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Effect of Climate on Character Delivered at the Commencement Exercises of Dickinson College by David . B. Herman June ?? 1865 60

Thought is the great motive power which impels man to action. From deffuence of condition, situation of intellectual culture opinions are formed upon the same subject essentially different in themselves which when promulouted clash together and meetinally those each other -When questions of paramount infro-time arise and represent parties deem their meetral. saliefaction impossible to free of reason, then was ensues. What is the stern arbiter of mations. Altrough the agent of much destruction and misery, its results are generally good. It is a hard and unhastable mode of enforcing order in the affuns of the world. New theories, improvements and uncontions always meet with more or less of position. And it may to well arranged so by an all was frideling that out of the confused and decordant elements of war should come forthe truth with its imposing famohly, well sifled from error and superstation. Wallike matines iffect change and sevelation in the world, Peaceful nations culturate and refine society by incomaging the leter an professions, the arts and sciences and

inductival and commercial funsuels, As my the individuals so in the mation we find certain listened hasts of character. Patronal character depends upon that of the individual which is influenced by various circumstances but especially by situation with respect to climate. Climate acts upon the physical constitution of more and through that indusectly refer the mind. Cold climates inune the body to prevaline and hardships, while more temperate climes. requiring less care for the regulation of pelf. are aft to bring on habits of lugary slath which situate the minds and manment of the inchabitants, They become plumit tools in the hands of a few despots whe using that authority which but hus given to each one over his own conscience and indindual actions, Anecess in was depends upon the relative gives duction to the munde thoughts and on disputed and unsettled fromte of belief produces a prehonduance for one side or the other, This is especially true of the masses and unthinking portion of the population who encold themselves on the side of the strong Hence it is that in the history of mations and indeed of the whole would

that my all questions the decisions of which is referable to an altral to arme Moight makes sight, however Auch, rehugment such a doctrine may be to our sense of justice. harlike powers have to this account alway acted an important fract in the progress of the world and may be relatively considered Northern or Southern, As me proceed North, not observe in the character of the inhabitants a distastion Futeress and an endent my lect of those ats which land to cultivate manners of refinement and affability; but which The mind efferminate. On account of the sign of the climate their physical powers are well developed. acquiring both strength and howers of endurance from Constant and necessary exection, On no case is the old adage time. "Practice makes perfect. That most foreibly strikes sos in Mothern character is indef dence of feeling, mandy many or a certain rings & determination in action. Angratient under restaint, antaginis tie to materie authority presumes to trammel The dictates of etwerence the North has guen to the to freedom. It has demonstrated the fact und is a proof of it This day that the rulers

are the servants of the people and not the pupple of the enclose. Bu carly times the forther mations were devoted to literative and gave knowledge its most powegind unfulse Anoutedge in their hands man however of little practical utility, but wather an object for speculative monder and admiration. avoiding its more important of flications they " Marged reason with pleasure and made with muth ". I united by all that can sender life charming the inhabitants have little care in spending the allotted period of Their existence, Sampt to recent an anymy Their prassions are yet easily allaised. They lack that firmers and perseverance which is so conficuous in the Most One see then that Northern's Southern matrins prossess in different degrees those elements which constitute the efficiency of a warlike pour as the former possesses greater strength, tenacety of purpose and Geal for the public good it is matural in war, He istory proves it to be so They tide of success has flowed from north a South and although temporary advantages may have been gained by Southern mations they have been followed by no permanent result.

The Carachiter were conquered by the formand coming return them the house ; Carles fit by Persians Sharta and thems who for a long time struggled for subremacy new al leight overcome by the Macedonians who valiant and string in this native rudeness extended Their survey over Susia Condia and Egypt. Contrage the seal of unbounded wearthe with has remained armies and her fleets penetrating to every part of the known would was utterby destroyed by Etme. Olime ins trice sacked by Worthern invadere, All her fromp and mag my conce) was made the sport of the barbanan banda The Morris in Spain were vanquehed by the Christian tribes justing down from the mountain factnesses of the Month. Bonafrante mas finally and completely over thrown by Dussid. Ongland and Cermany. Mexico mas unable to withstand the intrepidity of the Monited States Soldiery and last and greatest is the complete oreuthrin of the great Cebellion by the states of this Union who stord the to their allegiance. The result of Northan conquest has not been as might be supposed the degrace of pociety, but as it mere a merely infused energy in every department of life. to thein conquests have always been

followed by immigration . Hence we have The grand migration of Scandinavian races after the fall of Comes to Contral Europe. The literature and philosophical development of Souther matines have never been lost but have been reproduced by Worthern mations with an energy all their own, The Angle Sayon sace formerly the most marline and harlasma of the North 10 now the Dioneer of civilization the more of freedom and the defender of pustice. Me claim allegiance to that howwed sace and as we direct our country through the tempest of revolution, ever presenning unidete its glory and independence no cast additional Austre upon its name with the principles which induced the fathers of that illustrine sace he must still succeed, Independent and un trammelled action earnestries and "preservance with a due sense of the high trust infored upon man by the Creator will seeme to Mosthern powers what they mer enjoy the undisputed government of the mortal, As some lete cliff that lifte its awful form I well' from the gale and midway bares the storm The round its breast the rolling clouds are placed Clernal Anohund settles on its head "

### Commencement Oration of David B. Herman, Class of 1865 Transcribed by Sarah-Hazel Jennings, June 2008 Edited by Chris Altieri, June 2008

#### Effect of Climate on Character

Thought is the great motive power which impels man to action. From difference of condition, situation & intellectual culture opinions are formed upon the same subject essentially different in themselves which when promulgated clash together and mutually oppose each other.

Where questions of paramount importance arise and repugnant parties deem their mutual satisfaction impossible by force of reason, then war ensues. War is the stern arbiter of nations. Although the agent of much destruction and misery, its results are generally good.

It is a hard and intractable mode of enforcing order in the affairs of the world. New theories, improvements and innovations always meet with more or less opposition. And it may be well arranged so by an all wise Providence that out of the confused and discordant elements of war should come forth truth with its imposing panoply well sifted from error and superstition.

Warlike nations effect change and revolution in the world. Peaceful nations cultivate and refine society by encouraging the literary professions, the arts and sciences and

industrial and commercial pursuits. As in the individual so in the nation we find certain distinct traits of character. National character depends upon that of the individual which is influenced by various circumstances but especially by situation with respect to climate.

Climate acts upon the physical constitution of man and through that indirectly upon the mind. Cold climates inure the body to privations and hardships, while more temperate climes, requiring less care for the regulation of self, are apt to bring on habits of luxury & sloth which [illegible word] the minds and manners of the inhabitants. They become pliant tools in the hands of a few despots who usurp that authority which God has given to each one over his own conscience and individual actions.

Success in war depends upon the relative amount of physical injury inflicted. It often gives direction to the minds thoughts and on disputed and unsettled points of belief produces a preponderance for one side or the other. This is especially true of the masses and unthinking portion of the population who enroll themselves on the side of the strong. Hence it is that in the history of nations and indeed of the whole world

that in all questions the decisions of which is referable to an appeal to arms "Might makes right" however (such) repugnant such a doctrine may be to our sense of justice. Warlike powers have on this account always acted an important part in the progress of the world and may be relatively considered Northern or Southern.

As we proceed North, we observe in the character of the inhabitants a disposition to rudeness and an evident neglect of those arts which tend to cultivate manners of refinement and affability, but which they regard as having a tendency to render the mind effeminate. On account of the rigor of the climate their physical powers are well developed, acquiring both strength and powers of endurance from constant and necessary exertion. In no case is the old adage true. "Practice makes perfect." What most forcibly strikes us in Northern character is independence of feeling, manly energy or a certain rugged determination in action. Impatient under restraint, antagonistic to whatever authority pressures to trammel the dictates of conscience the North has given birth to freedom. It has demonstrated the fact and is a proof of it this day that the rulers

are the servants of the people and not the people of the rulers.

In early times the Southern nations were devoted to literature and gave knowledge its most powerful impulse knowledge in their hands was however of little practical utility, but rather an object for speculative wonder and admiration. Avoiding its more important applications they "Mixed reason with pleasure and wisdom with mirth"

Surrounded by all that can render life charming the inhabitants have little care in spending the allotted period of their existence. Prompt to resent an injury their passions are yet easily allayed. They lack that firmness and perseverance which is so conspicuous in the North.

We see then that Northern & Southern nations possess in different degree those elements which constitute the efficiency of a warlike power. As the former possesses greater strength, tenacity of purpose and zeal for the public good it is natural to suppose that they would be successful in war. History proves it to be so The/y tide of success has flowed from North to South and although temporary advantages may have been gained by Southern nations they have been followed by no permanent results

The Israelites were conquered by the Assyrians coming upon them from the North. Egypt fell by Persians Sparta and Athens who for a long time struggled for supremacy were at length overcome by the Macedonians who valiant and strong in their native rudeness extended their sway over Persia India and Egypt. Carthage the seat of unbounded wealth with her numerous armies and her fleets penetrating to every part of the known world was utterly destroyed by Rome. Rome was twice sacked by Northern invaders. All her pomp and magnificence was made the spoil of the barbarian Vandal. The Moors in Spain were vanquished by the Christian tribes rushing down from the mountain fortresses of the North. Bonaparte was finally and completely overthrown by Russia, England and Germany. Mexico was unable to withstand the intrepidity of the United States Soldiery and last and greatest is the complete overthrow of the great Rebellion by the states of this Union who stood true to their allegiance.

The result of Northern conquest has not been as might be supposed the degradation of society, but as it were a newly infused energy in every department of life. Northern conquests have always been

followed by immigration. Hence we have the grand migration of Scandinavian races after the fall of Rome to Central Europe. The literature and philosophical development of Southern nations have never been lost but have been reproduced by Northern nations with an energy all their own. The Anglo Saxon race formerly the most warlike and barbarous of the North is now the Pioneer of civilization the nurse of freedom and the defender of justice. We claim allegiance to that honored race, and as we direct our country through the tempest of revolution ever preserving inviolate its glory and independence we cast additional lustre upon its name. With the principles which imbued the fathers of that illustrious race we must still succeed. Independent and untrammeled action earnestness and perseverance, with a due sense of the high trust imposed upon man by the Creator will secure to Northern powers what they now enjoy the undisputed government of the world.

"As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form Swells from the gale and midway leaves the storm Tho round its breast the rolling clouds are spread Eternal Sunshine settles on its head"