

Smith or Caesar

by Edward Campbell Little

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Submitted to the University of Kansas in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts

Thesis

Little, E.C. 1891

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Smith or Caesar.

Caesar's or Smith's

Power is the capacity to accomplish. Might is the only right in this world.

The Nazarene viewed mortality seeking alliance with immortality. Napoleon saw weakness sanction strength. The mind of man runneth not to the contrary of that time when on the wrinkled front of war was stamped the past, present and future of all that goes to link humanity. Birth and decay of nations hang breathless on the keen edged sword, and battle fields bear witness that ideas must court the sanction of cannon and cavalry else remain the isms of minority. That for which men will not fight cannot be.

Planets spin through space in obedience to gravitation, constellations remaining intact in furtherance of the same immutable law.

Efficient and sufficient is he whose capacity for controlling is conceded, luminous and voluminous are the records of individual blast with tact for governing.

Sainted soul of martyrs and heart blood of tyrant alike succumb to domination. Secret recesses of the heart are fraught with unvoiced hopes that cringe before a more consuming passion. The caprice of a moment makes way for stronger, steadier flame, - desire.

Idea permeates soul the same as mind, the former's immortality serving ^{to} the place minutest thought within control of over-ruling strength, for no labyrinthian device of syllogistic art may penetrate the Infinite.

Changeless routine of solar system, accurately defined limit of the source from which springs human knowledge and subtle relations of component parts but go to place all things animate and inanimate under the influence of that potent motion, strength. Sympathy has its

healing touch, kindness its faith giving mission, generosity its own reward, gentleness its reassuring tone and forgiveness its self gratification; but the attribute of destruction is found in power, so that that alone by its suffrance they live.

True, changes come. Things of to-day may on to-morrow never be, but possibilities of to-morrow can never be to-day. So that which now is must be.

Creation testifies to a universal wisdom, that of necessity acted for the best. Then are existing conditions to be deemed right. From this it must needs follow that might is right?

Departing eras, each record destruction of injustice, while the ushering in of new epochs heralds beneficial change. Anticipation of moral, physical, financial and mental advancement approximating the ideal bears witness to faith in omnipotence. The realization of this condition awaits solution, but to hasten it certainly is within the province of co-operative effort. Within confines of every locality bearing distinct characteristics of inherent molding is a man whose mental radius mirrors public sentiment forming an arena in which he stands grasping the scepter of centralized power. To such men the individual owes praise or condemnation, their actions being largely commensurate with the community's weal or woe. Avarice and ambition consuming public-spiritedness and fellow sympathy, the body politic experience the ills attendant upon vicious centralization; impulse of patriotism and responsibility to constituency dominating, the benefits accruing from combined effort result. Public pulse flutters between these conditions, envy, admiration, distrust and confidence holding alternate sway, the ascending being determined by what manner of man may chance to sit in judgment.

Economic affairs demand continued readjustment, and legislation consequent upon this necessarily fails of satisfaction in one

of every two cases wherein are found adverse interests. From this has come demand for change, the dominant political systems being brought face to face with government control of transportation and kindred theories.

Legislative measures being compromise proceedings sympathizers with this new movement are not in any sense exclusive, the storm center having encroached on the party fealty of each organization, bringing into at least temporary unison all discordant elements of the franchise domain. Unfocussed, these efforts will be as sounding brass and tinkling ~~Gymbel~~, for strength is not power unless each integral part methodically performs its function. Into this vortex has come both sincerity of purpose and fungi of corruption. Flaggish hopes are lashed into fury by the centripetal magnet of popular agitation and, hoping to supplement fortune, new tenets are affected. The dormant strength of ^{ambition} courts this balance of power by proffering alliances based on mutual concession. Ism, sound thoughts, individual ambition exploded theory, practical plan for dream hold high carnival in this strange medley of right and wrong.

Watchman, what of the night? Here, as elsewhere, must conclusion accurately follow whatever premises have been used as superstructure. Here, as elsewhere, must the law of ~~cause~~ and effect apply with such mathematical certainty as to ignore all else. If combinations have proven recreant to their trust and the most advanced political economy of yesterday be the mill stone of to-day, all will be changed; but prior to such revolution must come a sifting, crystalizing process. Unless its tenets suffice to make up the sum of human happiness, the visionary will soon run a new tangent, hypocrites will desert an account of non-recognition, conservatives will return to

former lines and radicals will increase motives power until friction consumes the entirety.

Ignorant prejudice, logical conviction and blind determination in the aggregate cannot assure permanency, being limited to the metes and bounds of additional impulse and expediency. Ultimate success must come alone from power dependent on concentrated effort and singleness of purpose.

Variety has been quite aptly termed the spice of life. Without substance, spice were without mission, its province being to change rather than create. This new movement has for its prime factor, variety. Should some master mind holding theories vital to mortal good gain audience and blunt the shaft of ism, success would follow in his wake; but 'twere folly to expect permanent order out of continual chaos. Not hope, sympathy or wrongs to right may cope with power. Party leaders look well to one central principle, feeling that therein ~~lies~~ ^{lies} safety.

The mercenary seek emoluments coming from the corrupt management of a newly created balance of power ~~sets~~ ^{won by} a long standing minority. Though these things be, they cannot last, for where sits the true Caesar of justice there will come the multitude which in the end is always right. In this multitude power finds an everlasting dwelling place. From this multitude comes might, which is right, a condition that must ever be.

The divine right of kings has come to be a hollow jest. What certain urban and rural organizations have seen fit to denounce as the divine right of parties is being questioned. Records of a noble loyalty or time honored prejudice of Patrician sire no longer guides the magic wand of franchise. Issues of to-day are live coal burning their way into the machinery of events.

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"Stand from under" say a million ominous voices. "We have looked well
to our ~~bases~~^{fortifications}" comes thundering back from snow-capped peak and lily-
laden vale. Hands off! This generation must have an open field.

Time was when gnarled club and sinewy arm held undisputed
sway o'er all frailty within their compass. To-day the stronger mind
holds corresponding sway o'er all humanity possessing less mental
vitality and judgment. ~~It~~^{It} list to that yet too distant voice, perhaps it
may be saying "The time is ~~rather~~^{rotten} ripe for a change." What generations
gone before have termed the impossible may happen. The battle's
tide is in the hands of numbers, and where they congregate, regardless
of historic precedent, ancestral lineage or political party,
there is power.

E. C. Smith.

There is for me a degree.

Law Office

OF

E. C. Little.

Abilene, Kansas, June, 8th, 1891

F. H. Snow, Esq.,

Lawrence, Kans.

Dear Chancellor:- I enclose you my Thesis entitled "Smith
or Caesar" which please file.

Dic.

Yours respectfully,

E. C. Little
Yours:-----