

"Practical Progress."

—By—

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would behold if they could now step upon our shores.

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Practical Progress.

"He's true to God who's true to man; where'er
wrong is done.

To the humblest and weakest, 'neath the all-
beholding Sun,

That wrong is also done to us; and they
are slaves most base

Whose love of right is for themselves and
not for all the race."

"Tis ours to save our brethren, with peace
and love to win.

Those darkened hearts from error, ere they
harden it to sin;

But if before his duty man with list-
less spirit stands,

Erelong the Great Evangel takes the work
from out his hands."

1 - These words beautifully express a thought
that should be buried deep into the soul of
every human being who wants "to do unto
others as he would like to be done by." They
should be read and re-read until their full-

ing further fire the life of the coming generation to noble and grander achievements toward the uplifting of fallen humanity.

2 - Our country was built by the faithful contraction for the home of the liberty-loving of all nations; those persecuted fled to our shores; the hungry and needy came where the loving hand and kinder heart of a free, God fearing people could lift them to a higher plane of life. It is here that a truly great step in civilization was made; it was here that civilized man could be his own master, plant his own field, reap his own harvest, and worship his own God as his conscience directed. The founders of this mighty, powerful, fearless, nation were true, courageous, liberty-loving men who lived together as a family live together; helped each other as a brother a brother and what was good for one was equally good for all.

3 - Ah! if some of those most noble men could now step upon our shores and see the fruits of their early planting; to see the glorious harvest being reaped, where once they hewed down the mighty forest, tilled the rough land, and planted the seeds of lib-

erty and prosperity. They, at first, would in astonishment admire this, the wealthiest nation on the globe. They would cast their eyes upon edifices, mansions, public buildings; a factory here, a templated church there, and would be heard to exclaim: "We tilled the tree, tilled the field, planted the seed, trained and cared for the seedling in its ever so slow progress; and now ~~the~~ it is reaching boundless limits of growth and soon its upper branches will touch the stars and man himself be astounded." With all their rejoicing a friend could point out to them a few branches green and very healthy, and also a greater number that are almost ready to drop their withered things out of existence.

4- We look on all sides with anxiety, and find ourselves in the very midst of a mighty crisis. Professor George D. Herron well says: "We are in the beginning of a revolution that will strain all existing religious and political institutions, and test the wisdom and heroism of the earth's purest and bravest souls. It will not do to say the revolution is not coming, or pronounce it of the devil. Revolutions, even in their wildest forms,

are the impulses of God moving in tides of fire through the life of man."

5- How can any man, a true man, of pure thought, and willing to look at all sides of all questions; willing to believe what actually exists; what he can't help seeing before him, go from our eastern to our western border and say that the utmost sufferings of humanity are not visible. He is not loyal citizen of these United States; no justice loving person, who will turn his back upon the astounding facts which confront us.

6- Recall history, when serf and slave had to lie at the feet of his lord and master. Then think of how this nation was established for a resting place for those who desired prosperity, liberty, and justice.

7- The nation grew and prospered, the battle of liberty was fought, the long desired end was reached and man was free. Perhaps one prospered more than his fellow, was shrouder, and thus laid by enough until he became what is called rich or wealthy; then there exists all grades between this and the poor man in his hovel. And yet the poverty stricken with his little was to have as

much governmental power, freedom, and true liberty as the man who lived in a mansion and worshipped his gold.

8- Casting a quick glance from shore to shore one cannot truthfully deny that all classes, all grades of society are slowly fading away and that finally only two will be visible — the one on the throne, enshrouded with riches, worshipping the "golden calf", and commanding all bow at its feet and do its bidding. Then the other who dare not claim its own, who must sit in the mortgaged, shattered, debt-ridden shanty of poverty, doing the will of those who stand above, and thus wasting away their very existence as mortals.

9- Why is it that there are those who accumulate millions upon millions and squander "their substance in riotous living" — receptions, banquets, dinners, balls, pleasure boats, etc., etc. — while rickety tenement houses, a curse to our nation; a menace to all civilization, are crowded with human beings from cellar to garret, breathing the vile air, breeding the germ of wickedness, feeding the craving mouth of the saloon, and barely living upon "the crumbs that fall from the rich

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men's table?" And all in the same city; in a nation of christians.

10- Is it not a fearful fact, a startling truth, that this nation, who prides herself on being the just and most just nation on the globe, has allowed her enormous wealth to be divided into two portions — one half of it being claimed by only thirty thousand while sixty millions ^{work} cling with a desperate hand upon the other half?

11- Can you answer a question that great men and able minds have in all ages battled with — the problem of the unemployed and what to do with these suffering throngs who seek work without success? Why is it, that in this nation of plenty and some to spare, thousands and thousands are tramping from door to door, seeking employment, begging for a crust of bread and are unable to secure either? There are enough unemployed in this nation, who if organized and drilled would form an army, so large, so great, so powerful, that the standing armies of the world would be baffled, if they should meet face to face. These suffering masses have toiled under and submitted to a ruling hand, unresisting, for generations; but

when the time comes that any can see plainly that, "the hovel of the poor is under the shadow of the palace of the rich," then it is that men can see their oppressed condition. "You may fool some of the people all the time, and all the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all the time."

12 - This government, erected for the freedom of all, cannot hold aristocracy and an oppressed people with the same grasp. "Industrial slavery cannot long co-exist with political freedom," so when the hour arrives, the morning dawns, that the masses wake up to the fact that the ballot is in their hand and the crown of power on their head, then the multi-millionaire and governmental power will be forced aside until the bondaged shake off the yoke and chain of oppression. It would be the mightiest revolution to be recorded in the annals of history, and the rich with his gold and city bastions, and hand firm upon the power of government, would only ask for mercy to save his life. No nation has ever been able to stop the onward march of an oppressed people; and if the time should arrive this country will do no better than those risen and fallen before her.

13- These great problems, which we clearly see confront us on all sides must have a solution. We, the citizens of these United States must open our eyes to facts, take a broad sweeping view of the dark cloud which hovers over our beloved nation; we must in some manner abate the progress of this rapidly falling cloud; we must penetrate its inky blackness into the light beyond and guide its troublesome form over our sleeping city, ere it breaks and all be consumed and swept away to utter destruction.

14- In our upward progress we find men battling against man, class against class, denomination against denomination, creed against creed. It is time that an enlightened people as we are, should behold the common enemies and enter through the same eyes and battle against them in the same ranks. When prejudice is thrown aside, creed and dogmas obliterated, denomination and sects united; when the minister of the gospel can work upon the same broad platform with the non-church goer for the common cause of humanity, then will men be ready to fight to conquer. These perplexing questions will be solved; the evils turned to good; and the horrible curses of the land be washed of their stain.

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15- Sectarianism, dogmas, and creeds ~~are~~ or predominant in our land, must be laid aside that we may enter the arena in thorough union, totally unprejudiced, and together combat with the threatening evils which stand giant-like before us. Unless this is done we must, with our high attainments in civilization, lofty hopes and proud esteem, watch our country follow Rome and Greece as they went down the smooth highway to ruin.

16- Within a recent time several organizations have been formed, with an object to discuss these vital issues of the day, and use their influence in all ways for the betterment of mankind. Most of these organizations are known under the name of "Unions for Practical Progress", and are daily being founded throughout the country, in cities, towns, villages, and rural districts. It has a most worthy object and high aim. An accomplished writer says of its object, that it is "to furnish a permanent center, binding together the moral forces of the community; to supply social and religious life to those active and moral minds not now received into the churches, and to enlist volunteer workers from all other societies for the methodical propagation of the new ideal. Its method is to work as far as pos-

sible through existing organizations, and to utilize their immense framework and perfected machinery in the cause of humanity."

17- Such unions are to be found in many of our principal cities, as New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, and Baltimore, working earnestly for the betterment of municipal affairs. They study out and look into the advisability of city reforms along all lines. Wherever their influence can be brought to bear upon the improvement of obstacles that work against the welfare of the city, it is most cheerfully given. The amount of good to be accomplished by such enthusiastic workers is wonderful; their field is broad, but their far reaching telescope, in its widening sweep sees into the far distance.

18- Think of the immense blow that could be struck against the degrading curses and crimes of our land, if in every town and community there existed such an organization as this. Certain great questions would be sent out to be thought of at a particular time, (as to discuss through a certain month), and when the numerous unions discussed them by word of mouth and the press heralds them from person to person, then will all the people of one

accord have their minds directed toward the suppression of some great detriment to society, and the result would be the overthrow of its hidden form. Living questions as the "Sweating System", "Child Labor", "The unemployed", "Public Parks and Play-grounds", "Political Corruption", "Municipal Reform", "Tenement House", "The Saloon Evil", and many, many others, would be argued and discussed to their solving; and then the abolishing of the evil and uplifting of the right would as surely follow as the night follows the day.

19- There are persons all over the country, enthusiastic women, as well as men, who clearly see the need of such a union between all workers, in this uplifting of mankind. And they are securing a few friends in their community to help them push on the good work. A small band can be formed, making it a point to meet at set intervals and discuss their local needs, and also educate themselves as regards the needs of the government; it would indeed be a great educator. A few such earnest workers in a city could have a great influence over the authorities in matters of health and well-being of the community at large. Suppose, for instance, that there was the contemplation of the erection of a glue factory within your town,

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and its nature would in time cause land near it to depreciate in value, to almost worthlessness, besides its disagreeableness. The city authorities might think it to the benefit of the city and unemployeed to have it established, in the midst of the city, and it might be for the time being. Yet at your meeting, you would discuss the future benefit of it to society and decide that it should be erected out of town. Would it not be possible that you could consider it at a better advantage and look at all sides of the question from a different standpoint, than the hurried city officials; and arrive at conclusions which if presented in the right light would be the cause of the building of the factory outside of the city limits, and thus keep the good health and comfort of your citizens. Careful thought could in this manner be given to these local questions before their answering.

20 - "The Union for Practical Progress knows no class, creed, nationality, or sex. It welcomes as members all who desire to help redress this world and make it the happy home of a noble humanity." We must educate ourselves up to the new issues of the present and learn of the disease and its true remedy. The

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clergy and church should unite heartily in this movement, take a firm grasp and urge along a glorious reform. The church has always been the great organization of reformers; it has been the agent, which none should dispute, that has overthrown more evils than all others. Yet, it seems of late, that they have reached beyond their sphere and quit preaching to man. As one says:

"Many ministers now avoid all discussion of social problems. They find it easier to dwell upon the scenes and incidents pertaining to the first years of their religion, than to the life of today - They preach Heaven. Poor old earth is neglected." It is true enough that some ministers of the gospel hesitate to preach upon such topics as these presented; yet, no true leader of his people, can face a civilized community and justly refuse to speak out for and use his influence to bring sunshine and happiness to the thousands of stifling children in our great cities; Release child labor; wash the saloon into the gutter; abolish the tenement house; establish play-grounds for the little ones; and many hundreds of other subjects that have their roots sunk deep into the evil of human nature.

21- We cannot now help seeing the present

condition of things - the bewildering problems to be solved. Are we going to solve them and right the wrong? or shall we sleep as we have slept, until the vale of death and destruction covers us and all is darkness? Progress, we have indeed made in years gone by, but now practical progress, is descending instead of rising. As a child grows out of its clothes or society outgrows its institutional garments, and the time has now arrived when society must again be measured and a new apparel purchased that it may enter into its work with renewed vigor. Before the Revolution there were colonies scattered on our frontier, all working separately and striving to uplift their own community. But when the great question of liberty arose, how long was it before union was made; ~~how long was it before union was made~~; how long did it take them to see the common enemy of all, and work to its overthrow? It is now that we need another such union and strive to conquer those evils which are slowly consuming the core of our vitality and tramping us under their hideous feet. As the negro was emancipated in the Rebellion, we must again set free the slave, he who is in bondage; we must emancipate him, regardless of color, through the tramping of

again sound in our ears and blood stain our spotless pavement of honor and justice.

We must redeem our Republic and lose not a moment!

"Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring out the false, ring in the true."

Respectfully Submitted.

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