

Patriotism and Brotherhood.

This is a world of ideals; social, political, intellectual, religious. Toward the fulfillment of these ideals men strive unceasingly. The whole problem of existence is to discover the harmony between nature, man and God. The development of the human race toward a more and more perfect realization of this harmony and of the laws that govern it is the supreme goal—progress. The ever-pressing law of human progress demands a constant change of standards in modern life and thought,—a change always toward the more comprehensive, more truly ideal existence.

The first duty of the individual is to make the most of himself. Self-preservation is the first law of nature; self-development is the second. Progress is simply the surplus in development. The modern evolution in industry and in intellect is like money at compound interest. Each generation adds to the principal of human experience, as interest for the use of that principal, deeper thought, broader views, higher ideals. It is the surplus of our intellectual and spiritual wealth that we have to share with our fellow-men. "A people" says Browning, "is but the attempt of many to rise to the completer life of one." In this steady growth, radicalism passes rapidly into conservatism. The new becomes old. What was good logic and good ethics yesterday, is inadequate to the requirements of to-day. In America, for the past hundred years, radicalism has been the seeking of personal rights; to-day it is the seeking of public rights. In the onward march of humanity that we call progress, America's first duty as a nation is self-development. The great prime factor in this development is patriotism. But self-development is selfish. Patriotism is to climb up, but it is to climb alone. To satisfy the conditions of an ideal community we must compensate for this selfishness. We must keep climbing, but we must pull up with us what is below. That is brotherhood.

"Patriotism is the love a man has for the spot of ground he calls home." As time develops the nation, this sentiment, so strong in each individual, extends to a protective love for the whole. The nation becomes the larger home—a native land, to be defended and loved as a very part of life. So our forefathers thought of our country. They fought and died for it. Their patriotism was an essential part of their being. No other sentiment ever even partially supplanted it. It secured for us a place among the nations of the earth; it assured safety and honor to us as a people; it opened the way to all the prosperity that we enjoy. But before government of the people, by the people, could be secure, there must be a sterner test. The awful struggle of the civil war, a patriotic struggle in the highest sense, brought political freedom and equality within our boundaries to all men and for all time. The Emancipation Proclamation was the climax in this development. The political ideal was realized. To-day, this United States of America stands before the world, a vital, organic answer to that question so long guessed at and agonized over by the nations,—what is the TRUE patriotism? I say, in 1863 we worked out the problem with the blood and tears of a million souls. To-day, patriotism on American soil has provided the surest foothold for the individual he has ever had since the Creation.

Let America guard closely her sacred heritage. The fathers laid the foundation of national unity and life; the sons have burned out the plague-spot that threatened it. None of the old hopes and anxious fears that inspired their devotion exists to-day. The very fact that those inspiring springs have been exhausted demands a more constant watch, a more jealous guard over the sentiment of our people toward their native land.

"Ah, what a mighty trust is ours, the noblest ever
sung,
To keep this banner spotless, its kindred stars
among!
Science may dare the mysteries of earth and wave
and sky,
Till none with us in splendor and strength and
skill can vie: