

The whole life of a nation is not covered by its politics and economics. The culture of a nation consists of more than free political institutions and material prosperity. The morality of a community, its observance of law and order, its freedom from a degrading pauperism, its ideals of social life, are, in fact, the very indices of its civilization. In the attainment of these, it is with profound interest that one realizes man's struggle for more perfect liberty. In fact the history of man is that of one continuous and unremitting struggle for freedom. The struggle of Christianity within the prison-walls of priestcraft and superstition, the rise and decay of the Roman Empire, the energetic and binding influences of the Feudal system, the inquiring spirit wrought by the Lutheran Reformation, as well as the inevitable results of modern

some, wretched race, demands the earnest attention of every true, honest, humanity-loving citizen. While inventors and engineers have united cities by bridges, states by the telegraph and railway, and continents by the cable and steamship; yet the true statesman is ever confronted by the startling facts - decreasing of illiteracy with increase of crime, and augmenting of wealth with more widespread destitution. Upon these two great problems we must speak out with all ^{power} if the stability of our institutions is to be insured. The history of our civilization for the decades to come must be a history of the struggles and triumphs of honesty, intellectual purity, and social equality. May we not forget that other nations in passing through similar experiences having become enwrapped in their silken follies, have

hand even by men who once held the confidence and respect of their various communities. What has caused men of different standards to give ^{up} all relations that make them more than brute, is one of the most perplexing questions of modern times.

These terrible weaknesses of man's nature are putting a serious question before all methods of reform. It must be constantly borne in mind, however, that the real excellency of all methods of reform, lies in their power of conformity to the character and condition of the people. We build the prison house and then furnish the criminals to fill it. We tenderly care for the poor and the insane after producing them. In short, we are muzzing the effects but not striving to eradicate the causes. A study of the primary causes, in order to out-grow this loath-

The brightness of the present is to add to a brighter future.

I am not one of those who would say that the world, as a whole, is growing wouiser. Indeed the bonds of civilization are extending in all directions. Yet the lowest depths of human degradation follow to mark the terrible inconsistencies of man's nature. Our civilization has reached a critical period when, in proportion to our population to we must build more and more prisons and insane asylums. Man in his ever dissatisfied condition has taken advantage of the physical necessities of his inferiors, reducing them to swindlers of the worst form. It is a notorious fact that nine-tenths of our tramps and beggars are shams and cheats of the worst character. Breaches of trust, practices of fraud and downright thieving are pursued on every

What an excellent condition of society we have when The Figure Saloon seems a necessity in our great cities, for the lodging place of a terrible band of homeless, degraded people; who, by entirely disregarding the marriage-vow, - the moral safeguard of society - endanger the whole social fabric of a community. So long as we continue to take on the whole, \$600,000,000 dollars annually, as a recompense for this deadly apathy; so long may we expect to have degraded homes, destroyed industry, and a brutalized and demonized class of people. So long as we continue to send thousands of barrels of men to foreign nations for every representative of ideal liberty; so long will the manifestations of a birthright liberty and a humane spirit be a brutal mockery. Such a condition of things will have to be out-grown and demolished if

and at last, the worship of the 'almighty dollar' sinks its followers into the mire of indolence and immorality without ever asking them what their lives were all about. When the idle rich class growing up amongst us, eating of the fattest, drinking of the sweetest, and wearing of the richest, without ever soiling their hands, are persuaded that they exist by virtue of monopoly, and that all that they have is the fruit of honest toil; may we hope to see a broader view of life established in which a man will be considered as a man in whatever honest vocation you find him?

The evils of intemperance, too, are alarmingly rife. We have hundreds of thousands of people scattered over these United States of as low, intemperate, and degraded character as ever followed the foot-steps of civilized man.

confronted with the fact, that the fine arts are upheld chiefly by narrow-minded men. Men who in their selfish desire for fame never share in the great burdens of society. The intellectual barbarian of to-day, characterized by a total disregard for others' rights, sees nothing but tyranny in all law and social order, cares nothing for a better form of government, and is continually throwing his intellectual dynamite at the foot of the grand social arch the few are so earnestly striving to complete.

But we do not limit the dormant and the misapplied forces to such evident characters. We find them among all classes of society. In their mad search for satisfaction and enjoyment the people are becoming calloused to every instinct that does not lead to wealth. In grasping the means the end is forgotten

of the heavens above, or the earth about and beneath us. Our own fellow man, on every hand, is being debased, cast down and trodden under foot. Tyranny, ignorance and vice are casting him into the dark caverns of the earth. In every civilized country, pauperism, crime, insanity, and suicides are increasing their pace as the wheels of enlightenment roll on. Everywhere the increasing intensity of the struggle to live and be honored is draining every force that tends toward the improvement of our fellow man.

There are men to be counted by the thousands, working in every branch of science, upon whom such terrible conditions of their brother have little or no effect. With all due respect to those engaged in the arts that tend to raise and benefit the standard of humanity, it is with a profound feeling that I am

human degradation.

We have within our vast domain a race with unequalled energy and unsurpassed variety of gifts, a race that is covering the world with the triumphs of her intellectual sword; and yet our government and institutions as well as the industrial civilization of America, are far removed from that ideal commonwealth that she expected to create. No where in the world is there growing up such a vast multitude of intelligent, cultured and refined people; yet there are numbers to be counted by the millions who are entirely outside the realm of thought and imagination. The terrible conditions of humanity to be seen on every hand might well arouse the sympathy of all philosophers, and stir to action every humanity-loving being within our borders.

We have greater problems before us to-day, than the revealing

revolutions; have, all alike, been great steps in the onward march of the human race toward its ideal of liberty.

And now, in her exalted position of culture and refinement, America must look back with all interest and earnestness upon the record of nations, and wait with open arms and eager mind the influence and experiences which have come down to her as the embodying spirit of her present and future. We, as a nation, often flatter ourselves by saying we are the most civilized nation the world has ever seen. But have we really excelled in all that makes a high standard? The Egyptians surpassed us in the grandeur of their monuments, the Hebrews in piety, and the Greeks in taste. While we have attained the highest degree in the application of the physical sciences, we have ever with us the vilest forms of hu-

made an untimely disappearance from their stage of action.

And yet there is hope. In this the twilight dawn of the twentieth century - The breaking morn of human intelligence -, may we arrange the profitable examples of the past in a mighty landscape to be spread out a vast panorama before our immediate descendants. Then when human reason shall have comprehended the wonderful mysteries of man's nature, may the whole world, in that grand "noontide of human reason", find its ideal of liberty embodied in -
"The blessed sympathies which bind
The spirit to its kindred mind"

A. J. Rudy.