

THIS IS WAR!!!

Stop "Gripping And Go To Biting"!

(Editor's Note.—The above headline was inspired by Mr. Howard Macfarlane's radio talk last Thursday evening. Every real American should read it and remember it from now on for the "duration".)

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This is perhaps one of the black weeks in our country's history. Singapore has fallen. Pearl Harbor and Wake Island are history. Some part of the Philippines remain to us by the grace of God and General MacArthur. The last of the Dutch Indies are open to assault and are being assaulted, a part of the German fleet has run the Straits of Dover and Axis submarines are active on our Atlantic seaboard and in the Caribbean.

Since the measure of the worth of a nation, as of an individual lies in the attitude in adversity rather than in prosperity, let us take stock.

What has happened as yet really affects the United States but little except as a blow to our pride. We have been pleased to regard ourselves as so strong, so rich, so powerful that none would dare to attack us. We failed to take account of the fundamental human traits of jealousy, of greed, and of lust for power; we failed to recognize the plain truth that our wealth and general attitude of benevolent ineptitude made us fair game for any highwayman with the nerve to take the chance involved; in short, we have allowed ourselves to be caught unprepared in the face of years of the plainest warning.

So today our pride has sorely suffered and perhaps will suffer still more, but, and bear this in mind, as yet it is principally our pride that has suffered. We have received no vital blow. Our strength as a nation remains unimpaired and our task lies plain before us.

Because we have grown and are so powerful, the situation now starkly facing us comes as a shock, but for that reason only.

We have been in far worse situations and because we had the qualities which God had given us, we made the most of what we had, which was far less even comparatively than we have now, and won our war.

The time has come to stop moaning about what we have not and to make what we have suffice us until we can develop more.

So what of hurts to our pride when we know our own strength, and we must know it and realize it and comprehend it.

Knowing it and comprehending it, we have but one course—to put our shoulders to the wheel, to lift the wagon out of the rut, and to proceed to the ultimate victory, be it near or be it distant.

For after all, our enemies are only men; they have two arms, two legs, they hunger and they thirst, they suffer wounds and they die, just as we do. But if we believe what the past says of them and of us, they lack what is our greatest asset—the will to fight the hardest when

the going is the toughest, and to fight on for the ultimate victory without thought of the immediate danger. The story of our race, and by race I mean the Anglo-Saxon-Norman strain which is predominant in all English speaking peoples, is the story of battles against insurmountable odds, sometimes miraculously turned into astounding victories. The world has not forgotten and will never forget Bunker Hill and Kings Mountain, Jackson at New Orleans, the Alamo, Wake Island and now Bataan. Men do not die in vain upon such occasions.

And that brings me to a matter which seems to me to be of the utmost importance, which first came to my attention through reading one of the news commentators in the daily press. That is the wave of criticism of the British which has recently swept the country and which this commentator attributed to Nazi strategy. Whether that be its source or not, it should be stopped.

The British are our friends and allies, just as we are theirs. Of late they have not done so well. Neither have we. If they were unprepared, so were we. If their production has not been all they hoped for, neither has ours, and probably for much the same reasons. And if they have characteristics which at times somewhat irritate us, no doubt the converse is true. But in spite of all this, the fact remains—and it is the salient fact—that we have made a partnership with them, as they with us. Good sense, as well as good faith, demands our fullest cooperation, and theirs. In no other way can any partnership succeed. Nations and peoples are but the aggregate of the individuals who compose them. No one individual is typical. It is the aggregate which counts. If you are so unfortunate as to meet a Britisher who thinks that we should have gone to war sooner, you are prone to reply that had they used good sense there would have been no war to go. If you think the British failed in not adequately supplying and manning Singapore, he has his answer in the Philippines. That water is under the bridge. If there is any more needless occupation than recrimination over responsibility for the milk

already spilled, it remains to be discovered.

Our duty lies in action calculated to bring this war to a victorious conclusion; not in debate as to past errors. And above all, we should have faith in our partner, for he is worthy of it.

You overlook the idiosyncrasies of your friends, some of which are slightly annoying, almost daily. We should do likewise with the British, and they with us. And perhaps the whole story lies in the fact that we spring from a common stock, have like qualities of strength and weakness, and in the last analysis are antagonistic for that very reason.

But do not let yourself be blinded by their manner of superiority, their idiosyncrasies, and their mistakes. Fundamentally, they are sound. You have only to remember the beach at Danquerque; their will to continue the fight after the French collapse; their fortitude under the bombings of 1940, and their last historic fight at Singapore after they had lost it, to know that.

As our partners, they are entitled to our loyalty, and that means in word and thought as well as deed. You don't need to love them. You only need to recognize their fundamental worth, to stand with them and to support them as they stand with us and support us. No partnership ever succeeded when one of the partners was constantly panning the other.

Therefore, if there be any of you who have doubt of the ultimate outcome, put that doubt from you. It is your duty to have in your own heart the will to win and the abiding faith in ultimate victory and to instill that will and that faith into all with whom you come in contact.

If there be any of you who in times past have not agreed in all particulars with those elected to lead us, put that behind you, give them the utmost of your support in the prosecution of this war and encourage a like support in all with whom you come in contact. They are our elected leaders, and under our system of government you will have no others.

If there be any of you who have shirked any task heretofore imposed upon you in connection with our war effort, remedy that situation by accomplishing that which is required. Your country is entitled to your time and effort as needed. Your private affairs must be relegated to a secondary place.

Above all, remember that our destiny as a nation lies in our own hands. If we act as we should, no power on earth can prevent our ultimate victory, no matter how long postponed or how costly the attainment. The sacrifice for victory is of no moment. It is the cost of defeat which will be devastating, and that we shall never have to pay if we do our duty as it lies clearly before us and as God gives us strength.