

Fred Burry's Journal . . .

A Monthly Periodical of
Advanced Thought

MARCH 1901

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Fred Burry's Journal

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I have moved from 673 Queen St., West.—back to the old address.

*Fred W Burry, 799 Euclid Ave.,
Toronto, Canada.*

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Advanced Thought

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Flashes



Always seek originality. There is an infinite number of possibilities for you. Look not so much behind : take wide views of the great fields in front.



Faith is a power that is all the stronger for its natural noiseless character. Rush and bustle often imply distrust, anxiety. The greatest things are done quietly.



Let thoroughness enter into all. Concentrate when active, and when in repose. Concentration is the balance,—it is harmony. Relax, rest, yet concentrate. Work with intensity, but always concentrate.



All is gravitation. Your thoughts are conscious points of energy. Where there is a sympathetic response, thoughts of life sent to another will most surely result in desired health. We come in touch with others by a mutual recognition ; for all is mind.



Things are not near as difficult as they appear to be. Don't stand away off with fear and doubt from something you want to do ; get right into your work and get through it. Don't wait until you can see all the

way in front of you, before you step forward ; even a little recklessness occasionally is better than standing still. As we launch out, the way becomes clearer.

● ●
Ignore the old life with its pains, struggles, heart-burnings, the life that is only a sham life. Never mind what other people do, whether in business or in the family circle. You have new ideals ; carry them into everything around. Remember that these ideals create new worlds.

~
The average man's ideals are not sufficiently definite ; his thoughts are too scattered ; he is not energetic enough to get down to matter-of-fact and follow out each idea to its conclusion. How can anything but mediocre results be expected from shallow thought and desultory work ?

● ●
Do not stand aside, shy, fearful, timid. Do not lean against someone you think superior, better than you. Dare to lead, to march right to the front. We should all rapidly pass beyond the "disciple" stage, into the "Christ" stage. To be gods, conscious possessors of Infinite Life, is the end of every man.

~
What is so invigorating as Laughter ? At one time we used to think fun and merriment belonged to the devil. To be good meant long faces and general seriousness. Let's be natural and enjoy life ; only taking care that our enjoyment does not mean other people's suffering, as it is out in the world to day.

● ●
Old institutions which were once considered unchangeable—the relics of Christendom, certain codes and customs of Society, in fact all the old Ideals, are now being forced to change ; the evolution of humanity has reached that point where all things are affected

even from their foundation upwards, by the spirit of Progress.

Who is your enemy, that you are told to love? Is he the one who arouses you to renewed action, spurs you on by his aggressive manner to bolder braver intentions, makes you more determined, creating in you a deeper sense of mastery, bringing to the surface long hidden forces of your being? Then surely he is your friend.

To make ready for new and greater conditions is sufficient to invite them. The greatest of affirmations is the ACTION prompted by a recognition of power. If you would have a larger measure of success, open out! Thus will greater things come to you. By making yourself receptive, you magnet-like draw upon the Infinite Store of Supply.

Concentration to be of much value must become a habit, entering more and more naturally into our daily affairs. This habit is formed by repeated efforts; not the anxious fixing of the mind on mere words—for ACTIONS are the greatest of affirmations; in fact they are words made truly alive. So complement your ideals, your words of power with acts of love and faith.

I am very near you, dear children of frankness and sincerity. I can tell by your faces whether you mean what you say—you are all something of the hypocrite and humbug, you have to be—but I can tell whether you are honest liars trying to bring the world to that state where the unadorned Truth will be ALLOWED, or whether you are fostering the make-believes of society, laws, custom, religion. O for the day when reality pure and simple, things as they are, shall be RECOGNIZED!

There are very few who have that active characteristic of genius, which insists on excellence at all costs. Any old slipshod way will do, so long as the work is got rid of! Why don't people realize the dignity of work, and put labor where it belongs,—in a place of honor? Crown all work with excellence: nothing gives more joy to all than a work which is justly entitled a masterpiece.

O for more earnestness, more determination, real endeavor! What can one or two do among these millions of people. Therefore, each one of you tell others of the New Life that may be a reality on the earth;—speak to others of the New Ideal waiting for the day when with loving co-partnership, men and women will form a great racial combine, leading to universal redemption and for each one personal mastery.

You who are so narrow in your philosophy as to sneer at those who with their idealism, yet are always practical, who talk of money, prices, rates, bread-and-butter,—you who have never known what hard work and want is,—you who are trying to rise to some mystical plane without having explored the depths of the "earth" plane,—just do a little common-sense figuring out; come down from the empty clouds, and live in the world, and be of the world.

In this Journal you will find very few set rules and principles,—but hosts of suggestions. Within You is the principle of guidance. Trust your own thoughts, and more knowledge and power will soon be yours. Truth is only what appeals to you because of your own experiences: books and teachers can do nothing more than hold up a mirror to you,—reflecting some of the innate wisdom which is enclosed in YOUR mind.

LIVE up to your ideals,—and the infinite store-houses of your mind will be open to you, with all their vast treasures so long hidden away. You contain the potencies of genius ; your desires and aspirations suggest what you may BECOME.

• •

There is nothing to condemn ; nothing to be disgusted with. All things are necessary ; all things are pure ; all things are well. Yet Nature says to you, O child of aspiration and celestial longings: "Come higher and with universal Love create the heaven of your imaginations ; express your ideal in the world of objects ; make this world over ; bring to light the treasures so long hidden beneath the veils belonging to the world's infant ages ; renew, remodel the Earth after the pattern of your highest Ideals.

As you find that try your best to prevent it you can't help making mistakes, you might as well make the most of conditions around you, and DO something regardless of possible failures. So many are afraid to act because of the mistakes that may occur. But all mistakes are of positive value : they teach a lesson ; showing up some new feature, every time. Certainly as we become more experienced, more familiar with our work, mistakes are less frequent : Concentration familiarizes one with all required details ; it shows a quick road to success.

• •

As long as men continue in that narrow selfish groove where to grab everything and give nothing is the motive of their lives, they will continue to suffer. This is the fault of our abominable commercial system,—and the laborer is as much to blame as the employer. The moment a man recognizes the oneness of all things, he says good-bye to selfishness, for he knows that generosity and loving cooperation lead to

that expansion which alone brings harmony. To give is to receive,—by the eternal law of reaction. Life is a system of interchange.

So few realize the depth of the word "spirit". To be spiritual is to order one's life according to a profound and absolute standard; instead of the letter or the evanescent appearance. Spirit means breath or life; our life, mental and physical, is the result of atmospheric conditions, the vibratory breathings of Nature. To be spiritual is to be truly natural. It is not to be tied to any man's system, or teaching, or principles; it is to be free. It is to recognize the eternal fitness of all. This is the spirituality that guides into realms of truth and thus leads to greater dominion and power.

Many people who are everlastingly shouting for "Truth" are not willing to accept it when it is offered them. You take the average person, and nothing so disturbs him as too much plain fact. Another characteristic of some "truthful" people is the way they think they get out of the sin of lying. Prevarication, hypocrisy, deceitful actions, they consider all right,—but a square lie will never pass their lips. What difference is there? It does not do to speak the whole truth in and out of season;—in fact nobody does. I think the worst deception is self deception. The only thing we can do is to speak the truth when expedient, and try to adjust things so that these times of expediency come oftener;—to be as candid and sincere as possible,—even if only for our own sake; for candor is character.

There is something about the trees and flowers that gives one a feeling of security. There is an atmosphere of Life about the whole external world, in spite


of the transient appearances of decay. What inspirations, what ideals, are born from the simplicities of outdoor natural life! And how different when one comes to the cities! Man in his efforts to "civilize" and "cultivate" has produced such disfigurements on the earth. Still I know these are all passing. I know that our cities, great centres of human action, shall be yet transformed: where there shall be habitations of beauty, temples of welcome industry, halls and palaces of a people redeemed from Ignorance and its accompanying bonds. I know that Life all around, in the country and city, is even now taking on new phases of growth, and very very soon will APPEAR in more noble aspects.




Mr. Harmsworth, the Napoleon of Journalism, it would appear is trying to get hold of all the periodicals on earth; he runs thirty different dailies, weeklies, and monthlies in England now, while yet a young man of a little over thirty. A few years ago he was a struggling clerk; he now has an income of millions. He says the secret of his success is summed up in the word Concentration. There is a suggestion here for you.

The same Mr. Harmsworth says something about the greatest desirable achievement of the Twentieth Century being the Conquest of Pain. There is another suggestion here. Even the men out in the world of commerce are forced to recognize the growth of man, and his approaching redemption from the negations and crippling conditions that have so long held him in bondage. But it is not so much the conquest of Pain that is to be the mark of the twentieth century as the birth of a recognition of man's oneness with the Infinite Power; this consciousness will place him where the forces of nature become tools in his hands, serving him, obeying him; then shall there be


a reign of harmony. And we are even now commencing to rule, entering a kingdom of consciousness immortal, positive; yes we are commencing to reign; we feel a growing sense of mastership.



Carrie Nation, the woman who has been traveling over the country, hatchet in hand, smashing the saloons and beer shops, is raising some all round cyclones: I wonder where it will end. When a woman starts out to reform something, she goes at it without any temporizing: she intends to win,—making the end justify the means. Carrie has set an example which has been quickly followed by other women. One can't help admiring their bravery and determination. Drink is a tyrant that works more misery than anything else: it destroys homes, saps up mental and physical energy,—no words are too strong to inveigh against Intemperance. Do I approve of prohibiting the sale of liquor? No,—rather would I teach men how to live—how to be temperate—how to use all nature's gifts in the best way: this is how science treats things. Still I am always amused, in fact quite interested, in the exploits of all revolutionists and "cranks". For their warlike measures certainly make people think.



We are like swimmers in the Ocean of Life: waves tempestuous seem to battle against us, but we pass beyond them, traveling ever traveling towards the goals we see in the distance: and when we reach our goals, we again dash out, seeking new and brighter shores,—until at last we feel at home both on land and sea, in repose and action;—we have then reached the only goal worth living for: the goal of Universal Consciousness, which leads to endless paths of Mastery.



The Age of Art

They say the golden age is past: but a greater age is before us—the age of Art. The word Future carries inspiration with it. We look to the past, we glance around at the present: and we say that while things are as they are, life is not worth living; but the magic word Future presents itself to us, and thrills of enthusiasm take hold of us, forcing us on, on, to a life to be.

But when, and where? The Ideals of something better than the grind and common-place of life to-day spread themselves out before our mental vision in filmy gauze-like shapes: only as half developed forms do we see them. And we follow them, hardly realizing their significance, but with a spiritual insight believing they are guides leading the way to better conditions, prophecies of things as they shall become—even in tangible material—real, most real.

There is no death. Everything returns. Periodicity reigns throughout every realm in nature, conscious as well as unconscious. What appears to die only throws aside its worn-out garments; it returns on the scene of action newly clothed, expressing always a higher degree of life.

The soul clothes itself with a body which is the symbol, the expression, of character gained through experience.

In Art is found the acme of expression. It points to a state of Harmony divine which must be shown forth in living reality, as the Ideal rises into forms of greater coherence. Art is a token of encouragement, a symbol of earnest import; it is the herald of a new life.

With almost impatient zeal, the reformers of the

world have smashed in pieces systems manufactured by men in days of ignorance. And so has Nature's demand for progress been followed and obeyed. Harsh indeed have often been the measures used by these reformers; crude and imperfect results have often followed their efforts; but these things were all steps. We can surely do better now, since we know more. We have more light now, and can follow out our plans to greater advantage. We know more definitely what we are about; our minds are freed from the superstitions which checked our forefathers' efforts.

And what are we seeking? Only more life.

We are seeking to destroy the shadow of death that rests on everything,—symbol of negation only necessary in an embryonic state of purgation. We are seeking to personify our ideals of immortality, eternity, infinity; seeking to express our very highest and best—our sublimest conceptions.

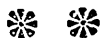
To make Life itself an art,—fearing not to tear down the ugly misshapen portrayals of life, and from their debris refashioning semblances more worthy of to-day's Ideal! To separate the veils that cling right and left hiding the sunshine of Reality! To crush the shells of artifice and fraud—shells that choke out the life if they remain beyond their due season! This is the work of Art.

And first in language uttered by strong emotions, impulses yearning for more air, more life, more freedom,—faintly ushered into the open in letters, music, painting, the Ideal is expressed. But further on must we go. These are only toys. What is Art if it is merely something for the most transitory amusement? To be real, it must have flesh and blood, it must find an entrance, a very transmutation, into every detail of the common life.

And it shall! Like bells in the distance pealing a silvery tune of gladness, like the wings of angels flut-

tering on the breezes, like celestial choirs chanting sweet songs of ecstasy,—the earth is being filled with new hopes, new vibrations of delight.

With arms outstretched, eyes glistening, the whole body reaching out with divine impulses,—men and women are leading on to a greater golden age, an age of Art, to be here, on earth; a regime of existence based on Love,—a period and periods never ending of Harmony, of Joy, of Peace.



AN IMMORTAL CONSCIOUSNESS

This is the age when all things are REACHING OUT. —when all things are getting nearer to REALIZATION. CONSCIOUS IMMORTALITY! When no longer being born and reborn, coming and going with the tides and seasons, emerging for a little while out into the open, then being submerged again in that unknown sea we call death,—we at last reach the place where we touch the keys of destiny and become masters! There is nothing but Life,—and those who have been in the past, and are now being in the present, apparently engulfed by Nature's dashing forces,—are really and truly forever alive, immortal;—none can lose—all are ensured inheritors of life's kingdom. Still, we who are as it were clasped in the embrace of a New Ideal, possessed by great spiritual energies which impel us to create, yes to create consciously a new order of existence,—we are (almost impatiently) working and waiting for the establishment, the incarnate expression of an immortal, a continuous, consciousness.



The Spirit of Venture

What a vast amount of mental suffering we have gone through, simply because we have been filled with terror over something or other. There is not a move upward that has been made without some sort of fear. There is an excuse for fears in the early stages of movements or changes from former conditions ; but there is no excuse for the continuance of these fears.

There is something so deadening about fear. It calls "Halt" whenever our Ideals would press us on. It holds us back in a firm grip, if we give away to its suggestions.

We instinctively give the greatest honor to the hero ; and in the past, hero-worship has generally been paid to some renowned warrior. Bravery has always been considered as something to do with war.

While no doubt there is a certain dare-devil fearlessness about all professional fighters,—and a very commendable dauntless spirit it is,—still the soldier is anything but a model of ideal Courage. Boldness in the true sense is born of intelligence and not of brute force. The true spirit of Venture and dauntless action is for a defined progressive object, and is dictated by the highest motives of human interest.

The same with the individual's private affairs ; every really courageous action is in its nature a means of upliftment.

It would be better, if in all our activities we stopped to consider what we were about. So much is done blindly, impulsively,—hence the general disastrous consequences. The way in which the majority act would make one think Life was some accidental scheme of scramble and wild incoherent energy. Why don't men take a lesson from the orderly interaction

of forces in the kingdoms of Life which have not been disturbed by the hand of ignorant meddling humanity? The suns and stars, the minerals, vegetables, and many of the animals, move in a regular rhythmic motion: everything seems to be just in its place, until man comes along with his glimmering of knowledge, and causes universal discord with his arrangement of things.

But a moment's thought will explain this interference. The One Infinite Energy is finding in man a medium for conscious expression. And the dawn of Consciousness in him is naturally enough accompanied with many mistakes: for man has opened his eyes on a new world. Where before there was darkness, there is gradually appearing a Light, which at times is quite dazzling to his undeveloped sense of vision. And his emotions cause him to shrink with fear. Is it any wonder that he should be afraid, now that he is entering into fields of new and strange experiences?

Man is an explorer. He is surrounded by kingdoms of life and action, realms of unknown resources,—regions vast and deep beyond estimation. He exists to discover,—to unfold and develop the worlds of infinite potencies, here from all eternity,—waiting for the day when risen to a stage of consciousness divine, he should utilize these eternal energies, and fashion them into mediums of expression.

The hour has arrived for a new and higher consciousness on this earth. A glorious Century is this to be; it will see unfoldment after unfoldment,—the vanquishment of every fear; for Man now possesses Knowledge where hitherto he was ignorant,—a Knowledge that shall greatly increase, a Knowledge of things as they really are, and thus a prophetic Knowledge of things as they shall be.

The Future is born from your present thoughts. Hasten to rid yourself of foolish fears, and boldly take

a hand in the work of Emancipation. Do something to-day to rid yourself of those brain and body wearying spectres born of Ignorance. Break away from all the dead past, and open your eyes to the glorious outlook of the Future.



TO BE WELL-ROUNDED !

Have you reached that stage where absolutely nothing disgusts you?

Where Goodness you see imprinted on all things?

Where the Necessity of life's dark shades is obvious to you?

Where you perceive the advisability of being "business-like" as well as "æsthetic"?

Where Love, only Love, is your standard of righteous conduct?

Where Free-thought you recognize as the basis of progress?

Then you are well-rounded.

Then you are evenly balanced, and may sway a sceptre of authority :

Then you have control of Life's forces, and may use them as you desire.

So, Rise, Awake, O Sons and Daughters of Earth !
Enter into the Temple of Dominion. All Nature's treasures belong to the Awakened.

Divine Magnetic Lands

"I will make the most splendid race the sun ever shone upon, I will make divine magnetic lands. . . . I will make inseparable cities with their arms about each others necks, by the love of comrades."—Walt Whitman.

* * * *

Fading, fading away into the forgotten distance, —the old ideals of life and death, coming and going, good and evil,—the waverings of uncertainty, doubt, —are passing.

These many ages in the arms of struggling forces, —struggling for birth and expression; creature of incidents, incompetent to direct his fate; MAN is at last emerging into the open SPACE where there is Freedom, where there is Joy.

His limited Recognition which kept him in the bonds of contracted interests, narrow prison chambers of smothering selfishness,—is now expanding into a divine consciousness :

Where all things are recognized as ONE !

The Illusion of Separation is vanishing ;

The mists, veils, clouds, are dissolving.

The time for Negation is over :

The Day of Emancipation has arrived.

O Child of patience, long-suffering ; earnestly longing for your Soul's freedom : Life has a special message for you.

The meaning of Life is to be unfolded first to you.

For you are to be the interpreter of mankind : you are to open the door of the world's consciousness, and give men the Knowledge that shall alone save them.

You whose faith and love is ever active ; you who are always yearning for a new life, which even in your dreams only as yet appears in forms undefined and vague :

You who when occasion presents itself, seem gifted with super-human energy ; in order that things may be IMPROVED :

You, creators of worlds, natural leaders of the race,—scorned, maligned, hated by those who DON'T KNOW :

To YOU is given the MESSAGE first, of Life's beneficence, of its deeper meaning ; and you shall pass this message on.

The world needs leaders.

The ideals of life which have found expression in our present commercial system must all CHANGE.

The fondest dreams of poets and artists,—the celestial visions of mystics and the religious,—the great prophecies of the world's philosophers and teachers,—must now be fulfilled.

Only by loving cooperation can our world be transformed.

Those who by their native or cultivated determination of purpose, reach to the front in any movement, are only there to draw others on ; never to arrogantly domineer over their fellows.

For all are ONE !

And this Unity, as man's consciousness widens, finds expression in acts of Love.

Love is the consciousness of Unity !

And for the birth of this Universal Conscious-

ness, Life has waited ages and ages.

This is the Consciousness that masters all life's negations,—that places one in the seat of Authority;—that is Dominion.

This is the Consciousness that alone views one's Friend as one's Self.

This is the Consciousness that is the goal of Life; now at last, at last, beginning to find expression in the world.

It is in the world that Love ever seeks expression for its celestial impulses.

To change the order of Living, the codes of Society; to make new lands, new homes fitted for a race redeemed from Selfishness the sin of the past,—this is Your work, O Friends of Humanity, sweet children of Affection, Natural Leaders in Life's Evolution.



CALMNESS

Calmness is of such positive value, that I suppose nothing is so practically suggestive for one who would be mentally and physically strong. An attitude of Repose is essential for the attainment of Power. Each person is a medium or vehicle of Infinite Life; and a calm cool trustful state of mind allows the energies of Life to unfold into expression.



Decline of the Church

BY HUGH O. PENTECOST

That the influence of the Church, as an organization, upon the education, politics, commerce, trade, wars, and general life of the Christian nations is not what it once was cannot be successfully denied. The power of the Roman Catholic Church in the affairs of Europe is not what it was when rulers and people feared excommunication. New England is not as subservient to the Church as in the days of the Puritans. Men and women formulate their ideas and regulate their conduct with less regard to the Church than they did three hundred, two hundred, one hundred, or even fifty years ago. The influence of the Church to-day is more in the nature of public opinion than in herself as an organization. The politicians consider church members as voters, but they do not consider the Church as an authoritative organization. The free manner in which the daily papers patronize or criticize the Church in matters of doctrine or polity, shows that she cannot affect their advertising department, the newspaper's vulnerable point. In the warm months the people go on Sunday excursions, or bicycle riding, or off to their summer residences, or lie abed reading the Sunday papers, or spend Sunday evenings visiting at one another's houses, leaving the minister to preach to empty pews, if the meeting house is not closed.

Some persons blame the ministers for this decline, but that is a mistake. The ministers of to-day are better educated, better preachers, and better all-round men than ever before. They are not responsible for the decline of the Church, nor can they prevent it.

They are part of the Church. Whatever occurs to the Church occurs to them. The causes of the prosperity or decline of the Church lie outside of them.

Nor is the Church to blame for her own decline. The pterodactyl and mastodon were not responsible for their disappearance. They were the victims of environment. The same is true of the Church. When legends were more acceptable than history; when theology was more certain than science; when hell was a physical reality, the only escape from which was through the Church; when the universe was believed to be controlled by two powers, God and Satan, Satan being stronger than God, and every person as much afraid of one as the other; when authority was the arbiter of fate, the Church flourished. The environment was favorable. But just as history supersedes fable, and science modifies theology, and hell passes out of men's minds, where alone it ever existed, and the universe is understood to be the expression of one power, and that a wholly good power, and authority counts for nothing as against truth, the Church declines. The environment is unfavorable.

Nor is that decline temporary. It is not possible for the Church to adjust herself to the new environment. The Unitarian Church is trying to do this, but her history shows that persons who leave, or do not join the orthodox churches, do not generally become Unitarians. If they do not abandon a religious life, they develop a faith which finds the Church unnecessary.

And the effort now making to have the Church meet the recreative needs of the people will not stem the tide that is setting against the Church, for the reason that society, the theatre, clubs, gymnasiums, billiard rooms and similar places of amusement perform this mission better than the Church can. If the Rev. Dr. Rainsford ever succeeds in establishing his proposed Protestant Episcopal liquor saloon, he will find that it

cannot compete with other places of the ordinary kind.

The first effect, in many minds, of the discoveries of modern science was the wreck of the prevailing theology, and in some persons religion itself appeared to be destroyed. Supernaturalism received a death blow. But we are now discovering that science leads us up to a religious faith broader, deeper, grander than that which the Church teaches. We are coming to believe more than the Church does, though we cannot define the power in which we believe, further than to proclaim our belief, that it is all-powerful, all-wise, all-good, and that it makes no mistakes. We understand Jesus better than the Church does. To the Church he is a theological abstraction. To many outside of the Church he is a great and good brother, who teaches us much that is worth knowing. We know that we are not lost and never can be lost; that we are here, in our places; that we always have been and always shall be in our places; that all things are in their places, "working together for good." We are at peace about God and immortality. We do not understand either, and are not curious, but we know that the Church understands no more than we do, and could not satisfy any curiosity we might have.

We respect the Church. We know that it has its place and is doing its work, and will continue until its work is done. We simply do not need what it has to offer—its theological discussions, baptisms, ceremonies; and we can do our work better outside of it than inside.

The Church is declining, not because the world is growing irreligious, but because it is growing religious; because it no longer fears either the devil or God; because it is working out an idea of religion in which there is no place for fear. The man or woman who goes to the woods, or fields, or seashore, or river-

side on Sunday, because he loves them and what he gets from them, is more religious than those who go to church for fear of God who is believed to punish Sabbath-breakers.

It has been demonstrated that neither persecution, unbelief, infidelity, nor atheism can overthrow the Church. She has successfully fought the iconoclasts of all ages. But the power she cannot resist is that broad, high, deep faith in the Supreme Wisdom, Power and Goodness, which lifts men out of organized systems of religion into the heights, lengths and breadths of that real religion, whose temple is the universe, whose altars are everywhere, whose creed is kindness, and whose priest is the servant of all.



HUMANITY IS ONE

What are you going to do to lessen the misery of the world? It is no use shutting your eyes to it. Neither is it any use weeping over it. What cool collected practical work are you doing to raise humanity onto a higher plane of action? Through men's ignorance, more or less wilful, the world is torn asunder into tribes and classes; and systems of religion and society have been created to make the divisions still wider apart. Have you stopped to think, and question the reason of such a universal order of chaos? Do you ask what CAN you do? You can at least start at once to order your actions according to Nature's principle of Love and Solidarity. You can at least try yourself to *LIVE up to the recognition of Humanity as a Unit.*



Returning To Nature

At first glance it would almost appear that we had receded instead of progressed with the centuries. We read historic stories of such periods of love and happiness, when men who had not been "gifted" with the "privileges" of civilization, lived close to nature; who were strong and hardy,—and though possibly having less cool analytical intellectuality than people of the modern western world, yet had a deep intuitive consciousness of nature's laws.

But we have not receded. While as a race we have seemed to become more split asunder, as the centuries rolled on; the separation has only been for a short and necessary season; we have been to school; we have been shut away from the wholeness of life, that we may be all the more acquainted with its special details.

Everything in life is good, because all varieties of experience are necessary in Nature's Evolution.

The glories, so long dreamed about, of conscious union and participation with the infinite things of Life, we are now realizing as possible, with the retention of our individuality.

Nature has evolved us as distinct individuals that we may become mediums of consciousness. Matter furnishes a matrix, out of which may be born the Form or Expression: this is the Physical Necessity, without which there is no consciousness.

Whatever life there may be beyond our present existence, it is certain that it is of the same nature, the extension of this life.

It is only logical, that that which IS, must be the BEST: so why weep and mourn? Is it not more REASONABLE to patiently investigate and learn more

about the Plan of the Universe, and find out our relation to existence?

And when we bravely take this stand, we are soon assured that for better results, all that is required is our loving cooperation with Nature's laws,—which springs from a deeper consciousness of our real being.

We gain this deeper consciousness, by steadily, with no wavering, centering our thoughts and actions on what is before us.

This is Concentration; the Concentration that becomes a habit, entering into every detail of our life: and it is the keynote of every achievement and of true happiness.

It is all but proved that those who have left us are reborn on earth, to continue their growth and development.

What is a few score years for an individual's development? And I cannot imagine that Individual Character, which is evidently the object of existence, is lost at death.

So when I look around and see the universal alternating or periodical ROUNDS which are stamped on everything in Nature, I conclude that there is something in the ancient teaching of Reincarnation. Then I like to think of the days in the past when I,—this individual I,—used to LIVE. How I once lived so close to Nature, that I could understand her suggestions; and I long to return again: but not to the same state of the past: for have I not been through a school of valuable experiences, all these centuries? I shall therefore return all the better equipped.

We are all returning to Nature. The ugly features in our cities, have got to go. The Ideals of mankind are returning to Nature. There shall be an Immortal Race on Earth. The world shall become altogether lovely. Labor, Recreation, Science, Love, Art,—all the things that make up existence shall be like trib-

utaries to an infinite Consciousness finding expression in varieties of personalities.

Everything is rising, rising. This is the Day of Resurrection and Judgment. All is Life. All is Good. There is no Death. There is no Evil. To EVERY-ONE shall the Judge, even the Spirit of Truth, the Light of Recognition, say: "WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL ONE."

And with these words of Encouragement, men and women from every land shall renew, revivify, the Earth.

Not all at once, however, shall the Truth find such a universal Expression: for some will lag behind in the valley of Negation. But I can see thousands rising out of the Darkness, listening to their angel-counselor, even their own native genius of Intuition, which is saying: "Lead on; O you whose minds have been enlightened. Lead on; and others will most surely follow."



FREEDOM AND RESTRAINT

True Freedom implies a measure of restraint. It is in a wholesome temperance that we find happiness. Everything is environed with a certain limitation; the latter is really complementary to expansion. So let the wings of our imagination act in concord with our organs of sense; that they may together fashion new and beautiful works. To be free is to be fearless: to live WITHIN an atmosphere of harmony and peace.



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