

America has no concern with the affairs of Europe. I am no apostle of perpetual aloofness from the remainder of mankind. But I hold that America, as well as Europe, must first become a better master of herself. There is more promise in American life than in the life of any other land, but there is many a threat of peril in American life as well. The laxness in economic and social and vital morale has a foothold in America—had it long before the war. It is a part of the deterioration of character wherever the prosperity of the industrial revolution in the last hundred years has carried greatly and suddenly increased welfare to large numbers of the population who had formerly struggled in hardship and straitened circumstances. Steam and electricity and gasoline, "rays and waves and powers" of which man had never before dreamed, have produced a volume of comforts, commodities, opportunities for ease and luxury, for large numbers of people in America never enjoyed before in the history of the world.

The war taught us something. The intelligence tests which we administered to more than 1,700,000 American officers and men demonstrated two things—first, that the average intelligence of the rising generation in America is not high, and that that precious factor itself is being steadily bred out of the American population by the rapid influx of certain inferior racial stocks, or at least of a multitude of inferior representatives of certain racial stocks. Where are your great thoughtful Americans, without whose vision the country perishes and of whose genius America never stood so much in need? Marshall could think; Lincoln could think, no man of his day more clearly, more deeply, than he. Where, in the world of industry and politics in the more democratic America of our time, are the superior men of vision who can think—men of character, sympathetic with popular freedom and capable of leading the people to act upon their thinking? Governmentally we have not been left entirely desolate. From Hamilton and Jefferson to Root and Roosevelt and Wilson and Hughes the American democracy has been helped by availing itself of the disciplined thinking and guidance of men of great intelligence, who have usually acquitted themselves with distinction and discretion. But the tide of democracy, bearing fears as well as hopes, sweeps resistlessly on, with disquieting symptoms of industrial immorality, of social inefficiency, of governmental feebleness, of public inertia upon affairs National and international. All the more need is there that the brains and conscience of the leadership of democracy should keep pace with the march of democracy.

Whether we advance or retreat in America depends, in the last analysis, upon whether we are led by a dynamic minority of brains and sympathy or by a dynamic minority of mattoids and morons. That means of course, in terms of biology, that we must breed from the right stock. And that means that

America must pick the representatives of her immigrant racial strains with a good deal more care than she has since the Civil War.

And it is not all in heredity. If the structural load of civilization weighs too heavily upon American human kind, we can lessen the load. We can alter our values. It is time we did it. It is time we thought far less of commercial values, of speeding up for riches, of luxury and materialism. It is time as a nation that we paid more attention to a life that is simple, to the things of the mind, of taste, and of culture—far less costly, but also in the best sense far richer. We thus follow the social philosophy of our distinguished American sociologist, Giddings. As he urges, we can employ the simpler and more spontaneous, more co-operative ways of getting things done as against the method of getting them done by Governmental agencies with enormous overhead, waste, inefficiency, armies of civil servants. The evolutionary and cultural ways rather than the revolutionary and coercive ways are much less costly and would enormously diminish the operating expenses of civilization.

The concentration of superiority in the higher levels, where it can be most effective in leadership, depends upon how well the channels of opportunity are kept open in America, so that the best in the lower levels may be drained into the higher levels. This we call in America equality of opportunity—the only kind of equality which nature or a sound philosophy believes in. Of later years we have not been so true to this American philosophy. We have adopted "leveling" practices. In American public education we have developed a tendency to run every boy or girl, bright pupil or dullard, through the same mold. The intellectual work of the student bodies in our colleges as a whole we have leveled down to the average or below the average; precisely as some of the labor unions do which debase and discourage bright workingmen by the "go-slow" rules of the union. There are large numbers of students in every college—the best of them from the standpoint of future leadership—whose powers find insufficient outlet and interest in the mass-curriculum constructed for the mass-average. There is an increasing multitude of workingmen who under a false doctrine of equality are having their capacities leveled to the mediocre.

Revolutions never happen. They are caused. They are precipitated mainly by inefficient government, burdensome taxation, by arrogant and greedy industrialism. They follow the previous undermining and discrediting of the existing social order. The wild race for armament, the resulting intolerable weight of taxes, the economic materialism of the ruling classes of Europe, precipitated the war and the revolutionary aftermath of the war.

Bourbonism prepares the ground for revolution. Bourbonism promotes material progress, but chokes human progress. Bourbonism blocks reform, breeds

discontent, thickens the crust of reaction, brings on the earthquake and the cataclysm.

I do not find myself able to follow Mr. Bryan before Southern Legislatures, Southern churches, and Southern college commencements in his flaming opposition to the theory of evolution. In the field in which Mr. Bryan is more at home, the field of ethics, I frequently find little difficulty in following him. I hold with him that civilization is expanding morality. I distrust, with Stoddard, those who all over the world are in violent revolt against civilization, because they make their appeal to envy, hatred, and malice instead of seeking to attain peace on earth, good will among men. They have chosen direct action, sabotage, the general strike, proletarian violence, the ruin of transportation, the paralyzing of economic life, the path of chaos, and not the path of righteousness and peace.

By right of her vast economic and moral reserve, America is fitted for the leadership of civilization. She is not yet ready to lead. She does not yet feel herself experienced enough to lead broadly in the great advance. But the period of caution and aloofness cannot last forever. More and more her wisdom will be sought in the councils of civilization. But her safety and honor at home and abroad can be preserved only by a superior human stock that will choose the right values, simplify its life, perpetuate its breed, and learn increasingly to think.

BOOKS RECEIVED

FICTION

CRYSTAL COFFIN (THE). By Maurice Rostand. Robert M. McBride & Co., New York \$2.

TRULY RURAL. By Richardson Mifflin Company, Boston. \$2.

WHITE AND BLACK. By Hubert Anthony Shands. Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York \$1.90.

WINDOW-GAZER (THE). By Isabel Ecclestone Mackay. The George H. Doran Company, New York. \$1.90.

WITHOUT COMPROMISE. By Lillian Bennet-Thompson and George Hubbard. The Century Company, New York. \$1.75.

HISTORY AND POLITICAL ECONOMY

WASHINGTON AND THE RIDDLE OF PEACE By H. G. Wells. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$2.

WORK OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE (THE). By J. Edward Meeker. The Ronald Press Company, New York. \$5.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE WORLD WAR. By Louis P. Benezet. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.50.

MISCELLANEOUS

CHARACTER REVELATIONS OF MIND AND BODY. By Gerald Elton Fosbrooke. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. \$2.50.

COMING OF COAL (THE). By Robert W. Bruère. The Association Press, New York \$1.

STUDENT'S HISTORY OF THE HEBREWS By Laura A. Knott. Illustrated. The Abingdon Press, New York.

TERRIBLY INTIMATE PORTRAITS. By Noel Coward. Boni & Liveright, New York. \$2

WELL CONSIDERED GARDEN (THE). By Mrs. Francis King. New and Revised Edition. Illustrated. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$2.

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Journeys in 1806 were matters of horses' endurance just as they were in 1066; Jefferson's coach may have been easier to ride in than the Norman duke's slower vehicle . . . but what is that to the smooth-riding motor that whirls you along at a mile a minute?

Rushlights are not so far from tallow-dips as tallow-dips are from electric lamps. Jefferson's buildings rose little higher than William's . . . but what of the structural steels that make it possible for today's Woolworth Towers to pierce the skies? The doctors of 1806 took nearly as many chances as those of William's reign . . . but the Chemical Engineer has placed in your doctor's hands specifics that silence forever the threats of many of man's dreaded scourges.

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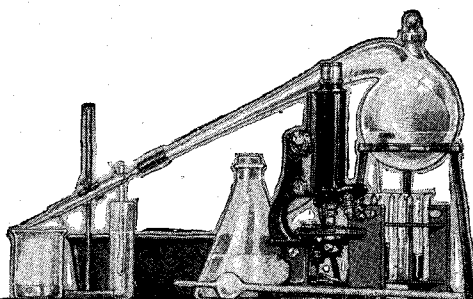
Yet the few years from Jefferson's day to yours are marked by startling, by radical changes in the way of living, changes possible only through the Chemical Engineer's slowly-won mastery over nature's elemental substances and forces . . . by his miracles in metals, in petroleum, in textiles, in rubber, in explosives, and in dyes and drugs and chemicals.

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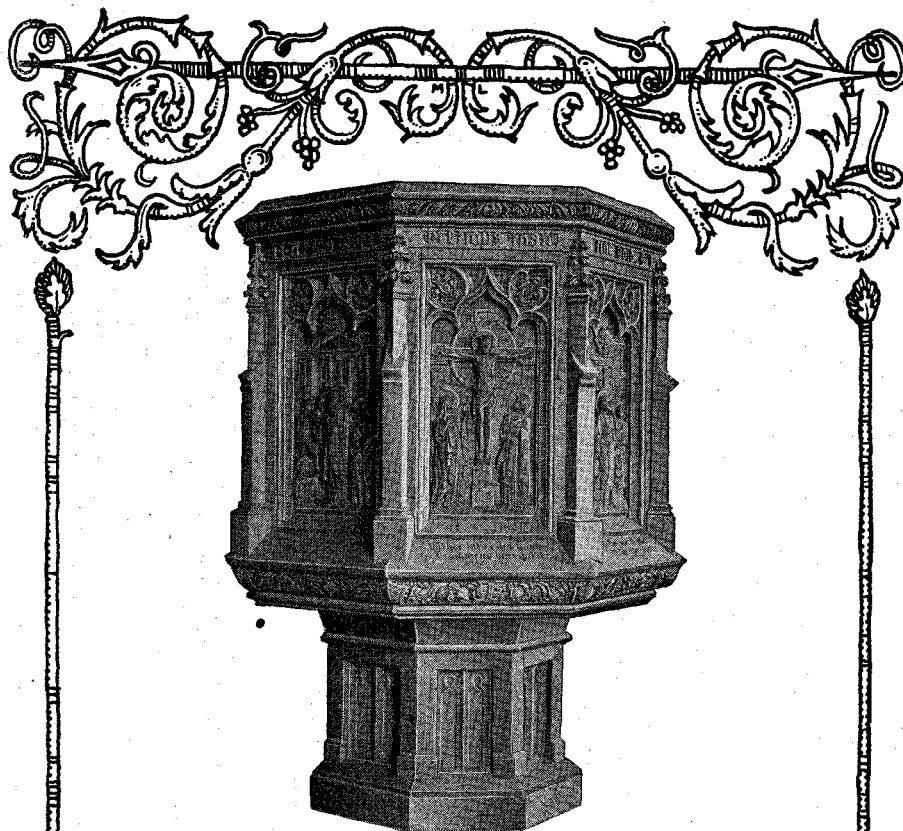
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AMERICANS IN GERMANY

IF the people of Germany as a whole hate America with the fervor indicated by Mr. Danziger in "See Germany Last," I am sure that they should be extremely grateful to him for his zeal in discouraging an influx of American visitors to that country. His elucidation of the present situation and of the attitude of the German people interested me exceedingly, largely because his impressions were so far different from my own. I have not visited Bremen or Hamburg since the war, but, having been called upon to travel through southern Germany last autumn in a semi-official capacity, I returned with a very definite impression that an American was far from the least welcome of foreigners there. In the Black Forest region of Baden, Württemberg, and Bavaria there was little or no over-charging, little or no promiscuous robbery, a marked absence of any hostile feeling. I understand that at least up to a month ago the same conditions of friendliness were generally maintained. I did, indeed, visit Germany with many misgivings, with a considerable store of bitterness engendered by service in the A. E. F., and with a very fresh mental photograph of the "Zone Rouge" of France. I brought back with me no amended conception of the German character, no desire to extoll the collective humanity of the people, and no wish to struggle for the mitigation of the rightful penalty which Germany must suffer. The Englishman and the American, however, are fundamentally fair-minded, and not vindictive. As Mr. Danziger points out, Germany is suffering for her wrong-doing. Is it not, perhaps, time to stop agitating an old feud, time to smooth over the extreme bitterness of an "eye for an eye" policy?

A year ago much was being said by the American newspapers in Paris in regard to the manner in which French shopkeepers were robbing Americans, in which French hotel-keepers were over-charging, and French minor officials were grasping for a hundred and fifty per cent "backsheesh." "See Germany Last" might almost be a transcription of an editorial from an American newspaper edited in Paris last summer. Its slogan was "See Paris last." We all decried the grasping attitude on the part of the French, but France was and is our ally, and most of us tried our best to prevent any bitter feeling arising from existing economic conditions. Had any American magazine attempted to publish "See France Last," there would have been cause for just condemnation. Should we judge all France through the attitude of the Parisian shopkeepers and hotel-keepers? Should we judge all Germany through the bitterness and disorganization of a few great northern cities?

By all the signs, Germany as a whole has not reformed; it is clear that we can-

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