

FARS - FAY

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November 16, 1945

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It was with very sincere regret that the Board of Governors who met today accepted your resignation as a member of The Fashion Group and of the Advisory Council.

We have always been extremely proud of the fact that you were a member of our organization.

The Board wishes me to tell you that if at any time in the future we can be of help in furthering any project in our field in which you may be interested, you can be sure of our interest and cooperation.

Cordially yours,

(Mrs.) Ethel M. Kremer  
Executive Director

Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York 17, New York

[Faulkner]

The Daily Telegraph  
and  
Morning Post

TELEPHONE  
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NEW YORK 22

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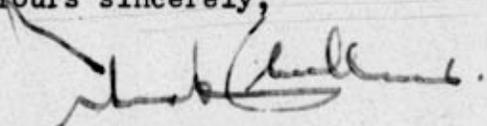
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I thought you would like to read the enclosed letters, clipped from recent issues of The Daily Telegraph. As you will see, your remarks on history books have inspired a lively correspondence.

If you would care to make any further comment, in the form of a letter to the Editor of The Telegraph, I would like to cable it over to London.

It seems to me that a discussion of this kind does much good, as it prompts teachers and students alike to re-examine things which they so often take for granted - and which are very much in need of being changed.

Yours sincerely,

  
Alex H. Faulkner.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
WASHINGTON D. C.

AHF:bfw  
encs:

MAR 24 1945

## Their 'Ancient Grudge'

### Cannot Americans Forget It Now?

To the Editor of The Daily Telegraph  
**S**IR—Your correspondent Mr. M. B. Farrell points out that Mrs. Roosevelt blames the history books used in American schools for "much of the suspicion and antagonism which some of our citizens feel for Great Britain."

When Americans have outgrown their self-conscious nationalism and the British have overcome their ingrained tendency to servile self-depreciation, objective historical truth might stand a chance of getting into the text-books of both nations.

We should then hear something of the thousands of American loyalists who formed volunteer regiments to fight for George III. and the British connection, and we should conclude that the war would be far more accurately described as the First American Civil War than as a united national uprising.

But it would be even more helpful if the more enlightened section of American opinion could educate their countrymen into keeping this ancient grudge locked up in the study and the examination room where it belongs.

Even if we persist in the wicked unhistorical view of the wicked tyranny of the British Government of that day, what possible relevance can this have to the relations between two 20th-century democracies, both of them very different from what they were a century and a half ago, and now bound together in a real military and social comradeship?

Even on the worst showing it would be interesting to know what all the fuss is about. In an age which has experienced Lidice and the Belgian torture-chambers, do our American friends seriously expect us to go on feeling conscience-stricken over the political grievances of 18th-century colonists?

If Washington had had to live for the last five years in Poland or Czechoslovakia, life in the American Colonies under the "oppression" of that very amateurish "tyrant," George III. would no doubt have seemed a Paradise. Yours, &c.

S. C. THOMPSON.  
The Vicarage, Charing, Kent.

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London, E.C. 4, England. MAR 23 1945

### U.S. HISTORY-BOOKS

To the Editor of The Daily Telegraph  
Sir—I am sure your correspondents, Mr. M. B. Farrell and the Rev. S. C. Thompson, not to mention Mrs. Roosevelt, are exaggerating the amount of interest felt by Americans in the "tyranny" of the British at the time of the Revolution.

Generalisations on a vast country comprising 48 States, embracing between them every variety of climate, economic structure, density of population and physical and racial background, are always apt to be misleading, and I am not prepared to say there are no Americans who had the standard views of older generations upon George III. But I do say that their total number is relatively small and growing smaller.

In the first place, the best academic historians of the 18th century on both sides of the Atlantic have been falling over themselves for years in the attempt to see the other fellow's point of view. Such recent books on the American side as van Tyne's "Causes of the War of Independence," Stevenson and Dunn's "George Washington," Carl van Doren's "Benjamin Franklin," or Morison and Commager's "Growth of the American Republic," to name only a few, are not only works of first-rate scholarship but very readable. Those who dip into them will invariably find that they do almost more than justice to the British case.

I have not had access to many American school text-books, which Mrs. Roosevelt has blamed for "much of the suspicion and antagonism" which some Americans, she said, felt for Great Britain. But even allowing for the inevitable time-lag it is probable that views like those I have mentioned, which are by no means new among serious historians, must be percolating into at any rate some text-books in some States by now.

In the years before the war there was even a spate of American smart-alec literature, which sold readily in the United States, debunking Washington and other heroes of the Revolution. This market, however, is probably exhausted, the obvious parallel on our side being the declining vogue of writers in the genre of Strachey's "Eminent Victorians."

A more important reason, however, is in the fact that at least one-third to one-half of the present population of the United States is either foreign-born or, much more commonly, descended from immigrants of the last 80 years, who feel little interest even in the Civil War and none at all in the 18th century. The only American history this enormous class is likely to absorb is that of the last 50 years; I am told that United States Army tests have shown that many have not even heard of Washington.

Their hostility to Britain where it exists, is either tied up with the history, in relation to this country, of their European countries of origin, or is, again much more commonly, a part of the general disillusionment with Europe as a whole which led their families to seek a refuge over the Atlantic, and to hope they had cast off Europe and everything connected with Europe for ever.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY STEEL.  
Christ's College, Cambridge.

### AMERICAN HISTORY

To the Editor of The Daily Telegraph

Sir—I see that Mrs. Roosevelt has been blaming the history books used in American schools for "much of the suspicion and antagonism which some of our citizens feel for Great Britain."

Yet I have seen it stated more than once that these history books nowadays are not open to criticism on this score.

What is the fact? I confess to feeling puzzled, because when in our own schools we learn about the events that led to the founding of American independence, it is the British Government of that day that is held up to reproach. We are taught that the colonists were in the right, and Washington is treated as an heroic figure. Can we expect American history books to teach anything else?

What they might teach, and perhaps do not, is that George III. and Lord North's Ministry were denounced for their folly by the English people of their own day, and by all later generations. Yours, &c.,  
Birmingham. M. B. FARRELL.

### AMERICAN HISTORY

From Lady (CHARLES) ROSS  
To the Editor of The Daily Telegraph

Sir—Mrs. Roosevelt is perfectly right. What children are taught in their schools is enough to load them up with hate to last a lifetime. I doubt if any country would venture to give their children a complete portrait of their native land with all the warts showing. That might not be so good, either.

But America goes the other way and claps all the warts on to us and, I think, retouches her own portrait more than most. One of the most marked differences between the two countries is that America cannot bear to be wrong; England loves it. And I cannot see the sense in either.

What is it all about? Is it still that old "unpleasantness" of 169 years ago? That war was a civil war—Englishmen fighting Englishmen to hold what they had, a not uncommon practice then or now. Yet less than a century later Americans were fighting Americans for the same reason, to put down rebellion and, of course, to hold the country together. I omit the slave question, because it was only after the war was well started that it became an issue at all. Yours faithfully,  
London, W.I. PATRICIA ROSS.