

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE "LIKE THE RAVINGS OF A DISORDERED MIND"

Chancellor Day of Syracuse University Attacks Roosevelt's Latest Statement and Incidentally Throws the Harpoon Into the President Himself.

Syracuse, Feb. 1.—Chancellor James R. Day of Syracuse university, discussing President Roosevelt's message, said:

"Of the president's message, if I am entirely honest and frank, I am compelled to say much of it reads like the ravings of a disordered mind, and other portions in which appeal is made to class prejudice and excitement is large with the suggestion of the adroit and cunning, the shrewd but reckless demagogue.

The whole message is his familiar ranting against 'criminal wealth' and it proceeds upon the slanderous assumption that so great a per cent of the corporate business of this country is so corrupt as to demand special messages to congress, popular harangues by the president and the entire time, ability and effort of the congress in a volume of correction legislation such as the world has never seen.

"It is wrong, a great wickedness, for the Standard Oil company to defend itself, but there is no impropriety in the president's assailing this corporation by name and defaming it and slandering it with all the 'envenomed' influence of his great office, while its cause is still undecided in the higher courts. The 'square deal' has so long been a farce that this inconsistency seems to have escaped Mr. Roosevelt's ethical standard of which he makes so much.

"As I am one of those 'hired' book writers referred to, a personal word may be permitted. Not a nickel or

dime was ever offered to me by any person, company or corporation for a sentence or paragraph in print in any shape or form whatever. No such party knew a syllable contained in my book until it was published.

"I was warned that if I wrote it my reputation would be assailed by the president, and every unworthy motive would be charged against me. I have been accused of personal pique and revenge. I am now charged with selling my character and bartering my reputation for pay to a cause that I know to be corrupt. When one considers the high source of such a slander, can one imagine a much lower descent of vituperation or a more astounding use of the prerogatives of the highest office and influence of our land?

"These are strange times when American citizens are to be assailed under cover of a message to congress for exercising their inalienable right of the discussion of the 'policies' and acts of the administration of the country. If this liberty is to be taken from the people, what is there left of the democracy of which we boast?

"When a president of the United States will descend to such indecent slander and other assaults by innuendo upon the honor of his fellow-citizens whose reputation for honor and high moral ideals are as firmly established as his own, we are left to one of several possible inferences.

"We will try to take the one that is the most charitable."