

## David Wark Griffith

"ALONG THE WAY"

By Rev. Daniel A. Lord, S.J.

No doubt about it, the tall man

in the grey suit who walked up

the aisle of the Pullman was

David Wark Griffith. The Pull-

man was pretty full of us, us be-

ing the staff of the Summer

School of Catholic Action, and

for Denver. As I saw him, with

a rush came back to me memories

"The Birth of a Nation,"

granddaddy of all the American

motion pictures, and "Intoler-

ance," greatest of the expensive

florid, and the Gish Girls and Mae

Marsh and Bobby Herron and

"Broken Blossoms," and the

promising Griffith made to the

movement, work that he would

produce "The Holy Grail" and

charge prices that would match

opera seats. In those days, Griffith

was the motion picture indus-

try's "Triangle Company," Griffith,

Inc., and Bennett, was the

greatest company the world

had ever seen.

I'm not to speak to strange-

ness, but when he came back down

the aisle, I broke my rule.

"Mr. Griffith," I said, "if you

don't mind a stranger recogniz-

ing you and speaking to you...

He laid lighted up and he said

in a burst of complete honesty,

"Frankly, I love it."

I don't wonder. Time was when

he couldn't have moved outside

an open door without the fans of

the world swamping him. He was

the biggest thing in the picture

world. Now... well, he hasn't

done a picture for years, and the

industry is pretty tough on yester-

day's stars.

The rest of the staff gathered

round, and he accepted smilingly

their introductions. We talked of

pictures that had been, of the

way in which he had revolution-

ized the world's most popular

form of entertainment. I'll ad-

mit that he was modest about it

all, letting me do the reminding

and the recalling. But when he

said, "I don't know. But when

could possibly fail to enjoy talk-

ing over so eventful and signifi-

cant a past.

Out of the stateroom emerged

his young and beautiful wife.

And, was it not a case of a

breast I didn't know. We met his

wife, and he bowed and he bowed

and was off.

On the platform at Kansas City

he shepherded his back and his

hands of redcaps and we talked

briefly again.

"Well," he said, "others made a

lot of money out of the picture,"

he recalled as he spoke, "but I

recall as he spoke, "but I recall

as he spoke, "but I recall as he

spoke, "but I recall as he spoke,

"but I recall as he spoke, "but

I recall as he spoke, "but I re-

call as he spoke, "but I recall as

he spoke, "but I recall as he

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## FORE AND AFT

PREPARE FOR WAR TO SAVE DEMOCRACY

FIGHT FOR EMPIRE

AND GET DICTATORSHIP

ONE-TRACK MINDS

Library Signpost

"The essence of stupidity is the

one-track mind." So Father Ger-

ard Van Vleet, in a recent

article on the state of many

Catholics concerning some of the

leading questions of our day.

Since Father Van Vleet is an eminent

Dominican and a teacher, his

word about stupidity carries

weight.

If anything is going to hasten

the day when we Catholics are

going to be smoked and hounded

out of our hiding places, it is the

one-track-minded position many

of us are taking in this twilight

of our liberty.

Two instances will show just

what I mean.

One instance is the way so

many of us took the Spanish

question. Please don't get ex-

cited, now, by my position. I

will try to avoid the one-track

groove I am protesting against.

About Spain since 1936

we took the position that the

Civil War was caused simply by

an assault of Marxist Commun-

ism against Christianity. A con-

trary view held that it was caused

simply by a Fascist assault

upon the liberties of Spanish

democracy. It was possible to

concentrate with either side on

the religious persecution phase

of the war: equally possible to

concentrate with either side on

the threat to the poor in the

little bit of the other.

It ought to seem quite plain

that none of these views said

the whole truth, for this simple

reason: that all of them were

sovereign, some say. My point

is that it was not a simple

question, and that many Catholics

put the Church in a stupid light

by selling as it was.

It is characteristic of the

one-track mind that it cannot

understand any "but" but its own.

Philosophy teaches us that in

the complex mix-up of human

relations the truth is infinitely

delicate, and that the greatest

error is to hope for in them

is a strong accumulation of

abilities. There is no way to say

that there are no absolute moral

principles. There are, as the

science of ethics proves. But in the

science of human efforts and

conflicts, it is impossible for

any man or group of men to

grasp with complete truth the

motives and aspirations which are

behind the restless movement

of history.

It was painful to listen to the

cocksure opinions which had

been put forward by the

black and white. If people had

only been content to say, "Well,

once the struggle was started,

surely we must support the side

which stands for the interests

of religion and refuse support

to the side which includes a

powerful atheist leadership,"

that would have been a healthy

position; and if they had allowed

themselves to be consistently

## Farewell Address

(Advice on government, just as

applicable today, given by the

Father of our Country to the

people of the United States in

his return to private life, is con-

tained in this, the Farewell Ad-

dress of George Washington. At-

tention is directed to his thoughts

on virtue, on religion, on

morality, on the duties of

citizenship, and on the

importance of the

Rev. Ignatius W. Cox, S.J., in

his sermon at Sacred Heart

Cathedral on July 4).

Friends and Fellow-Citizens:

The period for a new election

of a citizen to administer the

executive government of the United

States being not far distant, and

your thoughts must be employed

in designating the person who is

to be clothed with that important

trust, it appears to me proper, es-

pecially as it may conduce to a

more correct impression of the

public voice, that I should now

address you of the resolution I

have formed to decline being

considered among the number of

those out of whom a choice is to

be made.

I beg you, at the same time, to

do me the justice to be assured

that this resolution has not been

taken without a strict regard to