just power from the consent of the governed. (The Declaration of Independence).

The inherent spirit of Liberty is an unquenchable fire in the breast of every true American. I quote the Sibyl Wilbur's Life of Mary Baker Eddy:

It is still remembered in that community (New Hampshire) how the Tiltons held an informal social gathering and everybody of consequence in the town attended. It appears to have been a semi-political reception, and on this occasion the Baker sisters disagreed before their guests. Mrs. Glover (later Mrs. Eddy) had come into the parlors to assist her sister. She was a notable figure because of grace and beauty though wasted in health, and her large eyes burned as she listened to the expressions of political opinion around her, called forth by the presidential campaign.

“And what does Mrs. Glover have to say to all this?” said a gentleman who had observed her repressed emotion while listening and taking no part in the conversation. All eyes turned toward her. Those who had not dared to venture an adverse opinion in the great house of the town hushed the lighter-minded around them. It was a moment of suspense such as only occasionally thrills a social gathering.

“I say,” said Mrs. Glover, (afterwards Mrs. Eddy) “that the South as well as the North suffers from the continuance of slavery and its spread to other states; that the election of Franklin Pierce will but involve us in larger disputes; that emancipation is written on the wall.”

The gathering had received its thrill that went down the backs of the several guests like baptismal currents of lightening.

“Mary,” cried her sister, “Do you dare to say that in my house?”

“I dare to speak what I believe in any house,” responded Mrs. Glover quietly.

I quote further from Mrs. Eddy: an extract from her Address to the Concord Church, February, 1899. Mrs. Eddy wrote:

*My Beloved Brethren:* — In the annals of our denomination this church becomes historic, having completed its organization February 22 — Washington's birthday. Memorable date, all unthought of till the day had passed! Then we beheld the omen, — religious liberty, — the Father of the universe and the father of our nation in concurrence. (Miscellany p. 148.).

I once more quote Mrs. Eddy on the subject of Liberty. She writes in an Address on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of The Mother Church, in Boston, in 1894:

The Church, more than any other institution, at present is the cement of society, and it should be the bulwark of civil and religious liberty. But the time cometh when the religious element, or Church of Christ, shall exist alone in the affections, and need no organization to express it. (Miscellaneous Writings p. 144.).

There can be but one potential and essential motive for any conference of the republics of the Western Hemisphere, at any time. That motive is the complete attainment of civil and religious liberty, which, in its highest form, is spiritual freedom, the "liberty of the sons of God." The ceaseless turmoils in the Central and South American countries have no other theme, no other actuating reason or basis, than this struggle for religious and moral freedom. It is the one theme of the entire hemisphere, from the arctic regions to the southernmost seas. And why is this so? Because the Western Hemisphere belongs peculiarly to Christ; it was discovered by the Norseman at Christ's command, and was colonized, by the Pilgrim Fathers, and established by the patriots of 1776, in preparation for the second appearing of Christ. A Pan-American Conference could no more meet without contemplating the work of Washington, Juarez, Bolivar and San Martin – the mighty patriots who freed the Western Hemisphere from political and ecclesiastical tyranny – than could a class in mathematics assemble and not study mathematics. The spirit of civil and religious liberty permeates every portion of this hemisphere, and lives as an unquenchable spiritual flame in the soul of every American. The Declaration of Independence, based on the immortal Compact of the Pilgrim Fathers, sounded the key-note of universal freedom, that the Monroe Doctrine guaranteed to every portion of this hemisphere – the mental emancipation from priestcraft and kingcraft which is essential to prepare the hearts and consciences of men for the second appearing of Christ and his mighty gospel of freedom.

Freedom from what? Freedom from the hypnotic pagan belief of materiality, the second chapter of Genesis on which ecclesiasticism, scholastic theology, human despotism, sin, sickness, death and hell is based. Freedom for what? Freedom to know and to understand that we are all sons of God, and possess certain unalienable rights – that among these rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness including the spiritual freedom to worship God as He should and must be worshipped – in spirit and in truth, not in matter and error. Thus we see that the American System is the custodian, under God and His Christ, of the life, liberty, and happiness of those who come under its jurisdiction; and that the opposing system, that our Monroe Doctrine forbids in any portion of this hemisphere, as being dangerous to our peace and safety, must be, and is, the vehicle or embodiment of death, slavery, and sorrow. The two systems are now in final conflict in this hemisphere, from Hudson Bay to the Argentine, with telltale eruptions in Mexico and Nicaragua, and the smouldering fires of religious conflict in the United States. But Christ has decreed that the Western Hemisphere shall be free, and he has given us a written document to this effect – our "cherished Monroe Doctrine," as one writer put it – and of which Mrs. Eddy writes:

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I believe strictly in the Monroe doctrine, in our Constitution, and in the laws of God. (Miscellany, p. 282.).