

The Progress of Man.

It is natural that we should contemplate the past, the present and the future. The past to note the principles that underlie government and society, so that we may apply them to our present needs in promoting the good of man. The present in raising the human race to a higher degree of purity and excellence. The future in providing for the generations to come by transmitting the benefits we have enjoyed, and to add to the gift the results of our own effort. It is only by the study of man, as man, intellectually, morally, and physically may we hope to make progress. To do this, we establish schools of learning whose graduates trained to observe in the different fields of knowledge, give us the pearls of priceless value.

It is in the ruins of man's works that we perceive progress, where he has spent his energy, stamped indelibly his leading characteristics, on granite, or marble that defies time with its corroding agencies. In primitive man, we know his habits by the rude tools he has left behind; we see him clothed in the skins of wild animals, no storing up of food for future wants, sur-

rounded by nature in its original form. He is its child: no restraint to passions which under control stimulate the faculties and lead to civilization but unchecked sinks the man deeper and deeper into the depths of darkness. Then man is no better than the wild animals that surround his habitation. Centuries roll on centuries and the race stands still. Such is the state of the savage tribes of Africa. The darkness that surrounds them beats back the light of civilization and he treads the pathway of his ancestors.

In the progress of man, we note he began to till the soil using first a pointed stick to stir up the ground and plant his grain. He reaped it with the sickle and threshed it with the flail. But to-day the steam plow, steel binder and steam thresher, are the results of civilization and show the immense chasm that separates primitive man from modern man. By invention the world travels with lightning speed, bringing the ends of the earth together, it establishes communication so that man's wants touch elbow with elbow, as he travels down the path of ages.

In religion we note that superstition played

an important part. It arose from the mystery of life and of the unseen forces of nature manifesting themselves in the thunder storm or the earthquake, filling the soul of man with terror and awe. Superstition controlled the daily affairs of the ancients, nothing was undertaken that was inauspicious; on the minds of the learned it was a ceremony but it had a real existence in the minds of the masses. It still exists the spook of the African forest and the ghost of modern Europe walk side by side through the mists of centuries.

Superstition gave rise to Druidism, and idolatry but they are the relics of barbarism, from them we come to the blessed and pure light of Christianity. To reach this last and greatest step wars and persecution contested the ground inch by inch. The fierceness of the struggle is shown by the blotted record stained by man's blood, how tenacious he was of his beliefs in doctrines set forth by the great teachers of religions. The Arab of the desert meets death at the cannon's mouth. The Christian is burned at the stake. The Jew suffers torture but only stronger is made the faith of their children that binds them

to the religion of their fathers. All sects can point back with pride to their martyrs. It is the privilege, granted by civilization in its highest type that all men may worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. Russia may still drag into by-gone years.

The Ottoman Empire may stand still with its blood putrefying in its veins, but America the product of liberty, opens her doors to all.

In considering man's progress we must note the progress in government. The first, and most natural form is the tribe with its chief. His power is absolute, under his leadership wars were conducted and peace proclaimed. The next and most natural form was the monarchy which extends the tribal relations making a nation with a king at its head whose power may be absolute or limited. As progress was made his power became more and more limited. There was no thought of individuals entering into the governing of themselves, at this stage. It was impossible to have a stable republican form of government because man was not capable of realizing the responsibility thrown on the individual in the exercise of a government. where suffrage was its fun-

fundamental principle. This is illustrated in
 the rise and fall of Greece and Rome. At ~~the~~
 time in its history a government of the
 people existed. They were swayed back and forth
 to whatever measure that was placed before
 them; espousing at one time the cause of an
 assassin and again seeking his life. They
 were like a spoiled child, they ~~never~~ knew
 what they wanted but craved for something
 impossible. To keep the multitudes thinking
 on something else besides self, wars were made
 an honorable business. It changed the bound-
 aries of nations absorbing many governments
 into one at one time and again separating
 them into divisions under separate rules. But
 after the chaos of governments, we notice that
 kings became mere figure heads in their
 relation to the people.

Caesar was ~~was~~ the greatest revolutionist
 in early times, so Napoleon is in modern
 times. He taught Europe how to think. Ideas of
 what constituted government spread through-
 out Europe appearing in various forms —
 socialism, communism, republicanism and
 Anarchy which has threatened the govern-
 ments of Europe at various stages in their

existence. The present tendency is toward republicanism.

To promote the principles of government, religion and science, publications must be regarded as the greatest engines to attain this end that man has ever known.

The accumulated knowledge of the world is the storehouse for the present and future generations to open, partake, and be wise.

Not one theory, not one doctrine that is brought before the public mind of this day can pass without being dissected by reason, and if it cannot pass the fire-test, on sound judgment, it must fall; it is by this scrutiny that science advances.

It is by the newspapers and magazines that what is the chief end of government is determined by open and free discussion.

By this dissemination of knowledge, the world progresses, and the diffusing knowledge stimulates man to higher and nobler deeds of virtue.

The educational advantages of our times, I often think, we fail to appreciate as fully as we ought. In early times the mysteries of learning was open only to the rich and great, the rest, the vulgar were not deemed worthy

to receive the great truths kept under lock and key by the keepers of knowledge. But every man in this generation has the privilege of gathering in the great laws that govern not only the forces of nature but the great laws and principles that underlie the framework of society. He who neglects to progress is almost a criminal, and he will be judged according to the opportunities which are presented to him. If he throws them away he is like the fool who threw his pearls into the sea and after ^{wards} finding out their great value cursed and tore his hair. It is education that forms the foundation on which to build the most stable governments. If a nation would live forever, it must recognize education as the great secret to attain infinity.