

of the hurry of our lives and of how much here and elsewhere it has cost me in life.

S. Weir Mitchell.

HIS was an imperishable work, because he was a sower of good seed on good ground. In the flowering of his young nature he was courageous, devoted, and enterprising. At maturity he was wise and discriminating in his choice, wherever choice was to be made—in family relations, in friendship, in vocation and avocation, in social work and public life. The world deems men of his kind fortunate in opportunity, but Gilder was far more the architect of his fortune than the favorite of chance. He seized opportunity by the forelock, and threw himself athwart the course of flying events in order to do so. His nature was so artless and spontaneous, his presence and mien so engaging and charming, that the unobservant were often unaware of the dauntless will and tactful hardihood that lay beneath the surface. The work he did, his services to literature, his elevation of standards in morals, his leadership in reforms—these testify to a high heart

and a bold spirit. So he found among kindred souls those who heard and heeded the lessons he inculcated in prose and verse, both of a high order; those who noted the splendid example he set and enlisted as his comrades against inhumanity; those who felt the faith that was in him,—faith in God and in his fellow-men,—and were strengthened in the weary, wearing conflicts for righteousness which were his delight.

To most of us he seems to have died too young. Yet he lived beyond the average of life. He had felt crowns of victory on his brow, and he left an enduring monument. This magazine testifies to his successes; the authors, old and young, whose efforts he appreciated and whose lives he sweetened bear the same witness. The solid reforms wrought in city and nation are the fruit, increased a hundredfold, which sprang from the good seed he cast on fertile, well-tilled soil. My appreciation of him, my tribute to him, are the meed due to a man who must be ranked among the conquerors. His weapons were those of the newer, better world—faith, hope, and love.

William M. Sloane.



THE NEGLECT OF BEAUTY IN THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT

ALTHOUGH the declaration of the first White House Conference of Governors included a record of their agreement "that the beauty, healthfulness, and habitability of our country should be preserved and increased," it is much to be regretted that the official leaders of the conservation movement—than which nothing is more important to the country—have never shown a cordial, much less an aggressive, interest in safeguarding our great scenery, or in promoting, in general, this part of their admirable program. When the Appalachian Park reserve was first proposed, a prominent member of Congress embodied his objection to it by saying bluntly, "We are not buying scenery." To meet this criticism, the friends of the bill, instead of boldly insisting upon the value of great scenery, chose

to lay stress exclusively upon the material and economic side of the whole movement. The fact is, there is no more popular and effective trumpet-call for the conservation movement than the appeal to the love of beautiful natural scenery. In this matter the idealists are more practical than the materialists, whose mistake is that they never capitalize sentiment. A money valuation of the uses of our great natural scenery, attracting, as it does, a vast number of summer sojourners and the traveling public in general, would make an astonishing showing.

It could easily be proved that the fear of offending the "hard-headed" and "practical" man by such an appeal is without foundation. The first thing that a man does after he obtains a competence is to invest his money in some form of beauty, and it is in the interest of good citizenship that he should have a plot of ground to be proud of. He settles in some town, sub-

urb, or other region mainly because it is beautiful, and he is all the happier if his home can command an attractive natural view. As he grows richer, this desire for beautiful things, and particularly for a beautiful country-place, becomes more dominant, and it is to such a feeling that we owe the development of our sea-coast and hilltops into regions of resort for health and recreation. The American still apostrophizes his country with the lines:

I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills,

and he is not willing that this sentiment shall be changed to read:

I love thy stocks and mills,
Thy goods and crumpled bills.

It must always be held as a blot upon the lustrous record of the Roosevelt Administration in conservation matters that, in deference to the false sense of what is practical, and, moreover, by a strained construction of law, it gave away a large part of the people's greatest national park for a city's reservoir, confessedly without the slightest inquiry as to the necessity of doing so. The contention that in fact this necessity does not exist was confirmed when the leader of the scheme acknowledged before the Senate Committee on the Public Lands that San Francisco, without invading the Park, could get an abundant water-supply from a number of other regions by the simple, though sometimes inconvenient, process of paying for it!

The time has come when, if much of what has been gained by the reservation of our great natural monuments is not to be lost, the public must make known its wishes to Congress. The scheme for the dismemberment of the Yosemite National Park, which a year ago was temporarily checked, is to be pushed during the present session. In this contest the recent visit of President Taft to the Yosemite and that of the Secretary of the Interior to the Hetch-Hetchy will strengthen the defenders of the latter valley, for no one can view the phenomenal beauty of these Sierra gorges without feeling a solemn responsibility for its preservation. Even the San Francisco promoters of the destructive scheme threw up their hands in admiration as they caught sight of the Hetch-Hetchy,

and confessed that "something was to be said for the esthetes, after all." And yet they profess to believe that water is "running to waste" if it be simply looked at! And this is said of streams which, after they have been looked at, may be utilized for the irrigation of the great San Joaquin lowlands.

Movements to safeguard Niagara and the Hudson are also impending, and in this connection we respectfully commend to Senators and Representatives, as well as to the members of the New York legislature, these judicious words of Governor Hughes, spoken at the dedication of the Palisades Interstate Park:

Of what avail would be the material benefits of gainful occupation, what would be the promise of prosperous communities, with wealth of products and freedom of exchange, were it not for the opportunities to cultivate the love of the beautiful? The preservation of the scenery of the Hudson is the highest duty with respect to this river imposed upon those who are the trustees of its manifold benefits. It is fortunate that means have already been taken to protect this escarpment, which is one of its finest features. The two States have joined in measures for this purpose. I hope this is only the beginning of efforts which may jointly be made by these two commonwealths to safeguard the highlands and waters, in which they are both deeply interested. The entire watershed which lies to the north should be conserved, and a policy should be instituted for such joint control as would secure adequate protection.

But it is not merely the colossal beauty of the Sierra, Niagara, and the Hudson that should be preserved and enhanced, but the beauty of city, town, and hamlet. What is needed is the inculcation, by every agency, of *beauty as a principle*, that life may be made happier and more elevating for all the generations who shall follow us, and who will love their country more devotedly the more lovable it is made.

PENSIONS FOR TEACHERS

THE paper on this topic in this number of *THE CENTURY* by Miss Flint, herself an experienced teacher of St. Paul, gives a comprehensive view of a movement among our cities and States