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A SOCIAL PROBLEM AND ITS PROGRESS.

There will be more or less remonstrance against the opinion of a Kansas City clergyman that it is not desirable that people should have equal chances in this world. It is not quite apparent where the objection to such an arrangement would come in if the results could be made to justify the opportunities. But unless humanity could be made over it would be wholly futile to start all people out with the same layout. It would not be forty-eight hours until persons would be seen adding to their equipment and others would be seen falling behind. Some people are born with gifts which enable them to get on in the world and in others there is not apparently even a germ of such talent.

Nature is largely accountable for the inequalities which the socialistic reformers desire to obviate, and nature cannot be changed. Of course the fabric of society and the quality of government have something to do with it, but these causes cannot in the opinion of the most profound philosophers be successfully modified by any hard and fast rules or by the enactment of laws. At the very best, such remedies would be subsidiary only to the greater and primal factor of the voluntary spirit of human brotherhood. How far one man can

be made his brother's keeper by the authority of the government is a most interesting and perplexing problem. It would seem, by a careful study of the progress of philanthropy during the last half century, that the great force in making riches subservient to the public good has been the growth and development of a more enlightened understanding of the responsibilities of wealth and individual power. This has brought about a great system of organized benevolence for the benefit of those who are poorly fitted to help themselves.

In addition to the multiplication of public charities which are more particularly for the behoof of the helpless and indigent, there is a growth of institutions which gives encouragement to those who desire to be self-sustaining and independent. Capital has interested itself in the provision of cheap homes and shelter for wage earners and in industrial enterprises which give to workingmen a share of the profits. The whole tendency of the times is in the direction of a broader and more generous regard for society as a mass with no perceptible advancement of the idea that anything like actual equality is possible in a world where success depends so largely on natural gifts and endowments.—Kansas City Star.

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