



## Remarks from Uncle Sam Katharine Lee Bates (1903)

*Katharine Lee Bates, a white New Englander, was a poet and a professor of English literature at Wellesley College, a pioneering institution of higher education for women. Her most famous work is the patriotic anthem "America the Beautiful," but she also published anti-imperialist and anti-war poems under the pseudonym James Lincoln. The James Lincoln poem reproduced here is a comment on the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902, during which the British empire took over Dutch settler states in South Africa, and on the United States' occupation of the Philippines following the Spanish-American War of 1898.*

"I can't throw stones," sighed Uncle Sam,  
as meek as any mouse.

"I can't throw stones," sighed Uncle Sam,  
"whatever comes to pass."

"I can't throw stones," sighed Uncle Sam,  
"I've built my own new house—  
imperial-style, not pebble-proof—  
of Philippino glass.

"Birds of a feather flock together.  
John Bull, he used me well.  
Birds of a feather flock together.  
One's cousin must be right.  
Birds of a feather flock together.  
It riles me when folks tell  
how our Anglo-Saxon plumage  
is rubbing off the white.

"Ain't we the Christian nations  
that head the march to Zion?  
Ain't we the Christian nations  
that calculate to love  
our neighbors' countries as our own?  
*The eagle and the lion  
will now walk out to luncheon  
off the lambkin and the dove."*

**Source:** James Lincoln, “Remarks from Uncle Sam,” in *Relishes of Rhyme* (Boston: Richard G. Badger, 1903), 14, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/loc.ark:/13960/t3126g76q>. Public domain.

Edited by John-Charles Duffy. Indenting of lines in the source publications omitted. Capital letters at the beginning of lines converted to lowercase for readability. A dash relocated in accord with modern conventions. The spelling *Philippino* replicates the source, as does the italicizing of the poem’s last three lines.

This edited presentation of Bates’s poem is intended for *teaching* purposes only. For *research* purposes, you should consult, quote, and cite the source publication listed above.



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