THE CHOSEN NATION

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The chosen nation by Irwin St. John Tucker

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IRWIN ST. JOHN TUCKER

THE CHOSEN NATION



THE CHOSEN NATION

BY

IRWIN ST. JOHN TUCKER

TO

ROBERT MORSS LOVETT

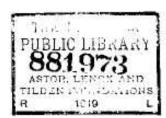
A SCHOLAR UNAFRAID

Published by
THE AUTHOR

1541 Unity Building, Chicago



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MICY WAR MARKE MARKE

FOREWORD

This poem was completed in Judge Landis' courtroom in Chicago, during the trial for "conspiracy to
obstruct the draft" which resulted in a verdict of
"guilty" against myself and four other Socialists;
the others being Adolph Germer, national executive
secretary of the Socialist Party; J. Louis Engdahl,
editor of The American Socialist; William F. Kruse,
national secretary of the Young People's Socialist
League; and Victor L. Berger, congressman-elect from
Milwaukee.

The poem contains in condensed form all that I know of history, and likewise my view of the present and hope of the future. Historical references contained in it are amplified in my historical lectures, most of which have been published, under the titles following, and may be obtained from this office:

INTERNATIONALISM: The Problem of the Hour. Five Lectures.

- The German Idea; Deutschland Ueber Alles.
- 2. The British Idea; Britannia Rules the Waves.
- The American Idea; Phrases versus Facts.
- 4. The Russian Idea; the Proletarian Revolution.
- The Labor Idea; History and Future of the International.

4

THE MARTYR PEOPLES. Six Lectures.

- 1. Israel; the Crucible of God.
- 2. Serbia; the Valley of Division.
- 3. Armenia; a Splendid Sepulchre.
- 4. Poland; a Divided Soul.
- 5. Belgium; the Storm Center.
- 6. Ireland; the Sorrowful Mother.

IMPERIALISM: The Curse of the World.

- I. Founders of Imperialsm.
- 1. Egypt; the United States of the Nile.
- Chaldaea; the Strife of the Cities.
- Persia; the Spirit of the Mountains.
- 4. Greece; the Empire of the Mind.
- 5. Rome; the Mistress of the World.

II. Modern Imperialism.

- 1. France; the Daughter of the Empire.
- Islam; the Spirit of the Desert.
- 3. Spain; the Shadow of the Moor.
- 4. Austria; the House of Hapsburg.
- 5. Great Britain; the Empire of Finance.

By the verdict of "Guilty," delivered on January 8, 1919, I ceased to be a citizen of the United States, until such time as the farce of a trial, with its perjuries, coercion and bribery of witnesses, and jury carefully handpicked by the prosecution, is declared null and void, and the verdict is reversed.

But I am still, and shall forever remain, a citizen of the International Commonwealth.

IRWIN ST. JOHN TUCKER.

Done on my Thirty-third Birthday, January 10, 1919.

THE CHOSEN NATION

THE ASSEMBLY.

1

The Council of Nations

War had dragged out his fourth and bloodiest year;
While still on us that fouling horror dwelt
Like poisonous clinging mist in hollows drear,
White towering peaks the golden sunlight felt
And THEY who dwell thereon saw dawn appear;
- As, long before, they saw wild lightnings glow
With coming storm though yet our sky seemed
clear.

And while blood-toll was paid of death and woe, I saw the nations' souls to consultation go.

2

A peak stands midmost of the rocky sea

That rims the world, from white Alaskan floes
Begirt with death and frozen mystery
To Tierra del Fuego's firelit snows.
Its age-enduring stone, ice-foaming high,
Auroras gild without, and gold within.
Far mid the six months' night its tides begin
Where flames Arcturus from the middle sky;
Where they at last are stilled, the Southern cross
hangs nigh.

9

Thereon great glory gathered far appeared
Against the joy of sky-suffusing light;
Thence, as my mortal wavering vision cleared
They shone, as dawns the moon upon midnight
Through cloudy tempest-wrack in hurtling flight.
Across their ranks quick-changing colors play
As when the sunbeams through gray shadows
smite
Upon the Veil across Yosemité,
And shimmering rainbows crown the glory of its

4

And gazing long on those who seemed the chief,
A dawning recognition broke on me;
I knew them all—O knowledge past belief,
For I beyond myself exalt and free
Remembered what I knew not, and could see
Things future heaving hugely to the sky
As tempest-blue horizons distant rear
Above close-ringing summits to the eye
Of strong-winged eagles who on soaring currents
fly.

5

The Young Nations

spray.

Familiar to my sight their faces shone
Through this high vision seen; and I could mark
Storm-bred Britannia, her great trident gone,
Her sea-blue eyes with ruffling tempest dark;
And France, with woeful visage wild and stark,
With tears of blood bedewed; and lo! beside
Germania sat aghast, like them who hark
To echoes of past madness that hath died;
But greatness seemed to dawn through death of
bloody pride.

ĥ

Russia was there, with bloodmarks on her brow,
The halo of new wonder round her still;
White glory of young freedom struggling now
With mazement of the treachery that can kill
By friendly smile that cloaks a murderous will;
There China sat, a giant childlike power,
Fast wakening to portentous good or ill;
Japan close by, a watchful fiery flower,
Waiting and guardful still for some predestined
hour.

7

The Elder Nations

But mid the majesty of that array

Were some who struck my soul with deeper awe.

For nations that long since have passed away

From company of those who make earth's law,

As visitants from other orbs I saw.

There purified from taint of earth they come

From earth's new struggles strength renewed to

draw.

Like elder children gathering to their home.

Like elder children gathering to their home, Dark mystic Egypt sat, and proud imperial Rome.

8

There immemorial India, dreaming on,
Dusk-eyed with legend, the exalted face
Beheld of tower-fronted Babylon.
The mountain-loving soul of Persia's race
Communed of timeless truth with warrior Greece.
Amid them now the stricken shape appears
Of Israel, as one whose hope can trace,—
Steadfast in sorrow through long tortured years,—
Her triumph ripe at last, the harvest of her tears.