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The Nation

Wednesday, December 14, 1932

WHEN THE NEWSPAPERS published the protests by the Woman Patriot Corporation against the admission of Dr. Einstein to the United States, on the ground that he was a Communist and thus a danger to the country, the good professor did the only thing that a philosopher could do under the circumstances. He ironically complimented the patriotic ladies by recalling the occasion when mighty Rome was saved by "the cackling of her faithful geese" and insisted that he had never in his life been rebuffed by so many of the "beautiful sex" all at once. Thus he attempted to dispose of both the ladies and the incident in one amiable jest, properly assuming that no serious notice would be taken of the protest. Unfortunately his confidence in the intelligence of United States government officials was misplaced. The protest of the Woman Patriot Corporation had been solemnly forwarded to American consular offices in Europe, and when Dr. Einstein called at the consulate in Berlin for a visa, in anticipation of his visit to America to lecture at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, his visa was held up while he was subjected to a cross-examination on his views about communism, pacifism, and anarchism. Could a great nation possibly devise a more effective method of making a fool of itself in the eyes of the civilized world? Dr. Einstein is not a Communist or an anarchist, but he is a confirmed pacifist. He is also one of the world's greatest scientists and most appealing personalities. He has been the recipient of honors of all sorts from the United States, including a message of congratulation from President Hoover. We hope he will meet this fantastic indignity with his usual tolerance and good humor and will prove his infinite superiority to officious ignoramuses—in office and out—by coming to America and forgiving us our trespasses.