

boast of a world-wide advance and their claim is founded upon fact. In all matters except in the science of life, man has made wonderful progress. The mastery of the mind over the forces of nature seems almost complete, so far do we surpass the ancients in harnessing the water, the wind and the lightning.

For ages, the rivers plunged down the mountain sides and exhausted their energies without any appreciable contribution to man's service; now they are estimated as so many units of horsepower and we find that their fretting and foaming was merely a language which they employed to tell us of their strength and of their willingness to work for us. And, while falling water is becoming each day a larger factor in burden bearing, water, rising in the form of steam, is revolutionizing the transportation methods of the world.

The wind that first whispered its secret of strength to the flapping sail is now turning the wheel at the well.

Lightning, the dread demon that, from the dawn of Creation, has been rushing down its zig-zag path through the clouds, as if intent only upon spreading death, has been metamorphosed into an errand-boy, brings us illumination from the sun and carries our messages around the globe.

Inventive genius has multiplied the power of a human arm and supplied the masses with comforts of which the rich did not dare to dream a few centuries ago. Science is ferreting out the hidden causes of disease and teaching us how to prolong life. In every line, except in the line of character-building, the world seems to have been made over, but the marvelous changes by which old things have become new only emphasizes the fact that man, too, must be born again, while they show how important are material things to touch the soul of man and transform him into a spiritual being. Wherever the moral standard is being lifted up—wherever life is becoming larger in the vision that directs it and richer in its fruitage, the improvement is traceable to the Bible and to the influence of the God and Christ of whom the Bible tells.

The atheist and the materialist must confess that man ought to be able to produce a better book today than man, unaided, could have produced in any previous age. The fact that they have tried, time and time again, only to fall each time more hopelessly, explains why they will not—why they cannot—accept the challenge thrown down by the Christian world to produce a book worthy to take the Bible's place.

They have prayed to their God to answer with fire—prayed to inanimate matter with an earnestness that is pathetic—they have employed in the worship of blind force a faith greater than religion requires, but their Almighty is asleep. How long will they allow the search for the strata of stone and fragments of fossil and decaying skeletons that are strewn around the house to absorb their thought to the exclusion of the architect who placed it all? How long will the agnostic, closing his eyes to the plainest truths, cry "night, night," when the sun in his meridian's splendor announces that noon is here.

To the young man who is building character I present the Bible as a book that is useful always and everywhere. It guides the footsteps of the young; it throws a light upon the pathway during the mature years, and it is the only book that one cares to have beside him when the darkness gathers and he knows that the end is near. Then he finds consolation in the promises of the Book of Books and his lips repeat, even when his words are inaudible, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil, for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me," or, "I go to prepare a place for you, and where I am there ye may be also."

And one more word to the young man who would plan his life on a large scale. What think ye of Christ? I do not present him merely as the highest type of man but rather as the Bible presents him, as the Son of God and Saviour of the world—as he presents himself when he says, "I am the way, the truth, the life." Do you have difficulty in believing in His Divinity? It is because you have measured Him by the rules that apply to man. Take him out of the man class and put him in the God class, and then it will not be difficult to understand him. Measure him by the task which he came to perform—it was not a man's task. Measure him by the record he has made. Why, if he was but a man, has not our civilization produced another of his kind?

Why are even his enemies compelled to admit the magic of his name and the wonder-working influence of the philosophy he taught? Why are his words as potent today as when the fishermen of Galilee became his disciples—as convincing as they were when "the common people heard him gladly" upon the Mount of the Beatitudes?

Are you in doubt about his power to perform

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

It has long been the honored custom of our people to turn in the fruitful autumn of the year in praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God for His many blessings and mercies to us as a nation. The year that is now drawing to a close since we last observed our day of National Thanksgiving has been, while a year of discipline because of the mighty forces of war and of change which have disturbed the world, also a year of special blessing for us.

It has been vouchsafed for us to remain at peace, with honor, and in some parts to succor the suffering and supply the needs of those who are in want. We have been privileged by our own peace and self-control in some degree to steady the counsels and shape the hopes and purposes of a day of fear and distress. Our people have looked upon their own life as a nation with a deeper comprehension, a deeper realization of their responsibilities as well as of their blessings and a keener sense of the moral and practical significance of what their part among the nations of the world may come to.

The hurtful effects of foreign war in their own industrial and commercial affairs have made them feel the more fully and see the more clearly their mutual dependence upon one another, and have stirred them to a helpful co-operation such as they have seldom practiced before. They have been quickened by a great moral stimulation. Their unmistakable ardor for peace, their earnest pity and disinterested sympathy for those who are suffering, their readiness to help and to think of the needs of others have revealed them to themselves as well as to the world.

Our crops will feed all who need food; the self-possession of our people amid the most serious anxieties and difficulties and the steadiness and resourcefulness of our business men will serve other nations as well as our own.

The business of the country has been supplied with new instrumentalities and the commerce of the world with new channels of trade and intercourse. The Panama Canal has been opened to the commerce of nations. The two continents of America have been bound in closer guise of friendship. New instrumentalities of international trade have been created which will be also new instrumentalities of acquaintance, intercourse, and mutual service. Never before have the people of the United States been so situated for their own advantage or the advantage of their neighbors, or so equipped to serve themselves.

Therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States of America, do hereby designate Thursday, the 26th day of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and prayer, and invite the people throughout the land to cease from their wonted occupations and in their several homes and places of worship render thanks to Almighty God.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this 28th day of October, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred and fourteen and the Independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and thirty-ninth.

WOODROW WILSON.

By the President ROBERT LANSING, Acting Secretary of State.

miracles when he walked among men? He is performing them today. The Christ who can today open the eyes of a young man, who sees nothing but the body and knows nothing but the pleasures that come through the flesh—the Christ who can open the eyes of such an one to the larger vision of the spiritual life could have opened the eyes of the physically blind. Do you question His power to raise the dead? Go into any rescue mission and hear the testimony of those who, after years of dissipation and of crime, have come under the influence of his grace and have been born again; behold the change—the Christ who can take a man from the gutter, one who has fallen so low that even his own flesh and blood have abandoned him, and lift him up, cleanse his heart and fill it with a passion for service—such a Christ could break the bonds of the tomb.

I am done. If I have succeeded in impressing upon your mind the importance of planning a life upon a high plane and upon a large scale, I have accomplished my purpose. But I shall be happier still if among you there is one young man whom I have been able to help—one who has been made stronger to resist temptation and whose conception of life's possibilities has been enlarged, for one life, filled with love of God and devoted to the welfare of his fellows, can bring incalculable blessings to a community, a state, a nation, or a world.

THAT ARGENTINE CORN

Just about a year ago the stand-pat republican papers were in hysterics over the threatened ruin of the farmers of this country through the introduction of "cheap" Argentine corn. By this time our markets were to be inundated with a golden stream from the South American republic. Samples of this corn were purchased and placed in store windows over the country for the purpose of furnishing a concrete example of the blue ruin that was facing American agricultural interests.

What are the facts? According to the Journal of Agriculture (St. Louis), a trifle over 10,000,000 bushels of Argentine corn were imported into the United States between July 1, 1913, and June 13, 1914, a little less than nine months of the time being under the new tariff act. During the same period over 145,000,000 bushels of Argentine corn were sent to Europe.

As every farmer knows, 10,000,000 bushels doesn't cut a very wide swath in the big field of home needs, and as Congressman Vollmer pointed out, "it wouldn't make a respectable breakfast for the hogs of Iowa." At present the price of corn is too high to make it even profitable for the farmers to feed it to their hogs without heavy supplementary rations.

When the news reached the Philippine islands that the democratic congress was about to pass a measure which extended to the natives a greater share in their government, in partial fulfillment of the democratic pledge to give them independence as soon as a stable government can be established, 50,000 Filipinos joined in celebration. Which merely proves that confidence in the Wilson administration is not confined to the borders of the states themselves.

George W. Perkins has come around to the democratic position that a great association like the New York stock exchange, made up of private individuals who determine the methods by which prices are established, shall be placed under public regulation. The banks that furnish the money to grease the machinery and the corporations whose stocks are traded in are under public control, he says. Why not the exchange itself?

The big city is developing a new sort of menace—the disinclination of citizens to take part in elections. The city of New York has five and a half millions of people. Of this number, one in nine persons, or 660,000 registered, and but 600,000 voted the other day. The proportion of voters who vote to population is less than in the country districts, where men must go miles to exercise the franchise.

New York recently indulged in a debate over whether it would be proper to allow the women stenographers in the municipal building to hold afternoon teas therein after hours. The debate came to a sudden ending when some one rose up to inquire if this would be any worse interruption to public business than allowing male employes to surround highballs at different periods of the day.