WHAT SHALL WE SAY?

An Editorial by David Starr Jordan of Leland Stanford University, and a Leader in the Movement for Disarmament and World’s Peace.

As teachers of private and to some extent of public morals, shall we say to the youthful generation that the American flag is like a rose, and the parade of American heroes a fairy tale, hoping that the world will be none the worse for our hypocrisy? No, it may mean to work upon the imagination so that we may fill the vacancies in the corps of sailors and marines who “falter” at the name of their absence.

By all means let us popularize the navy. It is our navy. We have paid for it, and it is for the people to do with it what they please. “For after all this is the people’s country.” And perhaps we could bring it nearer to our hearts and thoughts if we could paint it on the white side of each ship, its cost in taxes, in the blood and sweat of a noble never to be needed and never under any conceivable circumstances to be other than a burden and a danger to the nation which displays it.

We are told that a purpose of this pageant of the ships is to “popularize the navy.” This may mean to get use to it and to paying for it, which is the chief function of the people in these great affairs. Or it may mean to work upon the imagination so that we may fill the vacancies in the corps of sailors and marines who “falter” at the name of their absence.

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There is the good ship North Dakota, for example. Her cost is almost exactly the year’s earnings of the prosperous state for which she is named. As to the five Dreadnaughts, who fear nothing while the nation is in its senses and in war nothing but a torpedo boat or an aerobond, it would please the working man to know that his wages for 20,000 years would purchase a ship of this kind, and that the wages of 1,000 of his fellows each year would keep it trim and afloat. As the procession moves by, he will see the millions that have cost as much as the life of every able and worthy man, and as much as Harvard or Columbia, and almost as much as Harvard or Columbia. And on the flag-ship at the end, figures might be summed up, the whole costing as much as an American workman would earn per year. Europeans would work in four millions and an Asiatic in eight millions.

If all this is needed to indicate the size and cost of the ships, it will all mean that the people have a right to be heard. There is no use for us to pay for a navigation which is at the command of a few men.

SMILE AWAY

Uncle Jack, who was visti
gue holidays from the next,
cluded in a similar manner that
n our community, calling attention to the fact that
ities have been conducting their campaigns to try to convince the people they
were the only real progressives. Win or lose, the progressive movement of
1912 will go down into history as a tremendous movement for popular
hrights will not die with
our local candidate. A few

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