

**ROCKEFELLER'S BIOGRAPHER
CRIBS INGERSOLL'S SPEECHES**

**BETTER THAN "JOE
MILLER'S JEST BOOK"**

Recently The Commoner printed a review of a book entitled "A Study of John D. Rockefeller, the Wealthiest Man in the World," which book was written by Marcus M. Brown of Cleveland. In his "foreword" Mr. Brown said that his motives in the preparation of this book were prompted by "the spontaneous and universal sentiments of justice, natural to the human heart;" and the concluding chapter is entitled "The Author Pleads for Justice, Justice, Justice."

A man so concerned as Mr. Brown pretends to be in obtaining justice to the living must at least give some consideration to a demand for justice to the dead. In Mr. Brown's own language "prompted by the spontaneous and universal sentiments of justice natural to the human heart," The Commoner demands public acknowledgement by Marcus M. Brown that, as the author of "A Study of John D. Rockefeller" he plagiarized the speeches and writings of the late Robert G. Ingersoll.

Perhaps Mr. Brown is to be pardoned on the theory that as the friend of the greatest monopolist in the world he was entitled to a corner on the thoughts and the language of other men. Whatever Author Brown's excuse may be, the record as presented by two Commoner readers, one a resident of South Omaha, Neb., the other a resident of Milwaukee, speaks for itself.

William Ricks, 602 North Twenty-second street, South Omaha, Neb., writes:
"The following reveals the extent to which Marcus M. Brown in his book just from the press, written in defense of John D. Rockefeller and his methods, purloins from the lecture delivered at Broadway theatre, New York, February 12, 1893, by Robert G. Ingersoll on the subject of 'Lincoln, the Emancipator.'"

From a lecture by Robert G. Ingersoll, February 12, 1893, on "Lincoln, the Emancipator:"
He was severe with himself and for that reason was lenient with others.

He appeared to apologize for being kinder than his fellows.

He did merciful things as stealthily as others commit crimes.

He said and did the noblest words and deeds with that charming confusion, that awkwardness, that is the perfect grace of modesty.

He was as patient as destiny.

He knew no fear except the fear of doing wrong.

Hating slavery, pitying the master, seeking to conquer not persons but prejudices he was the embodiment of self-denial, the courage, the hope and the nobility of the nation.

He spoke not to inflame, not to upbraid, but to convince.

He raised his hands not to strike, but in benediction.

He longed to pardon. He loved to see the pearls of joy on the cheeks of a wife whose husband he had rescued from death.

Lincoln was the grandest figure of the fiercest civil war.

He is the gentlest memory of our world.

From the book of Marcus M. Brown, "A Study of John D. Rockefeller:"

He is rigid with himself and so easy with others.

He is inclined to apologize for being kinder than his associates.

He does merciful things as much under cover as others commit crimes.

He says the noblest words and does the noblest deeds with the most delightful unconsciousness and perfect grace of modesty.

He is as patient as destiny.

He is acquainted with no fear except the fear of God and of doing wrong.

Hating oppression, pitying the oppressed, seeking to overcome, not men, but evil he is the embodiment of the self denial, the courage, the hope, the nobility of the world.

He speaks not to anger, not to accuse, but to convince.

He raises his hands not to wound but in benediction.

He longs to forgive. He loves to see the radiance of joy on the cheek of those he has been able to relieve.

Mr. Rockefeller is the grandest figure of the fiercest industrial combat that the world has ever known.

He will be one of the greatest and sweetest memories of mankind.

Frank N. Berry, 1438 North Pierce street, Milwaukee, writes: "In reading the extracts from Mr. M. M. Brown's book, entitled "A Study of John D. Rockefeller," as published by you in The Commoner of last week I find that the author (Brown) has used almost the same language employed by Ingersoll in his lectures on Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Paine. Note the following:"

BROWN ON ROCKEFELLER

He is inclined to apologize for being kinder than his associates.

He does merciful things as much under cover as others commit crimes.

He says the noblest words and does the noblest deeds with the most delightful unconsciousness and perfect grace of modesty.

He is acquainted with no fear except the fear of God and of doing wrong.

Hating oppression, pitying the oppressed, seeking to overcome, not men, but evil he is the embodiment of the self-denial, the courage, the hope, the nobility of the world.

He speaks not to anger, not to accuse, but to convince. He raises his hands not to wound, but in benediction. He longs to forgive. He loves to see the radiance of joy on the cheek of those he has been able to relieve. Mr. Rockefeller is the grandest figure of the fiercest industrial combat that the world has ever known. He will be one of the greatest and sweetest memories of mankind.

BROWN ON ROCKEFELLER

If to love others more than one's self is goodness, John D. Rockefeller is good.

If to live in advance of one's time, to be the first upon the ground in the direction of progress, is greatness, John D. Rockefeller is great.

If to follow one's faith and do one's duty in the presence of threatening death is heroic John D. Rockefeller is a hero.

R. G. INGERSOLL ON LINCOLN

He appeared to apologize for being kinder than his fellows.

He did merciful things as stealthily as others commit crime.

Almost ashamed of tenderness he said and did the noblest words and deeds with that charming confusion, that awkwardness that is the perfect grace of modesty.

He knew no fear except the fear of doing wrong.

Hating slavery, pitying the master, he was the embodiment of the self-denial, the courage, the hope and the nobility of the nation.

He spoke not to inflame, not to upbraid, but to convince.

He raised his hands not to strike, but in benediction. He longed to pardon.

He loved to see the pearls of joy on the cheeks of a wife whose husband he had rescued from death.

Lincoln was the grandest figure of the fiercest civil war.

He is the gentlest memory of our world.

INGERSOLL ON THOMAS PAINE

If to love your fellow men more than self is goodness, Thomas Paine was good.

If to be in advance of your time, to be a pioneer in the direction of right, is greatness, Thomas Paine was great.

If to avow your principles and to discharge your duty in the presence of death is heroic, Thomas Paine was a hero.

For generations "Joe Miller's Jest Book" has been a valued friend, the solace of many a quiet hour, and the inspiration for many budding humorists. Indeed, "Joe Miller's Jest Book" has been something of a classic for generations, but it must now take a back seat. True, the book that succeeds it was not intended to be humorous. It is only because of recent disclosures that it is entitled to supersede Joseph's book. The book in question is a small one and is entitled "Facts About the New York Life." Here is one of the jokes:

"The New York Life does not loan upon nor invest in stocks of any kind."

If the point of that joke is a little obscure do not throw the book aside. Just be patient for a few moments and recall some of the startling testimony brought out in the investigation now in progress. Then it will be to laugh—unless you happen to be a policyholder. After you catch the point of that joke, try this one:

"There are six standing committees, approved by the trustees, which carry on the business of the company."

If you have read President McCall's testimony and the declarations of Confidential Lobbyist Hamilton the point of that joke will dawn with a force and suddenness that will be truly exhilarating—unless you happen to be a policyholder. If you have survived that joke, try this one:

"The company's money is never used, directly or indirectly, in any transaction for the benefit of any individual."

Of course there are carping critics who will declare that that is not a joke—that it is just a plain, unvarnished falsehood. And they will point to the testimony brought out in the investigation to prove what they say. But doubtless the eminent jokesmith who penned it thought it was a good joke. And it was—upon the policyholders. Having digested that one just cast your eyes over this merry jest:

"No officer of the company can * * * in any way use the company's funds for his own benefit."

That's another good joke—on the policyholders. And the officers who have speculated with company funds, organized bond synicates and used policyholders' money as capital in the gambling transaction—doubtless they indulged in many hearty laughs. It is too bad that their hilarity has been so rudely interrupted. And here is another good joke:

"The New York Life has for years believed in and advocated publicity."

It will take some time to catch the point of that one. Chauncey Depew is certainly its author. It has the real Chaunceyesque flavor, hasn't it? The humor of it may dawn upon you tomorrow or next day, or next week. While waiting for it you might be considering this, the last one:

"The management of the New York Life is proud of the company's standing."

That wasn't a joke a few months ago. It is now, and people who have been keeping track of the developments will have no difficulty in seeing the point.

But, with these samples offered for your consideration, can you deny that "Joe Miller's Jest Book" is a back number, and that "Facts About the New York Life" is entitled to first place among the ranks of humorous publications?

COCKRAN RESOLUTION RECALLED

It will be remembered that at the last session of congress Bourke Cockran introduced a resolution providing for an investigation of the charge that he was paid money for his services for the republican party in 1896, and providing for inquiry into all the campaign contributions of that year. Referring to that resolution Walter Wellman, Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald said: "No one imagines the republicans will permit an investigating committee to be appointed. They could hardly afford to go digging into the secrets of the first McKinley campaign."

The republicans did not permit the appointment of an investigating committee, and since the disclosures that were made before the insurance committee in session in New York, even the dullest of men have learned why the republican party could not afford to permit such an inquiry.