

fulerum. But it is absolutely necessary so long as anybody is at one extreme that there should be sufficient weight at the other to restore the balance.

So it is in society in every age. Some are ever at one extreme reaching forward and grasping after any theory or innovation which discards the past and attempts to establish something new. Others are ever at the opposite extreme holding with a death grip, as it were, to old and antiquated forms and as steadily refusing to have any dealings with the new and revolutionary. These forces then counteract each other, the one aiming to hasten the world along at headlong speed to its certain ruin by giving it vague speculations and theories, while the other is striving to restrain it and keep it in the darkness of the past. It is the vast number of moderate and careful persons between the extremes which is slowly but surely making the world advance. From this it may seem as if I regard the extremists as superfluous. By no means. It is absolutely necessary that some should ever be reaching forward and collecting the new and often vague theories out of which the careful mean—restrained, you see by the "old fogies" at the other extreme—is able to erect a systematic structure. If you consider the one as necessary to lead civilization then you must grant the need of the other to act as a break, else little by little the velocity of the whole mass would be so accelerated that its advance would be suddenly checked by some terrible catastrophe. If we are to have a blatant infidel—as the *New York World* characterizes Robert Ingersoll—at one extreme it is requisite that he should be offset by some "old foggy" of the "hell fire and brimstone" school. But leaving out these extra-extremists, who really may be regarded, in the one case, as mere scintillations from the advance guard flashing for the moment and then extinguished forever, and in the other as the dead remains of a past age, we must oppose the men of progress by conservatives. Our

progressive men often become so enthusiastic that they accept a mere theory for a fact and hasten along to be recalled to verify their theories by the conservatives who are unwilling to admit anything new until it has been so plainly set forth that "a way-faring man though a fool need not err therein." Ofttimes we may become exasperated and be disgusted with his conservative notions which seem to be merely blocking the wheels of progress, but why not with equal justice blame him who would hasten us along to speedy destruction by his visionary schemes? The truth is, that the revolutionary and conservative elements have always existed side by side and will probably advance in the same manner in the future. Where the progressive spirit holds the balance of power, there is advancement. Where the conservative element rules, there society is either at a stand-still or is retrograding. Taking the world as a whole the advantage is, in about the right proportion, on the side of progress. France and England are the two most conspicuous examples of the effect of these elements. The former is ever convulsed by following the leadership of social and political revolutionists. The latter seemingly firm and steadfast scarcely ever loses herself in an ungovernable passion, but she too has need to be on her guard lest, in her obstinacy, she so exasperate the bulk of her citizens that their only appeal will be to arms. These two elements then, when separated, are most dangerous; but when combined in the proper proportions, form the bulwark of society. Then I ask you not to be forever persecuting the conservative or "old foggy" as you may regard him, but grant that he has his work to accomplish as well as the schemer and theorist.

DEFENSOR.

SCAFFOLDING.

We are all builders, and life is a constant process of building. Without noise or sound of hammer is the work going on: