To the brave men and women, living and dead, who under God have helped build and protect the Republic of the United States of America.
“Not by arms, nor by force, but by My spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.”

Zechariah iv 6
Table of Contents

No. 1 Introduction
No. 2 The Opening of New Frontiers
No. 3 Testing Times
No. 4 The Aftermath of War
No. 5 Our Place in the Plan
No. 6 The Return to Sanity
No. 7 Our Greatest Need
No. 8 The Enemy Within
No. 9 Co-Workers with God
No. 10 Our Accountability
No. 11 Difficulties, Always Opportunities
No. 12 The Real Purpose of Living
No. 13 Right About, Face!
No. 14 “Thy Servant Heareth”
No. 15 Triumphant Faith
No. 16 Rain and Tears
No. 17 What is Prayer?
No. 18 The Secret of Vibration
No. 19 The Joy of Creation
No. 20 The Law of Change
No. 21 The Power of Love
No. 22 The Vital Need of Spiritual Knowledge
No. 23 The Mystery That Is Man
No. 24 The Dawn of the Tomorrows
No. 25 Rest in the Law
No. 26 “The Unobstructed Universe”
No. 27 The Presence
No. 28 The Habit of Hope
No. 29 The Tide of Opportunity
No. 30 Blind Flying
No. 31 The Future of the Republic
No. 1

Introduction

In the course of the centuries God's plan for men evolves. There is nothing forced, nothing haphazard. The plan grows as the flower grows according to immutable laws. No foolish ideas of crazed humanity, no selfish greed of individuals who misuse their power, no hopeless patchwork due to the breaking of Divine Law can change the steady onward march of events. "Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small." Justice rules, not blindly, her eyes obscured by the tapestry of time, but in full light of day with knowledge of the ultimate end in the working of the great plan for men.

Have we then no part in this vast panorama of changeless law? That depends entirely on us. We may work with the law or against it. We may help or hinder. Eventually, however, the ultimate aim appears. If we have been in the way of the sure and steady onward march of the Divine planning, so much the worse for us. If, on the contrary, we have remained true to the highest we know, steady in the midst of the warring cross-purposes of selfish and wicked men, we are truly blessed as faithful soldiers of the Great King.

The purpose of this book is to show God's hand in the plan for America and our part therein. We
shall devote sufficient time to the past to bring out clearly the causes set in motion and the logical effects thereof in the pattern of the future. Just as each individual life plan has its own characteristic pattern, torn and discolored as the threads may be, so each nation, each country is weaving steadily a tapestry of its own, made up of the people whose destiny is inextricably intertwined in the fabric, be it tarnished or glorious.

You will need the vision of the eagle to catch the mountain summits and the valley shadows. No individual and no nation travels horizontally over sunlit plains. Progress is not so easy; evolution not so unobstructed. The law of life appears to be struggle—yes, the survival of the fittest. But we are emerging from the days of brute strength. We are moving into higher planes, mental and spiritual. Progress is slow but nonetheless sure, slower for some than for others, depending on the motive that is the ruling passion.

As for individuals, so for nations. Each nation is made up of individuals. If the mass thinking, so-called, is easily directed by those who pull the strings, we have a people of puppets, for whom the path is long and difficult. Each must in the final analysis think for himself, in the mass but not of it.

The way of such has always been the path of martyrdom. It is much easier to go with the crowd than against it. The prophets have ever been stoned and put to death. But no people have at any
GOD'S COUNTRY

time been totally deprived of light and leading if they have eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts to understand.

Roll back the pages of Time to the origin of the Republic of the United States of America and begin to catch a glimpse of the part to be played in the drama of the nations by a people who started out few in number—a mere handful, such as were the early apostles—pitted against overwhelming strength and apparently hopeless odds.
In the foregoing chapter we outlined in broad principles the course of destiny as helped or hindered by individuals. We made clear that nothing can stay the onward march. Though there may be apparent retrogression, the main arc is always upwards. The race moves in spirals: one period may be lower than others preceding but it never reaches the ultimate depth. Each sliding back is a little higher than the one before, as is each upward curve. We are measuring now by group average, not by individuals.

When this country was first touched by the white race, a form of civilization prevailed which in its knowledge of Nature’s laws and its realization of the Great Spirit was highly ethical. We have yet to recover some of the spiritual treasures which were the possession of the Indian tribes from whom we wrested this continent. The time had come for their decline and fall, however, as a new day dawned in the onward march.

All who came had ventured into the unknown in search of freedom, wider horizons. This is the dream which has inspired all humanity from the dawn of Time. In man’s heart is ever the whisper of hope for better days, better opportunities to make his longings realities. Not a soul but strug-
GOD'S COUNTRY

gles toward a lost horizon on its return to the homeland of the Spirit! In the light of common day among the swine these vague stirrings toward better things may seem to disappear, but some time somehow the soul will claim its birthright and struggle on to reach its spiritual goal.

It was not an easy road for the Colonial fathers and mothers. Physical hardship was theirs, privation and suffering, constant danger, even torture and death. But the pioneer spirit admits no defeat. Ever onward it marches to the land of its dreams. A mere handful of Colonials pushed back the French and the Indians, the English and the Hessians. Weaker men and women would have succumbed, but God was with them as they kept their powder dry.

God was with them, too, as brave and wise leaders framed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Always in the time of crisis on the upward path a great soul incarnates to carry out the mandates of the Law. He may not be conscious in his physical brain that he is a channel through which higher forces operate. But operate they do as long as their instrument through prayer and faith, through one-pointed devotion to a great aim, keeps the channel open. If God be with such, who can be against them? Turn back the pages of history even to Biblical days and study the miraculous escapes, the incredible overcoming of terrific obstacles. The story is there for all to see: nothing can stop the Divine Plan. To
GOD'S COUNTRY

understand, we must have the key, the knowledge of the mystery that is man.

After the thirteen original States had formed their union, the work was only begun. A great continent remained to be explored and settled. So commenced the long march Westward—brave men and women, who, unknowing to themselves, were instruments in the plan. Their lives make a story of the hardship of unsung heroes, a story marked by simple graves across the plains, along the mountain slopes. Nothing could stop the march, however.

Then came the men who could dream dreams in the mental world and catch the vision of steamship, railroad, telephone and telegraph. They, too, had their suffering in the laughs of the ignorant, the insults of the crowd. The half-cracked inventor, the man ahead of his time, has always been a favorite target for those who have no vision. Nonetheless under the guidance of God the work went on as new frontiers opened, both physical and mental, and the time was ripe for another great testing—the Civil War.
There can be no soul growth without testing. Just as a school requires examinations to measure the progress of its pupils, so the law of life is inexorable in its demands on those from whom great action is expected. The young Republic came to the testing-time with a measure of protection, the guidance of a great leader. It remained, however, for the people themselves to prove their worth. Under blood and tears North and South struggled through to eventual unity though the leader fell when his work was only partly finished. The nation as a unit was preserved; it remained only for Time to heal the wounds on both sides.

Other periods of testing followed, financial and political. Meanwhile the country developed by leaps and bounds in spite of the fact that we muddled through many situations with any but noble motives. Dark splotches marred the pattern, imperfect weaving, threads torn and discolored. The material side of life assumed grotesque proportions. The almighty dollar loomed triumphant. The marts of trade disfigured the courts of the temple. Periodically when the need arose, the money-changers had to be driven out as great financial panics shook the country. Then the mad
GOD'S COUNTRY

whirl began again. New crops of millionaires sprang like mushrooms from the ruins.

In spite of this criminal and insane emphasis on money, institutions of learning developed. The great public school system grew with its free high schools and colleges. Parents who in youth had been denied the opportunities of so-called education resolved that their children should have what they themselves had lacked. A worthy and noble aim in and of itself! Wherein was the tragedy? For tragedy there was and is.

Let us examine the schools. They have done much good. They have opened new doors to hungry minds. They have made possible avenues of promotion whereby young men and women could raise themselves from the environment into which they were born. They have given earnest young souls a backbone instead of a wishbone. They have made valuable contacts possible to hungry minds.

We often question, however, whether instead of bread we have offered a stone. How many young hearts have been thrilled by spiritual vision? How many souls have been illumined by "the light that never shone on land or sea?" How have we answered the questions that gnaw at the vitals of every thinking being? Where do we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going? Is life merely "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing?"

As you think over your own period of education, did you ever have even the suggestion of an an-
GOD’S COUNTRY

swer to these questions? Or did your school, your college send you out to conquer the world, armed only with the pride of intellect and the snobbish security of being better than the ignorant man in the street? Is it any wonder with false conceptions so rampant that humanity had to be called to another halt lest it destroy itself?

Even in this America, this hope of the world, this great Republic founded on faith and prayer—to say nothing of brawn and sweat—even here in the last few decades it has become intellectually fashionable to question the existence of God, to teach the overthrow of all the tested standards of the past—yes, the long tried principles of morality as based on Biblical concepts. We have been turning out our young with no guide whatever except the two-edged sword of self-expression. But which self-expression, the higher or the lower? How many even know there is a Higher Self?

We cannot blame the schools entirely for this monstrous miscarriage of education. Look at the homes of our people today. Many have become just a place to hang one’s hat. Autos, movies, radios, dance halls with gyrating idiots in a frenzy of jungle antics—where is there a real home? The young must have the “good time” which perhaps their parents lacked. What “good time?” Where does such emphasis on so-called pleasure inevitably lead?

Do not consider this a one-sided picture of only a small section of American life. The poison has
GOD'S COUNTRY

permeated our whole structure from top to bottom. We have been consistently levelling down, not up. We have been in a fair way of committing national suicide. If our young people have remained decent and self-respecting in spite of our criminal negligence it is due to the God within them, for in the young is the hope of the world.
No. 4

The Aftermath of War

Such dangerous laxity as discussed in the preceding chapter could not fail to meet with tragic repercussions. At a time when religious faith was at a dangerously low ebb, another great World War developed. We had not learned the lesson of the holocaust of 1917-1919. The reaction from that was downward. An “eat, drink and be merry” philosophy prevailed in the frenzied attempts of those who had come out of the hell of the trenches to put horror behind them. The worst effect, as always, was on the young. It became “smart” to carry a flask and carouse till morning.

One blood bath was not enough. We had not yet learned the lesson that no people can flout God with impunity. The youth of the world had to be saved while they were yet young enough to be rescued from the atheistic training to which they were being subjected. Death has become the salvation of many young men. The teachers beyond the veil will insofar as the receptivity of their pupils permits undo at least some of the crimes perpetrated against the innocent in the name of so-called progress.

What of our own flesh and blood, our bravest and best, the flower of our land? Will they emerge purified by fire from their ordeal? It remains to be
GOD’S COUNTRY

seen. Of the help given those who cross the border we have no doubt. But what sort of America will await those who return? Wounded bodies, suffering hearts and minds, broken hopes—what of them?

Of course, in the final analysis, each human being must perforce work out his own salvation. Each must climb his own rocky precipice and descend into his own valley of the shadow. Even so, that does not preclude a helping hand when the going is rough, a light of guidance when the path is dark. Is it to be another case of the blind leading the blind until both fall over the cliff?

Our boys in the jungles, the deserts, the mountains, the islands, the air and the sea—our blood sacrifices in the four corners of the earth—call out to us. What will our answer be? To what sort of America will they return?

In the deepest night of human agony, from Gethsemane to the present, one course and one only avails—prayer and faith. The God within and without can do far more for us than we can ask or think. He needs, however, our recognition of the fact. He may knock at the door but we must open. He may speak but our hearts must hear. It takes two to give and to receive.

In the hour of danger we instinctively turn to prayer, even the most hard-boiled of us. What is going to happen when this immediate fear of physical destruction has passed and the slower and more subtle peril of moral deterioration
GOD'S COUNTRY

creeps in upon us? When our cry is loud enough and sincere enough, when we have earned the right, a great leader will come again. Will the wise men see his star? Will the shepherds on the hills hear the angelic choirs? Shall we be ready to understand his message and to follow?

In spite of all our mistakes the Republic still has a chance to survive. The time of testing will not end with the close of this war and the return of those who still remain to continue the struggle on the physical plane. Struggle there will be, fierce and desperate. We must always remember, however, that the Divine Purpose will prevail in spite of the sins of humanity.

Since the need is so desperate we should use every way possible to meet it. The supreme conviction that should inspire every American from this point on is the sure faith that under God we cannot fail.
As a teacher outlines the work of his class for the day, week, month and term, as the business man takes inventory of his stock and looks to the needs of the coming year, as the physician diagnoses the causes of illness and studies the remedies for their cure, as wise parents give their children the training which is to equip them for the future—just so should we, as Americans, look at our country, realize its place in the scheme of things and proceed under God to make that place secure. We dare not fail in this glorious destiny. Too many have made the supreme sacrifice. Life may seem cheap but we have been told that not a sparrow falls to earth unnoticed.

Wherein have we erred that so many had to fall before their time? Some of these causes have already been made clear. Others remain to be brought to light.

It has become the fashion to scoff at the past. Books have been written to throw mud at our national heroes. We have even sidetracked the teaching of American history. Next in line for the mud-slingers have been the founders of our vast fortunes. Granted that some of them became unscrupulous, the fact remains that they helped open this great continent. The relics of an earlier time
GOD'S COUNTRY

meet with ridicule: the stiff-necked Puritans, chaperones, family prayer, church-going, Sunday school, the good old horse and buggy—anachronisms all, in the whirling jazz of the present. All the past, good and bad, must be thrown into the discard and the so-called new used for wild and reckless experimentation. We forget that there is nothing new under the sun. We ignore the fact that much of this so-called new has been tried before and miserably failed.

Even so we are not shutting our eyes to progress. We do not mean worship of the past to the point of stagnation. There must be growth or the organism dies. Study Nature and her way of working. Continuous growth and development, the new oak rising from the acorn of the old. Orderly progress, steady evolution! The past cannot be separated from the present, or the present from the future. All are one in the Eternal Now.

When this country has fulfilled its purpose it will decline and give way to a new off-shoot. That time has not yet come. If it is forced, the ruin will be absolute.

At the moment the condition seems most hopeless, the change is near. Nothing is static. There must be recovery or a complete change of condition. The time is fast approaching when such a crisis will arise. We must be ready. “Forewarned is forearmed.”

Our fighting men are coming home—some of them. Will there be triumphant marches up the
GOD’S COUNTRY

avenues of our great cities? Will flags fly, bands play, confetti fall in clouds, sidewalks and windows be packed with wildly applauding spectators? Will a veritable hysteria of joy sweep the nation?

After the ball, what then? The search for work, the growing conviction that medals are baubles, the inability to pick up sundered relationships, bitterness, disillusion, despair! Is this too dark a picture? It happened after the last war to many. If our boys do find their souls in the face of death, they will solve their own individual problems in due course. We hope there will be many such. We hope triumphant faith and courage will survive in the light of common day when the bands have ceased to play and there is no longer need to wade through jungles, man bombers, dodge oncoming shot and shell. The excitement of thrilling adventure, if war is ever thrilling, the loss of the personal self in the supreme need of the fighting unit—all these will be gone. The humdrum life of common day begins again. How can we help our men make this readjustment?

We can make it our business that they get jobs. We can see to it that they have the chance to complete unfinished educations. We must never forget the broken bodies and minds in our hospitals. A great work of reconstruction lies ahead.

To meet these issues, some of them too complicated for unaided human power, we shall be forced to our knees, for alone we can do nothing. If, however, we work with God, trusting in Him
GOD'S COUNTRY

for light and leading, all things are possible. Noah rode safe in the ark; Daniel escaped death in the lions' den; Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego emerged unscathed from the fiery furnace; Peter followed the angel out of prison, unseen and unharmed. Triumphant faith led them all the way.

We cannot all at once raise ourselves to this exalted consciousness. We can, however, begin, for "Now is the accepted time." If we are to be ready for our fighting men when they return, if we are to help them in the years ahead, we must start now to acquaint ourselves with our own hidden power. Daily communion with the Highest we know will give us inspiration and guidance under God to see our place in the work ahead that we may equip ourselves to fill it.
No. 6

The Return to Sanity

How can this be done? We have gone so far into the bypaths of dense materialism that some will find the rest of this book as fantastic as Shangri-La. Will it be possible for us to have once more the faith of a little child that we may find our lost way into the kingdom of heaven? A chosen few have done so, more than the world knows, but most who have had the glimpse have lost and forgotten it or have labeled the rare moment of higher consciousness a fleeting dream.

The steps are definite and clear. You can find them all in the teachings of the mystics. Suppose we begin with a few old, old sayings: “Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” “Where your treasure is there will your heart be also.” “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.”

Many movements of comparatively recent years have emphasized the power of thought: Christian Science, Mental Science, New Thought. They have done much good in their emphasis on man as a spiritual being. They have driven home the realization that as we think, so we are, that thoughts are things, that all begins with thought, which sooner or later finds material expression. There is nothing new in this philosophy. Plato taught it;
GOD’S COUNTRY

Christ and Paul. We are told in the scriptures to think only those thoughts which are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. Why? Because we attract to ourselves the conditions that our thought creates.

The danger, as we see it, in some of these movements is the concentration on personal advantage, regardless of the other fellow. If our politicians had not through the years thought first and foremost of themselves, we should not now be in the chaotic mess in which we find ourselves. Words, words, words—safe behind the lines—while the mangled bodies and ruined lives of our young cry like the blood of Abel from the earth for vengeance.

"Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

"It is impossible but that offenses will come: but woe unto him through whom they come!"

Woe if not in this world, certainly in the next! We don’t like to think about the next world. Many people today believe there is no life but this, here and now. Every man to his own taste, but some day bitter indeed will be the awakening. Evil to be made good, opportunities lost to be sought again in nerve-wracking effort, the gaps in the pattern to be filled and the torn places rewoven. Time lost, needless agony!

We must meet the conditions of this plane of existence while we are in it, but the point we are making here and now is that man is a spiritual
being, put in a material world to find his way back to the homeland which he has through his own mistakes temporarily lost but to which he must return. This is all important. As spiritual beings what can we do for the Republic of the United States of America, the country we love and cherish, though wicked men have sold her down the river?

We must think of her as restored to her pristine integrity. We must picture her as growing in the grace of God under wise leaders who live only to serve the Divine purpose. We must never lose the vision that such leaders will come when the time is ripe.

First and foremost, however, we must take stock of ourselves. Where do we stand? "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." We shall not all make the same choice. It will in the end make no difference in the final outcome of the fate of our Republic, but it will make a vital difference in the fate of those who choose.
No. 7

Our Greatest Need

UNLESS we have this vision of the days ahead and plan to meet the problems even before they arise, we shall lose valuable time. What is then our greatest need? A high standard of morality! We say this without any mental reservation whatsoever. The tragedy of the last war must not be repeated. We started out badly in this war. Young girls roaming the streets, homes broken in the total lack of parental care, wholly mistaken ideas in immature minds who have no knowledge of what life is all about. It is always bitter when tragic experience takes the place of wise counsel. We do not have to stick our fingers into the fire to know fire burns. The experience of the race should count for something; the fruit of all that experience is embodied in the moral law. The young today in too many instances scorn the past, scorn their elders. Can we blame them?

Look again at the influences to which we have subjected our children, for children many of them are, young souls in dire need of wise guidance. Look at the stage, the screen, current novels, jazz music, questionable songs,—yes, the whole sorry mess that spells the slogan of self-expression at any cost. The law of cause and effect, of sowing
and reaping completely ignored! We have sown the wind and may expect the whirlwind.

The one ray of hope in this miserable situation is the inherent good sense and inborn decency of many of our young. But we must guard against disillusionment and despair when our boys return.

Women were given the vote in the high hope that they would help make a better world. Is it not time that mothers, wives, sisters, daughters took stock of themselves and their obligations? Many fine women have borne heavy burdens all their lives. There are always the few who are the salt of the earth. The time is coming, however, when the few must become the many if the race is to survive. We do not mean to paint too dark a picture but we must face the future equipped to meet it.

We have had crises before. We have come through them with varying degrees of success. Unhappily the days ahead find us ill-prepared. We have gone so far away from spiritual fundamentals. Let us examine again some of these fundamentals. We have spoken of man the spiritual being as a concept lost by many who wander in the fog of materialism. We have stressed the basic need of high standards of morality. It is only by the practice of the highest we know that we can evolve toward new concepts and still more lofty ideals. Immersed in the light of common day, we completely forget the glory from which we came and to which we must eventually return. If we can
GOD'S COUNTRY

spare ourselves needless wandering, needless suffering, it is only the part of common sense to open our minds to new visions of truth and begin to prepare for the climb ahead.

In his "Farewell Address" Washington stresses the need of religion and morality. Too many have thrown these concepts into the discard. Everything old is taboo. Merrily onward we must go in rash experimentation, the blind leading the blind.

The world cannot throw God overboard. Look at us today, headed for dictatorship. The right kind of dictator might be our temporary salvation in the chaos ahead. The wrong kind will set us back scores of years.

Since the need is so great, former leaders of our country now in the Beyond are in close touch with America. Abraham Lincoln still "walks at midnight." Ulysses Grant is an unseen adviser and inspirer in the councils of war. A host of unseen workers, great and small, are at the helm. Highly developed souls who have been far from the earth atmosphere are once more near, the need is so tremendous. In the noble brotherhood of service each lives only to hear the voice of the Leader and fearlessly to obey.

It will seem fantastic to some to believe in the "cloud of witnesses." Even such must admit the truth of inspiration, the flash called genius. Whence does it come? Surely the mystery of the radio can make these wireless messages through the ether more understandable. Instead of a material instru-
GOD'S COUNTRY

ment we have the human mind, keyed to varying rates of vibration according to the development of the individual. Those who can raise their consciousness to the required rate can catch the message. Under stress of great need, where motives are unselfishly for the good of the whole, miracles can and do occur.

There is exhilaration in this knowledge. The Unseen radiates its wisdom and power. We have only to put ourselves in a state of receptivity by keeping the channel clear and catching the inspiration. Such a time is now with us. We are never alone in peril. There is still the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. In fact the activity behind the scenes is even more intense than the storming of a bridgehead or the repulse of oncoming tanks. The walls of Jericho still fall if we know how to sound the trumpet. Don’t forget Washington at Valley Forge. Don’t forget Lincoln in the darkest hour of the Civil War. Don’t forget the turning of the tide at the Marne.

Do you see, then, the absolute necessity in the days ahead of God-fearing leaders in all fields of activity? The time has passed for experimentation. We need as never before a man of God, true to the principles on which this Republic was founded and for which so many gallant men have given their all, mown down before their time.

It is refreshing to read of faith in time of peril. We see instance after instance in the public press: shipwrecked men saved by a miracle, young voices
GOD'S COUNTRY

reading the burial service for fallen comrades,
Testaments carried as talismans.

What are we on the home lines thinking and planning? Are we complacently “letting John do it?” Is our chief interest lack of gas, scarcity of beef and butter, the high cost of living? With an emergency so glorious, calling for high adventure which may come once in a life time, again we ask ourselves, “What do we propose to do about it?” We each have our own place which no other can fill so well. Each one of us is a vital unit in the destiny of the whole.
No. 8

The Enemy Within

EVIL forces wait to attack. Our enemies are within our own household — rats, termites, vermin, seeking to destroy in darkness. National complacency has ever been a characteristic of this country. Our life in recent decades has been so easy. All that has seemed necessary is sufficient money to sit on a cushion and eat strawberries and cream. Meanwhile, far underneath the structure of our government, hidden in education, recreation, fashion — in short, all departments of our national and personal existence — the destroyers have been and are at work.

Many servicemen today say they have no illusions about this war. Another will come in thirty years. With such a philosophy what can save us? We do not blame the young who have lost their dreams. When youth becomes disillusioned, what is there ahead?

How vital it is to reconstruct our whole scheme of things! Pessimism never got anyone anywhere. We must “see life steadily and see it whole.” That means an immediate return to personal and to national integrity. Look around you and study the forces at work. Can you read between the lines? Can you glimpse the handwriting on the wall? Can you sit idly by and let everything you hold
GOD'S COUNTRY
dear be swept from under you? The time for sitting on the sidelines has long since passed. "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." Is it to be Christ or anti-Christ? We put this up to the people of America. Pussy-foot if you dare—and lose your Republic.

Once upon a time we had visions and dreamed dreams. Once upon a time hope sang in our hearts as we turned our faces Westward. Now even the young walk bewildered, bitter, with no future but untimely death and worse!

Are you going to let our country remain a playground for the forces of Evil? They are hard at work, making hay while the sun shines. They never had a better chance than now. They revelled in Atlantis, they had their fling in Sodom and Gomorrah, they inspired Nero as Rome burned, they have ever ridden the thunderbolts of war when all the devils are let loose, for war is hell, their native element.

One small hand in the dikes saved Holland. One fearless soldier has rescued many a lost cause. The psychological moment awaits a God-inspired soul and the day is won.

It may seem unnecessary to you to make such an ado about nothing. This is the best of all possible countries. We have all this and Heaven, too. For how long? Nothing remains in statu quo. All is constant change for better or for worse. Look around you. What are the signs of the times?

We have painted a true to life picture of the
GOD'S COUNTRY

lowering of moral standards. Corruption in public office is flagrant. You will say this has always been true. Has it? We hear a great deal today about freedoms. How much freedom of speech do we really have? How much freedom of the press? Under the guise of a war emergency we have been classified and rationed to the nth degree. Has this been necessary? Some years ago we killed all the little pigs. The bright boys in the seats of the mighty tried to dictate to the Lord about the lambing season. They had less success with Him than they have had with us. We have been herded like cattle, bullied and browbeaten, and we haven't had sense enough to see what was happening right under our noses.

When the war emergency is over, what then? Do we propose to let our country remain saddled with unseen but nonetheless real dictatorship? The discarded Constitution will have to be rescued from the dust-heap and restored to its old place of dignity and honor in our national life. Along with the Constitution must be found the original Bill of Rights. A third volume on the shelf of required reading and practice is the Holy Bible. A thorough house-cleaning is necessary from attic to cellar. Domestic problems will be indeed serious in many homes. National problems will require the cleaning of the Augaean stables.

After we have set our own house in order we can “rescue” the rest of the world. But any housekeeper knows that her own work is never done.
GOD'S COUNTRY

She has neither the time nor the strength to run the houses of her neighbors even if they would submit to such unwarranted interference.

Hope does not die. We shall muddle through and on and up if we take stock now of the days ahead and prepare to meet the crisis with the fear of God in our hearts. "God-fearing"—a beautiful word, though "quaint" and well-nigh obsolete.

"O watchman, what of the night?"

"Look to your lamps, my people, lest in darkness the enemy find you sleeping and take you unaware."
No. 9

Co-Workers with God

As time passes, new light illumines old truths. The light-bringers carry on in spite of rebuffs. Somewhere along the line will be those who will catch the torch until a conflagration arises which will illumine even the darkest shadows of willful ignorance.

This illumination cannot come all at once. Progress is slow until the time is ripe, but given the accepted moment growth is rapid and sure. Dark ages never endure forever. The Law works with light. We must ever center our consciousness within and above where shines the great Spiritual Sun. Then in the radiation of its perfect beauty we can ourselves reflect in the life around us the transcendent vision which has been ours. The Divine Love does blot out all our transgressions, that is true. We must, however, open the channels for Its expression in our lives as individuals and as a nation.

In the early days of the race we are told man walked with God in the Garden of Eden. We read of the Golden Age and find ourselves in the Iron Age, the black night of the soul. How did we lose our way? How can we find it again?

You may not believe that great hosts are at work in the invisible worlds, carrying on where
GOD'S COUNTRY

they left off here. In those higher realms where the law of service is the order of the day, constant progress for the race evolves. We cannot remain God's country unless we choose leaders in tune with these higher forces.

We have made such a slogan of freedom of religion that it has become apparently broad-minded to have no religion at all. Our public men should be statesmen, not politicians. A true statesman like all inspired workers knows that of himself he can do nothing. If he is a true instrument, he straightway becomes the man of the hour. This spiritual inflow should be the heart's desire of every citizen of the Republic. Under such inspiration and guidance nothing can go wrong. If "offenses must come," we shall have the wisdom to meet them as the Ship of State proceeds in safety to sail the seas of Time.

Let us recapitulate the points thus far made: God has a plan for this country; we are his co-workers in the carrying out of this plan; as co-workers we must begin to prepare the way for great changes ahead. This involves a thorough house-cleaning, first of ourselves so that we can set the house of our own life in order, second of our citizenry and the leaders to whom we entrust our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor. We have allowed our young to become the pawn of wicked men once too often. Where are you, O Mothers, that you permit the bodies and souls of that flesh of yours to become the tools of those
GOD’S COUNTRY

who hide their real purposes under high-sounding slogans? You have let your sons and daughters be exposed to vile pictures, vile plays, vile books. You have let them be turned into cannon fodder on foreign fields. You have sat on the sidelines in dazed stupor. You have even forgotten your prayers or this holocaust could never have happened.

Great wrongs remain to be righted. We can no longer go through life with blinkers on. If we are not to be completely overwhelmed in the fast approaching crisis we must begin now to take our place in the band of workers so sorely needed in the days ahead. How shall we find our place? Leave that to God. Prayer and the readiness to follow the highest we know will soon put us in the exact work for which we are fitted and to which we belong. We have only to link ourselves with our Spiritual center in complete devotion to serve as a channel and fearlessly to do the will of our Lord and King.

Arthur’s knights of the Round Table considered the height of all achievement the finding of the Holy Grail. The one essential to success was a pure heart. Evil seemed to conquer in the end but Arthur’s defeat became an ultimate triumph. He sailed away to the West to wait until the time was ripe for his return. The greatest triumphs have in the eyes of the world seemed to be defeats. Not so in the ultimate analysis!

If we are to judge failure or success we must
GOD'S COUNTRY

take the long-range viewpoint. Who knows to what heights a seeming failure may lead? We pick ourselves up, as does a little child learning to walk, and holding fast to the hand of Divine Love try again and again until our spiritual muscles become trained, sensitive and sure. Not all will attain here and now. The effort will, however, add to the cumulative effect. Some must fall in the ranks, but if one fearless soul rushes forward to grasp the broken standard he can save a great cause on a heroic day.

We offer no definite plans for the individual. We make only one plea—find your place and fill it, trusting your God for light and leading.
No. 10

Our Accountability

MAKE no mistake about this. We shall be held accountable for the way we use the light we have. Each has his own mission which no other can fill quite so well. God makes individuals, not masses. We are not products of a factory. Each, though, is a cog in the whole, a link in the chain. It is a truism that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

"Where do we go from here, boys?" How often in our personal lives have we heard that refrain. We all have times when we wait at the crossroads, not knowing which way to turn. "He leadeth me" is our one assurance. When we insist on having our own mistaken way, we head for the swamps, to be swallowed in the bogs of our own making.

This tie with the Spiritual Sun within is vitally important. Only so can inspiration guide us. Only so can the right path open. The early apostles proved that. The disciples made their journeys with empty purses but illumined hearts. The way always opens to God-centered men. Only so can we save ourselves and our Republic. The means will be shown the moment we call on our Divine Leader. Miracles still occur. We say they are miracles because we do not yet know the higher
GOD'S COUNTRY

laws under which they work. We have only to find our Spiritual Center, set the right cause going, and the right effect will appear.

It is difficult today to make time for this re-orientation of our lives. We all on occasion find it difficult to go to sleep. We all have periods of wakefulness. We all have forced moments of physical inactivity on trains and buses, streetcars and autos. The mind has to dwell on something—too often on nagging worries. Put in their place a favorite psalm, an inspiring poem, a radiant affirmation of faith. The Bible has glorious promises. Must we be at the point of physical death before we are ready to turn to our Divine Source? We should be in complete harmony with that Source every step of the way.

When the world was young, God walked in the garden in the cool of the day. He talked to His own until sin came and they hid from sight. How far distant seems that idyllic age! Yet it can be with us, within, even in the storm of war, the thunder of bombs, the roar of mighty guns, the whirlwinds of hate. It can be with us in the difficult days of reconstruction ahead. It can point the way; it can heal and build. We have only to open the garden gate, believing, and we shall receive.

The absorbing interest today is money. In itself as an instrument of good, a medium of exchange, it is necessary in the material world. The sin is one of mistaken emphasis. We make the means the end and lose sight of relative values.
GOD'S COUNTRY

When we cross the portal into the next world we take only ourselves. Money stays behind to be fought over by relatives. In the finer ethers we are told the power of thought is so great that an effort of will creates the object needed. So much the more reason for control of thought lest we create the thing we do not want. Fear, for instance, has that very effect even on the material plane. We concentrate so deeply through fear on conditions we dread that we bring those very conditions into our lives.

We must have money on this plane—yes—but not as the whole object of our existence. If we put ourselves right with higher forces, making the development of the Higher Self the sole aim in this life, we shall find what we must have for our daily needs coming our way as the inevitable effect of the cause we have set in motion. New avenues of inspiration will open for us, wherein we can walk at peace in the realization of constant supply. Fear and the ignorance that gives rise to fear are the bogey-men of most people's existence.

We stress money at this point because in the years ahead it will become increasingly necessary to set ourselves right on this subject of creative thought. We shall need many new avenues of expression in all fields of human activity. Creative imagination, whereby we enter the channel of creative expression, will open many new lines for the welfare of humanity. These are ready now on higher planes, waiting for the inspired workers.
GOD'S COUNTRY

here to transmit them into material expression. We must dwell on the concept of ourselves as channels whereby God can work. Rare is the privilege and happy the one who can see visions and dream dreams with such force and power that through the working of law the ethereal becomes the material, the thought the fact, and a more beautiful world evolves.

In a sense God's Country is the world—the universe. We shall come to that idea later on. For the present we are concentrating on the Republic, our duty to it in the trying days ahead, and our duty to ourselves to develop our powers to such a point that we can use them constructively for the good of all.
Difficulties, Always Opportunities

Difficulties are always opportunities in disguise. The wise man meets the situation that confronts him, knowing that it is the next step in his upward progress. It may seem retrogression but that is due to our limited vision. If we could see the ultimate end and realize that we are wiping the slate of experience free from old debts, we should rejoice that we are being given the chance to undo past mistakes and clear our path for further progress. We have to pay our debts and keep our credit balanced. In no field is this so vital and so inescapable as in the field of the moral law.

We go forward, then, in the conviction that our ultimate goal is upward, that we have not failed in the final analysis. Apparent failures and the suffering resultant therefrom only make us open our eyes to causes and spur us on to better living. In this we grow strong as tested muscles respond to tested wills. We must never doubt our own inherent power to overcome our difficulties and move onward. The only failure is loss of faith and hope. As we have tried to show so often, the star still shines behind the cloud. God is still in His heaven. If all is not right with the world, it is because humanity has gone far afield in ignorance of its own inherent divinity.
GOD'S COUNTRY

We have to play the game whatever the cost to the personal self. Our servicemen are learning this and proving it gloriously. Our part may be a humble one but it is as important as any on the field. There is no great or small in the scales of eternal justice. We have a job to do. However small it may seem to be, it is ours to do it well.

Everything is relative. To the man who cleans the sewers, the man who sweeps the streets is a minor deity. If we could do this or that, we say, if we had the talent, the looks, the charm, the money, the position, we could succeed, too, and find ourselves in a seventh heaven of delight. If—if—if! We must take the part assigned in the human comedy and play it to the best of our ability. We may be sure we shall have a more important role as we work unselfishly and devotedly for the Great Dramatist behind the scenes.

By losing ourselves in this center of Power and Perfection we express more and more the will of the Creator. We learn that of ourselves we can do nothing. Personal pride is laid on the altar in clouds of purest incense as we strive on and on to become tested channels for the One in whom we live and move and have our being. With such a realization we cannot fail in our appointed task. We go our way in the serene assurance that under God we must succeed. This is a matter of growth and experience, but once we see the vision we must follow. Nothing else matters in this world or the next.
GOD'S COUNTRY

Let us look at the world today. A pitiful spectacle of ruin and desolation! Buildings that took years to construct, priceless works of art that can never be replaced—all gone! Homes demolished, simple household treasures cherished through the years forever lost! Manpower wasted that might have gone into constructive channels for the up-building of humanity! Hearts broken, lives ruined!

We put all this under high-sounding slogans. We must save the world for democracy. We must preserve the five freedoms, or the six, or the seven. High-sounding hypocrites that we are. Try to go against the four horsemen and see how much freedom you have. There is always the liberation of death, but only a coward takes his own life. Brave men and women suffer through, seeking with all the intelligence at their command the right avenue of escape into better conditions.

We gain nothing by deceiving ourselves. Somewhere along the line we are brought face to face with truth, bitter though it may be. We see ourselves for what we are. Fortunately we can also have the vision of what we intend to be.

If only a few would band together to stop all war, it would be a glorious mission. We need Don Quixotes today. A little leaven lightens the lump. A small spark may start a conflagration. Mothers who have held their children in their arms and dreamed long dreams of the future of their sons should be the logical nucleus of a movement that would sweep the earth. Such tragic destruction,
GOD'S COUNTRY

such blasphemy against Divine Law! We know life can be more bitter than death. However that may be, it is our job to face a future of conservation, preservation. The willful waste of war sets back the whole world. Balance so-called gain, if you can find it, against only too apparent loss. Where do we stand in the end? Hopelessly defeated!

The other side suffers as well. Driven on by forces over which they have no control, they must kill or be killed. “Their not to reason why, theirs but to do and die.” Of course we all eventually ride into the valley of death, we hope with colors flying. But what right has any government to sacrifice its young in the name of democracy or any other high-sounding slogan? If we saw to it that our leaders were committed to the policy of “live and let live,” our sons would have their chance and our sons’ sons. As it is, we are following the road of self-extinction.

If the material plane did not need us and we it, we should not be here. The law of growth puts each in his place. The way he fills his place determines his next step. A Chinese puzzle is simple as compared to the picture today. We build only to destroy. Years of planning, of constructive effort go for nothing in a senseless orgy of organized havoc. It is enough to make the high gods wash their hands of the sorry mess, and leave us to our own insanity.

Fortunately loving Patience waits for us to re-
GOD'S COUNTRY

turn to our senses. It has waited through countless aeons as It surveys the world It once found good, the world in which It placed the creature called man to whom It gave the gift of free will. That creature can never find his way back until he learns that his will is his to make it God's.
The Real Purpose of Living

It is often difficult today to turn men’s minds from preconceived notions. Voices still cry in the wilderness of mistaken ideas. The encouraging thing is that “one with God is a majority.” Why not try it and see? A whole panorama of thrilling achievement unfolds before the eyes of the man who dares work with this conviction in his heart. We can still lift up our eyes to the hills, from whence cometh our help. We can still study the orderly movements of the stars and with a little imagination hear their celestial harmony. We can still walk with Nature in the orderly progress of the seasons, the beauty of dawn and sunset, the riotous colors of gardens and plains, the majestic sweep of prairies, mountains, pines, and sea. The ability to lose one’s soul in beauty opens the consciousness to that universe where finer vibrations permit keener realization of truth.

We must lose ourselves to find Ourselves, lose the conception that we are weak and limited, pawns for forces over which we have no control. After all, death is the greatest bugbear in the lives of most people. We make such an unnecessary horror of that universal experience. It is, in truth, “the greatest adventure that life offers.” If then the thing we most fear is our greatest ad-
GOD’S COUNTRY

venture, what is there to dread? Nothing, except the consequences of our own mistaken ignorance!

Fortunately we are not rushed in our evolution until we are ready to take it. Most of us have to grow slowly. We learn a step at a time, especially when we are young and weak. Such must be protected until they are able to bear the buffets, the slings and arrows. In reality such harsh treatment is our greatest good. The gold must be refined in the furnace until no dross remains. The pure gold of Spirit, lustrous beyond compare! For this we chose the torment called life. Not until we have been tested, tried, and purified as by fire can we reach our goal. The quivering lute of the soul must catch the celestial harmony before it can become attuned to the mighty orchestra of creation.

The wheel turns as the water rushes under it and out to sea. There is no going back. Familiar landmarks are left behind. Loved faces disappear into the mist which we try so earnestly to penetrate. Some day we, too, shall follow. While we are here, however, we must meet situations as they arise, knowing that the current of our Fate carries us ever onward to the mighty ocean.

If that passing is to be serene and tranquil in the golden sunset of unshaken Faith, we must here and now analyze the real purpose of life and our place therein. If we could, many of us would fight our way through to a retreat, hidden high in mountain passes, where we might escape the turmoil of the dusty plains. Most of us find this
impossible. We have been placed in the thick of the fight and there we must remain. “A safe lodging and a night’s repose” can come only when our work is done.

However disillusioned and heartbroken we may be, we must press on to the knowledge of our real Self. It has played many parts in the drama of life, probably identifying itself with each. No wonder it is weary unto death. It needs to learn that each part is only a temporary expression, that the Soul remains aloof, a spectator in the scheme of things. We pick ourselves up and go on, regardless of “the bludgeoning of chance.” If we are wise we do not weep. The adventure will be glorious in spite of the odds. Thus we grow into heroic stature as Fate continues to test us while the Wheel of the Law revolves.
No. 13

Right About, Face!

IT is high time that we turned right about face. The years pass so rapidly; the agony of mistaken effort is so great. New occasions demand new viewpoints as well as new duties. With the correct point of view we can fulfill our obligation to ourselves and to our country as never before. Our range of view depends upon our position. If we are too close to a situation we lose our perspective. We must be far enough away to see the whole panorama and our place in it. Without field glasses we lose ourselves in unimportant details and take the part for the whole. Points of view are so relative and so changing. There must be a fixed course, a definite aim, a sifting of the vital from the trivial as we concentrate on one purpose, the purpose for which we took our place in the scheme of things at this appointed time and in this appointed country. Such a concept dignifies all life.

What a tragedy to lose our place in the plan! Even if we go down, it matters not if we have kept true to our trust. Even if we drop exhausted and dying at the wayside, we can know we have done our best in the heart-breaking effort of the vanguard, struggling on and on against terrific odds.

“Death after life, port after stormy seas!” How good it sounds to nerve-wracked, exhausted war-
GOD'S COUNTRY

riors in the battle of life. But the port will never welcome us unless we have earned the right to a respite from the struggle. Otherwise we face the bad effects of our own making which must be undone in God's good time before any peace or progress is possible.

How much wiser to determine now what is the goal of most importance! If it is the wrong goal, the whole sorry scheme of our life must be recognized and atonement made. Fortunes founded on blood and tears, grime and sweat, destruction and violence—of what good are they to the man who bent every nerve toward amassing millions on the torn bodies of his brothers? Not only does he leave his accursed gold behind, but in agony he must rebuild as best he can the ruin he has caused.

It is only common sense to choose lasting values, values that go with us into the Beyond, built into character. These are our only permanent possessions. Meanwhile, even in the valley of the shadow of Death, we have no fear. We have known the green pastures and the still waters. We have full assurance of the rod and the staff of our Heavenly Guide.

We must test relative values here and now. We must make an inventory of ourselves, our experience thus far and our plans for the future. We must take the long-range view and determine our course by the compass of Spirit. Then we
GOD'S COUNTRY

shall reach a safe harbor and peace at the last in the knowledge that we have done our duty in the work appointed to us for this particular incarnation.
No. 14

“Thy Servant Heareth”

LET go your preconceived ideas and open your minds and hearts to the voice of intuitive Spirit. The short cut to truth saves time and pain lost in useless experimentation. We go round and round like horses or slaves in a treadmill and arrive exactly nowhere. The future for the Republic and for us as citizens holds so much to be done in a comparatively short time. To meet emergencies we must prepare before they arise. We need the vision without which we perish. To set our country right we must first set ourselves right with the knowledge of what we are here for and the best way to do our job before that night comes when no man can work. Too much time has been lost as it is. Even though the future seems dark and we cannot see our place in the scheme of things, “the readiness is all.” By a process of self-development when we once set our faces in the right direction, we shall unfold talents of which we never dreamed and see short cuts of action where now we wander aimlessly, lost in the mist of confusion.

The Voice continues to speak to the waiting Samuel. But the servant must hear, as he waits, prepared by prayer and faith, to go where his Lord commands and to do as he is bidden. This attitude is not that of a puppet, pulled by a string. We are
GOD'S COUNTRY

Self-directed when we consciously strive to restore the link with our Higher Self. No might, no power can avail against omnipotent Spirit. Yet we are free in that we have the right to choose. We can listen or not, just as we wish. We can go or come, following our own short-sighted plans, or we can wait on bended knees for the higher command which inevitably comes when the servant of the Most High has opened the channels of his being and is ready to hear.

In the long night watches higher forces, working on that plane of ceaseless activity, watch for the lights below. When a sensitive soul stands illumined to their penetrating search, they know he is ready to become an instrument for good and he is given his chance. The light illumines his way, though he may not in the physical brain know how or why certain avenues open. He recognizes only an impelling force directing every move. A new harmony pervades his being as he works in accordance with the Divine Will. Old worries drop away, old fears, old griefs. Serene and confident, he takes his appointed place and knows that all is well.

This experience can be the lot of every one of us. We all can be the child Samuel, chosen for a great destiny, not necessarily great in the eyes of the world but great in the sight of God. When we work as an instrument, we lose sight of stress and strain. Our affairs seem to take care of themselves as events fall into their appointed place. For this
GOD'S COUNTRY

we are told to cast our burden on the Christ within and so go free. This does not imply idleness or ease. It means the most glorious activity in which we have no fear of the outcome, since Omnipo
tence guides behind the scenes.

Divine fools? Perhaps, but look at history. The names that stand out as saviors of their race and time are those who worked under direct guidance of a Power which they recognized and to which they gave unquestioning obedience. The prophets of the Old Testament, the apostles of the New, all knew a Directing Force, far greater than themselves, to Whom they gave unswerving allegiance. Set your light aglow in the inner chamber of your heart and await the voice of the Sacred Presence.
No. 15

Triumphant Faith

Be of good cheer. Others have found the way and so can we. The tomorrows bring a new vision of hope as night turns to dawn and darkness disappears in the light of day. No night was ever so long that morning did not come at its appointed time. We are never tested beyond our power to endure. We emerge triumphant when we understand the reasons for the ordeal and know the ultimate effects for good. A true mother never begrudges the agony that brought her child into the world. A true father welcomes the opportunities for sacrifice as he visions the future of his family. A lover gladly gives all to save his beloved. Even a friend will give his life for his friend. Pain and apparent loss amount to less than nothing when weighed against a glorious goal.

To those who understand the Divine Plan in the upheavals that befall the race and the individual, there is an exhilaration in buffeting the waves and riding high on the breakers. Fear does not enter the picture, for the end is known even before the event occurs. Few of us have such prevision but faith can take its place. No great accomplishments are ever possible without faith. We see and know, and lo! we have arrived. Mountains of difficulty disappear from our path. We go through them—
GOD'S COUNTRY

for us they do not exist. Locked doors swing open, walls of guarded cities crumble, we walk unharmed amid destruction because we have found the sure and safe way under the protection of the Almighty.

The scientist, the inventor, the discoverer, the pioneer, the lover of mankind find no barriers when they keep to unshaken faith in a lofty purpose. Nothing is too difficult when Divine passion is the motive force. Instead, the heart thrills, the eyes glisten, the whole being glows in a new zest for living. The sleeper awakes to a new world of joy because he has a purpose and a place in the day about to dawn. For once he feels he is justifying his existence as the joy of creation surges through his being.

New molds, new patterns, new visions, new dreams—all await the man of faith who sees into the future and catches the whisper of his Prompter behind the scenes. Why stagnate in a round of dreary tasks and still drearier pleasures? We live and walk in a universe of beauty, law and order. We can attune ourselves by faith, which in due time will become knowledge. This “live wire which stretches into the invisible” connects us with a universe of abundant perfection, the treasures of which are for our use in the healing of the nation. The ant works tirelessly on his ant-hill; he sees with microscopic eyes. He knows nothing of the universe except the one tiny speck of earth it is his to explore. That is the status and the business
GOD'S COUNTRY

of the ant. While the sluggard may still go to him for instruction, the far stretches of the horizon draw the poet, the philosopher. His dream never fades, for he sees through and above and knows beyond peradventure that all is well.
No. 16

Rain and Tears

RAIN falls to refresh the earth, to quicken life and bring it to an expression of beauty. Without dark clouds man could not live. He must have food for his sustenance. He must have beauty even more, though he may not know it. His soul may starve when he thinks he is most fortunate as money jingles in his pockets and a thick bankroll lies next to his heart. Rain has become symbolic of trouble, of dark and dreary days which we must endure because we have no choice. What a fallacy! Rain soothes and heals. It makes possible new life. It refreshes life already on its way. The great upward surge of Nature responds to the showers of blessing and opens its chalice to catch the life-giving flow.

Inspiration is akin to rain. It touches arid stretches of on-rolling plains of objectivity. It wafts the incense from higher reaches of the Soul. There is a balance of giving and receiving; the cup taking according to its receptivity. Without this giving and receiving, human life like a plant would wither and die in the desert of materialism.

Even when we take the old analogy of rain and tears we find the same truth. Without tears hearts become stony. No Divine compassion brings them to fruition. They cannot carry their share of the
sorrow of humanity unless they, too, have known sorrow. Tears like rain bring the whole being to full blossom and make it express a beauty impossible unless it has become acquainted with grief.

Perhaps this is one reason that the race as well as individuals must have moments in Gethsemane. Tears like rain make possible the incense which ascends in gratitude to the altars of the Most High. We take tears like rain because we have no choice. It is only after the flood has passed over our heads and we arise to greet the sun that we see the purpose of the agony and build in a stronger foundation, secure against the storms, which can no longer dash our house against the rocks or carry us helpless out to sea.

Tears and rain, rain and tears! Eventually a rainbow spans the sky, and we have the promise of fair weather.

Even in God’s country of the Republic, as in God’s country of the soul, must come rain and tears as the race writhe in agony. We have only to remember in the darkness that “Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.” All things pass—except the Word of God. We move on to our appointed destiny as a country and as individuals. We choose that destiny by our own actions. If we work with God, we have a vision of hope for the tomorrows, knowing that night disappears in day, and tears become a rainbow of beauty to the eyes of soul.
No. 17

What Is Prayer?

No extreme measures accomplish spiritual development, no long fasting, no exercises of abnormal breathing, no hitching oneself up by one’s bootstraps! Prayer and faith are the two essentials. By prayer we mean meditation on Divine truth until the whole being responds and no lower vibration can find entrance.

Picture yourself enveloped in quivering colors. They may have all the beauty of flowers in Spring, of sunsets and sunrises. Or they may be dark, dull and forbidding like a fortress through which no sun can shine. Into such a dungeon little light will come, no rainbow prisms. The soul starves and eventually becomes a prisoner for life in a tomb of its own making. But the radiant one who breathes with the morning, his windows wide open to let in the sun, knows no such limitations. He recognizes truth in beauty and beauty in truth. He expands his evergrowing consciousness to wider horizons, greater vistas. He knows the joy of growth, of receiving and giving. His cup overflows as he dwells in the house of his Lord forever.

This is a time when the world is returning to prayer. Trouble, sorrow always bring us to our knees. But after the immediate emergency is over, what then? We may again cut ourselves off from
GOD'S COUNTRY

our Source and resume an aimless existence. If that happens, we arrive nowhere. The point we are trying to make is that every breath should be a prayer,—a prayer of faith, a prayer of thanksgiving for what we are about to receive long before it comes, a prayer of blessing on all that lives, a prayer of aspiration that we may reach higher levels of consciousness and keep open the marvelous channels whereby God can touch our souls and lift us nearer to the Divine Presence.

In all this, there is time for daily duties, which we can do better than ever before because we have put them in the place where they belong. We have heard of the lilies of the field. We can grow as do they if we lift our faces to the Spiritual Sun. This is no fantastic symbolism. This is truth given us by the greatest of teachers, who had proved by His own experience everything He taught. He tells us that we can do even greater things. Such an accomplishment is far away, perhaps, but we can at least begin to make our life plan one of attunement, conscious attunement to the highest we know. In that way every breath becomes a prayer of aspiration, every thought a hymn of faith. Reach out into the sunshine and become one with the harmony of color in which works the great Artist and Master Builder.
No. 18

The Secret of Vibration

So great is the need today that unusual ways are being found to reach the hearts and minds of men. There will be stories after this war, as there were in the other conflict twenty odd years ago, of miraculous escapes, strange visions, direct answer to prayer in time of utmost need. The worlds merge in unity when suffering and sorrow thin the veil. The dying often have prevision of events to come and see those who are invisible to us. This thinning veil makes possible communication which would otherwise be difficult. When humanity is not receptive, no contact can be made. When in extremes we call for help, we automatically attune ourselves by the realization that help is there. Then a response can come just as in the case of a radio tuned to receive a certain wavelength.

The pity of it is that we wait for some dire need to make us receptive. We lose so much of inspiration and of strength. We make our lives so humdrum when they could have the serenity and consecration of a cathedral. This inflow of inspiration could be a constant source of strength and guidance if we would only believe in it and try it out.

It is meet and right to lift up our hearts unto
GOD'S COUNTRY

these lofty influences. By our mistaken beliefs and our emphasis on unimportant goals we lose sight of the real purpose of living. We rob ourselves of our birthright and become enmeshed in sorrows of our own making. The burden of Atlas need not be ours. We can be as free as the morning, as radiant as the sunshine if we will it so. It is all a question of vibration, the musical note to which we can attune our being. There is "harmony in immortal souls." Most of us cannot hear it, not even in ourselves. Only in rare moments does the note sound as it responds to the force that plays upon it. These infrequent occurrences could become continuous music if we could only keep the vibration and harmonize our own chord with the Master chorus. The symphony of Creation is incomplete until each part is in its place. It matters not if we are harp or violin, bass drum or horn, we are necessary to the whole. But a muted instrument, or worse still, an instrument out of tune is useless. It must be set aside until it can be made right. Meanwhile our place is unfilled; no one else can take it. How long must we keep the Master Musician waiting?

All the arts have their peculiar spiritual links which interblend in perfect harmony. Sound has color, color sound. The word with its sound and color builds or destroys, shatters or makes whole. The entire scheme of the universe rests on harmony, "the diapason closing full in man." If man
GOD'S COUNTRY

becomes discordant, he is a destroyer of himself and of his little world.

We all love beauty, even the most hardened of us. We thrill to music, to color, to kindness unexpectedly shown, to appreciation when we have done our best. We crave friends, sympathy, companionship, understanding love. We cannot be isolated mariners, "alone on a wide, wide sea." We belong to the group, the team, the orchestra, the play, the social unit in which we find ourselves. In short, we are one in a glorious unity of man and God.

Not until we find our spiritual note, our unique place, the work for which we came, shall we have peace. It is all ours for the asking when we can attune ourselves to the inner voice. The serenity of a mountain sunset can be ours, the majesty of organ music. We have only to lift up our hearts in prayer and thanksgiving as we move in harmony with our Divine Source.
No. 19

The Joy of Creation

“W"HEN earth’s last picture is painted” we shall rest, and “faith, we shall need it.” Eventually, however, “the Master of all good workmen will set us to work anew.” Ceaseless activity is the law; constant service, not for ourselves but for the Power Who knows the plan and the part for which each of us is fitted. “All for one, and one for all.” It is a glorious conception that God’s country depends on us for its full development. How futile to question, how suicidal to insist on our own mistaken way! We can see only so much at a time; we can do only so much in a day. We follow the plan of the all-wise Architect who envisions the finished structure even before its foundations have been laid. We can work as day-laborers, or as artists, absorbed in the joy of creation.

“The Master of all good workmen” needs many skills, all equally important, all equally interdependent. Just as the human body has many parts, seen and unseen, each depends upon the other. With much of this working behind the scenes man has no part. Nature keeps the house of his physical being in order, often in spite of his misuse of it. All the processes that make us a perfectly working mechanism automatically fulfill their
function. The only time we realize such activities exist is at the moment when we block them by our own carelessness. With none of this vital work behind the scenes of our physical envelope have we much to do. If we live harmoniously, we do not know the existence of many of these bodily functions. Does not this unconscious dependence of ours on Nature to carry on for us in the mystery of our own bodies make a perfect analogy to our dependence on Spiritual power within and beyond us?

To return to the metaphor of the tapestry! The weaver who loses himself in petty details, forgetful of larger issues of color and design, forfeits time, strength and joy in his work. He cannot create if he feels himself a drudge, dragging out a miserable existence in meaningless toil. On the contrary, the moment his soul catches the vision, sees the perfected whole in all its beauty, knows the importance of his own part in this whole, that moment he rises to the height of power. He sees in a flash the complete pattern; he knows the purpose for which the work has been planned. Greater vistas loom before him of still greater magnificence. There in the fulness of time he, too, will have a part, for as a good workman he has earned the right to the promotion for which he has fitted himself. Tested and tried, he moves on to greater opportunities, wider responsibilities. He gravitates to his own particular place by the very nature of his being. He cannot miss it, once he knows
GOD'S COUNTRY
the way whereby he enters into the joy of his Lord.
No. 20

The Law of Change

This is no time for despair. The exhilaration of opportunity is in the air. Changes bring upheaval, but with that very upheaval comes the promise of better days. Sad memories merge into happy expectation as they mellow with the years. Uprooting for the time is painful; yet worse pain would come if the causes thereof were not removed. Abscesses on the body politic must be cut and drained. Cancers in the social structure must be removed before it is too late. Selfish shortsightedness in personal points of view must give way to larger concepts of wider good.

Such changes are never easy. The coming to this world, which we call birth, and the leaving, which we call death, involve great pain. The loss of landmarks and treasures we hold dear gives us inevitable suffering. For a time we stand helpless and bewildered, not knowing which way to turn. Then in the light of further knowledge we follow the path appointed and eventually adjust ourselves to our changing world.

God works through changes. Nothing can remain static. Even though we may seem to be heading downward, we must have faith in the ultimate upward turning of the spiral of progress. There is no loss in the true concept of change. There
GOD'S COUNTRY

must be birth and death in individuals as in customs and in countries. Who wants to stand still? The stars move in their appointed courses; the flowers bud, blossom and disappear; the ocean is never still as the tides ebb and flow in rhythmical regularity. We, too, must move with the years. We cannot stay children forever; neither do we want enfeebled old age forever. Grief may endure for a night, "but joy cometh in the morning." The one changeless center for all this constantly changing activity is our Source, Whose plan it is to evolve a more perfect creation which shall reflect a more perfect beauty as it approximates the pattern designed for its full expression.

We should not be disturbed by changes. A traveler wishes to reach his destination. He resents delay. He cannot wait indefinitely at the crossroads for this or that obstruction. The end of the journey is his objective, not the means of reaching it. If we travel through life with some such point of view as this, we shall save ourselves needless suffering. We may have a happy or a difficult experience. That is relatively unimportant. The destination should be our vital concern. We are headed home.

We must prepare then for many upheavals and not take them too much to heart. They may seem for the better; they may seem for the worse. We must breast them as a swimmer rides the waves in the consciousness of the tremendous thrill of
GOD'S COUNTRY

struggle and the joy of being able to surmount and overcome.

In these changes which face us all, certain fundamental principles stand fixed, as immutable as the laws of Nature. Spiritual truth is ever the same. We may evolve new ideals as we grow and gain further illumination, but the change is in us, not in the eternal verities. Steadfast as the pole-star, they beckon us on to new heights, even new valleys, but move we must if we are to reach our goal.
No. 21

The Power of Love

THE highest vibration known to man is Love. It is the key to the Divine in him and in the universe, for we are told that God Himself is Love. The nearest approach to this Divine quality is universal compassion for all that lives. It is this realization that opens the way to cosmic consciousness. All selfishness disappears in the illumination of the One Self in all and through all. This experience may last only a fleeting second but it is never forgotten. When it can be held steadily, man has freed himself from the bonds of earth and need not return unless he so desires.

This may seem fantastic to those who have been trained in the belief that one earth life is all there is or those who are convinced we go from here to hell or to heaven. This thing called life is not a one-way passage. It is not so simple as all that, for we are not equipped to reach perfection at a single bound. This is a long, continuous process. There can be no forced growth; otherwise the plant withers and dies. The roots must be firmly fixed; the unfolding slow according to natural laws.

We can quicken this growth voluntarily when we reach a certain point. That point is the moment of realization that all life is one expression.
GOD'S COUNTRY

We know at that point that if we harm another we hurt ourselves. If one part of the body feels pain, the whole organism suffers. It is so in the human family. Not until we become true lovers of mankind does our pilgrimage end. Then we need go no more out but are made pillars in the temple of the living God.

Buddha taught the gospel of renunciation, detachment; Christ brought the message of Love. Here are two sides of the same shield. Through Love we give up self-centeredness in the identification of ourselves with the one beloved. In the high sense we merge our own individual interests into the interests of humanity. The drop of water falls into the great ocean and becomes one with the larger whole. The individual life loses itself in universal life and becomes one with all that lives.

In this sense we are our brothers' keepers, for they are one with us. When they suffer, we suffer. When they rejoice, we rejoice. Few reach this exalted state. It takes many lives, lives of suffering in the winepress of human agony until we can follow in the footsteps of the One Who consecrated all suffering by His agony on the cross.

We must not think that suffering is the only way to universal Love. Joy is far better, but strangely enough at this point in evolution joy seems to lead away from universality to selfishness. It is not so in Nature. One bird's note is the signal for the morning chorus or the evening
GOD'S COUNTRY

vesper-song. Children and puppies share in one another's happy play. All young creatures are closer to the great heart of Nature. They feel without analyzing. They love without criticism. They trust and are not afraid. The friendliness of a little child for the whole world is a rare and beautiful thing. We have been told that unless we become as little children we cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven. Love is our admission ticket.

When hate runs rampant in individuals, in families, in races, in nations, war is the inevitable result. A blowing clear of the poisonous miasma can come only when swamplands are drained and converted into bountiful fields. The poets and philosophers have pictured a golden age when the lion shall lie down with the lamb, when poisonous plants, reptiles and insects shall lose their sting, when all ugliness shall leave the face of nature and of humanity as this loftiest of all vibrations, the attribute of God Himself, shall attune all discordant notes through the power of universal Love.
No. 22

The Vital Need of Spiritual Knowledge

The need for trained workers is becoming increasingly great. For that reason spiritual knowledge is vital at this time. Knowledge is power. In a conflict of forces, good against evil, the side with the greatest power has the advantage. In the end good must and will triumph. The inner and outer war can and must be shortened, however, because energy must be conserved for the greater task ahead.

What is this all-important knowledge? The realization of our own inherent Divinity and the unlimited reservoir of strength and supply which it is our privilege to tap. Great indeed are our resources did we but know them. We are thinking now not only of material aids for the accomplishment of spiritual aims; we mean much more the wisdom and power which manifest as mechanical genius, medical skill, inspiration in all the arts, and a new vision of spiritual truth to show us the great possibilities that lie ahead.

It is a wonderful relief to cast off burdens of responsibility, worry, and care. We stagger under loads too great for our weak shoulders. We fall by the wayside in the mistaken self-hypnosis that we must carry on alone. We need have no burdens. We can be as joyful as the most carefree of all
GOD’S COUNTRY

God’s creatures. The secret is to consider ourselves as agents with our work planned out for us by a Wisdom far greater than ours, which cannot fail. The end is known from the beginning. The steps proceed in logical order. It is our privilege to take only one step at a time. When our consciousness expands in a closer harmony with the Great Planner, we shall catch glimpses of His purposes as the pieces of the many-colored mosaic of life fall into place and the design begins to appear.

What we want to stress is the peace and the confidence that come when man works as an agent instead of an executive. The responsibility automatically shifts to shoulders more than able to carry it. Omnipotence, omniscience are powerful words. Imagine what it would be like even for a single day to know we could not fail because all power and all knowledge are ours. This is literally true if we make our connection with the Supreme Source of Power and Wisdom. We have been told this again and again. The Christ center opens the way. But we fail to grasp the full implication of this marvelous truth. We cling to the dust and see not the stars.

Dignity, self-respect, calmness, assurance, peace and strength radiate from the man who knows he cannot fail because the Power behind him is supreme over all difficulties, all emergencies, all problems. No wonder this is a “peace that passeth understanding.” Picture even one day without worry and care. What would we not give for the
GOD'S COUNTRY

serene assurance that all is and will be well with us, with those we love, and with our beloved country?

It was no accident that those who founded this republic adopted the slogan, "In God we trust." They were tapping the Source of all supply, material and spiritual. The spiritual must come first; automatically the material follows. The sensitive ethers record the pattern which later appears in material substance. No wonder we are told to seek Spirit \textit{first}. All begins with Spirit. All ends with Spirit. It is the one changeless Ruler of man's destiny whereby he reaches the place prepared for him since the beginning of the world.
No. 23

The Mystery That Is Man

BEFORE we can fully understand our place in the plan we must know the mystery of our own make-up. We too often identify ourselves with our physical bodies. We feel in a vague way that we have souls, usually souls to be saved. We do not know that we are souls, that our souls save us. In other words, it is the physical self that breaks connections with higher planes of expression. Like the lost sheep in the parable we wander far away from the fold. The Shepherd must needs find us and bring us back to a place of safety.

The complex mechanism of man’s make-up divides itself roughly into body, soul and spirit. When we say body, we mean of course the physical body. There are finer vehicles interpenetrating and extending beyond the material envelope. These more sensitively vibrating sheaths form our connection with more sensitively vibrating worlds. It is vital to keep that connection if we are to fulfill our function as instruments or channels for higher forces.

We are not automatons or puppets, pulled by strings. We are the masters of our own destiny through the gift of free will. At a certain point, however, we realize that we make too many mistakes, are too ignorant to be completely on our
own. Then we turn to a reliance on a Higher Power for help and guidance. We realize this need usually in times of trouble and great stress. War brings people to their knees, as do death and disaster. This call to the Unseen for help is always answered. The answer may not come in the way we expect, but come it does. The moment we pray, we contact through our invisible bodies the plane to which they belong. The forces of that plane rush to our assistance. We are reinforced with spiritual strength to bear our load, to meet emergencies as they arise, and to act with all the wisdom at our command.

The physical body carries on the activities which make it possible for us to function on the physical plane, where for a season we must live. We have experience to gain and work to do. The vital connection with Soul is all-important while we are undergoing this expression. Without it we lose the point of our pilgrimage and wander far afield from the purpose for which we have come.

Life should be rich and beautiful. It would be if we could only keep our connection with our higher self, the soul, the envelope of Spirit. Too many lose the knowledge at physical birth, which is "a sleep and a forgetting." The "shades of the prison-house" close in upon us and the "clouds of glory" fade into the light of common day. We live in a cell of our own making, a dungeon instead of a watch-tower.

This priceless knowledge of the mystery that
GOD'S COUNTRY

is man comes when we are ready for it. Teachers greet us on different levels of the steps of the temple of learning. We have only to equip ourselves to be ready for the next step. This gradation of wisdom and achievement is characteristic of all levels of activity, human and spiritual. We must have the proper credentials before we can plunge into any work. This is especially true in the planes of higher activity. “As above, so below.” We cannot rise in those finer ethers of the Spirit until we have the proper equipment. The wise man prepares himself in his chosen field. All have the common heritage of vast realms of Spirit, from which we came and to which we return. Our place in them depends on ourselves, the use we have made of the knowledge we have, the kindness we have shown and the help we have given in our day and age.

We cannot walk this particular path again. We leave our mistakes to the Love that knows our weakness. We take a high resolve to do our best in the new occasions ahead. Above all, we put the burden where it belongs—on that Higher Power which leads us all the way if we will but keep the connection clear between this plane, which we now call home, and those spiritual levels to which we must return, the many mansions awaiting those pilgrims, tested and tried, who have kept the faith.
No. 24

The Dawn of the Tomorrows

... "Come what come may,
Time and the hour runs through the roughest day."

All lanes have a turning; all sorrows an end. What glad expectancy this creates in sensitive souls who look for better days. This very expectation helps make a happier tomorrow. Through the power of constructive thought the promised land appears on the horizon as we bend every energy to reach it.

We take most things in life on faith. We do not have to travel to another country to know it exists. We accept the word of returning travelers. We do not personally have to run the gamut of all human emotions. We know their reality as we see them in other people, as we read of them in books and study them on the stage. We know many parts in the human drama but we do not personally live them all—certainly not in one life. All business is based on credit, which is only another form of faith. Every time we lie down to sleep at night we expect to see the morning light. We know the sun will rise.

In a larger way, especially when we are young, we have only hope and happy expectation. Our dreams must come true; our ambitions are sure to
GOD'S COUNTRY

be realized; at the right moment on the right path we shall meet the one in all the world who belongs to us. No wonder youth can be care-free. It is intended to be so. This is another reason why war is such blasphemy in its wreckage of the young.

As age comes on, some of this enthusiasm wanes. The courage and hope, the fearless with which we started out to conquer our particular world evaporate. In their stead may come cynicism, stolid endurance, or even despair. We have lost the gleam. The rosy light of dawn has gone in the approaching shadows of night.

How little we know that the best time is still ahead. All the loveliness we have missed is waiting for us. All the dreams we have lost are on the threshold. In the home beyond, all the plans that failed here have become realities. Why not? This will be true if we make it so. And how can we make it so? Through our confident faith that hopes must be realized and dreams come true. In eternity there is no limit in time or place. The wishing-cap and the magic carpet await our use through the power of constructive thought and will. The good fairies still come to our rescue. The giants and the dragons of fear vanish in nether darkness, routed by higher forces of light. Dream-worlds take form and color.

Why not build in some such attitude as this through faith? Why not believe the promises? A radiant center of joy vibrates through and above the surrounding gloom and attracts reinforce-
GOD'S COUNTRY

ments of strength and knowledge from higher planes.

If we cannot believe this, why not pretend that it is true? Why not practice it every day until it becomes a part of our very being? The subconscious will do the rest once it has the orders from above. Why not make it a game to see how far we can go in our make-believe fairyland? Cinderella leaves her rags to dance in beauty at the ball. Even though the clock does strike, the prince finds her again and they live happily ever after.

God forgive us for hugging our troubles and refusing to let them go. It was never intended so to be. Instead we were made to get out into the sunlight, to build fairy castles, fill them with beauty and live in them. Some day, somewhere, in this world or the next, if we love our brothers and do our best, our dreams will come true.
No. 25

Rest in the Law

“The stars come nightly to the sky,
The tidal waves unto the sea;
Nor time nor space nor deep nor high
Can keep my own away from me.”

The great law of cause and effect is illustrated by these poetic symbols. It is a law which once set in operation must go on until the automatic result appears. Nothing can stop its inevitability. There is great joy in this knowledge if the causes set in motion are good. We do not need to take a personal hand. Nothing in our power can help or hinder the sweep of Divine operation. We have only to set the right cause in motion and await patiently the result.

We see this illustrated in all departments of human life. Kindness attracts kindness; hate reinforces hate. Dissipation means eventual collapse. Industry brings its peculiar reward. Hard work alone is not enough. It must be accompanied by faith and constructive imagination. There is no merit in drudgery in and of itself. Without vision we perish.

The reason for so many apparent failures is ignorance. If we only knew the law we could work with it. The past has many heartaches for most people. That is life, from which there is no escape
GOD'S COUNTRY

until we have learned that for which we came.

It is a glorious hope that good must be on the way even in times of deepest despair. Our loved ones wait for us. No love is ever lost. If we have missed a wonderful experience because we took the wrong turn at the wrong time, the experience is still ours if it belongs to us. At some future time and place we shall find it waiting.

Study the stars and the tides for serenity and unfailing rhythm. Each star moves in its course, untouched by storm or cloud. Even though we cannot see its brilliant light through fog and mist, it shines nonetheless, steadfast and unchanged, fulfilling the law of its own destiny. The tides move in and out with majestic rhythm. We cannot change their course. We must go with them or wait patiently for their return.

Whatever belongs to us is ours. As heirs of the great King, we have vast treasures—treasures of knowledge, wisdom, strength, beauty and love. If we have not yet come into our inheritance, it still awaits us when we stand ready to claim it. The friends that belong to us we can never lose. If we only knew it, the whole world is a friend. We are one with it and it with us. Ignorance builds dividing walls of pride and prejudice, selfishness and hate. These must fall at the appointed time and be absorbed in the chaos to which they belong. The love that is ours must come, the peace, the perfect understanding. We have only to wait for it in joyful expectancy. If it is not ours, it will
GOD'S COUNTRY

pass us by, but sooner or later in this world or the next we shall find our own.
No. 26

“The Unobstructed Universe”

At the moment of death, the physical body drops like a falling leaf and the spiritual or astral sheath rises to the plane with which it is in sympathetic vibration. If that plane is low, the person is called “earthbound.” If he has lived in tune with higher thoughts and aspirations, if he has been honest and kind, he rises to a higher level depending on his vibratory rate. It is always possible for a high spirit to come down to lower planes on missionary effort, but the opposite is not true. No one can rise beyond the rate of his own vibration. He must fit himself for higher levels before he can ascend.

For this reason it is most important that we have a correct point of view about this universal experience known as death. Many helpers are needed on all the planes. If we were not so uninformed on this level and so uninterested in anything but the material world, all this missionary help from above would not be needed. Life here is a school to prepare us for life beyond. Ignorant of the aim of our existence, we flounder in morasses of our own making.

The great teachers all had the secret when they said the first essential was to know ourselves. Spiritual beings we are and spiritual beings we re-
GOD'S COUNTRY

main, whatever our level. For some the homeward path is longer and more difficult than for others. But once we have grasped the reality of the goal, progress is swift. There are short cuts if we will to take them. These require strenuous effort, a complete change of viewpoint, continuously held until our whole outlook changes. Our bodies then become more sensitized and spiritualized. Certain sleeping centers begin to open. The whole rate of vibration changes. Brilliant colors flash in the aura as the dull greys and browns disappear. It does not need the moment of death to take us into the higher consciousness of a wider universe. We live in it here as our natural habitat. It goes with us wherever we go. We slip away from earth as easily as a balloon rises or a kite flies in the breeze. When the moment is ready, the cord snaps and we are free.

Many people today are forced to think of death. Sudden, tragic passings are an inevitable effect of the horror of war. Such passings are tragic because for the most part we are ignorant and unprepared. Our bewildered boys often do not know they have left the physical body. It takes time and patience for the unseen workers to make them understand. Some become more quickly readjusted than others, depending on their individual development. The work of such is invaluable when they find their place and with all the intelligence at their command proceed to serve as they themselves have been served.
GOD'S COUNTRY

This orderly, continuous, unselfish activity is a beautiful proof of the essential divinity of man. The moment he begins to work for others with no thought of self, that moment he has started on the surest and safest short cut to his own development. He saves his life by losing it.

Love is in truth "the greatest of these." Meditation, prayer, contemplation, aspiration—all are good. But if they end in the selfish desire to save one's own soul and let others look out for themselves, they lead us into the path of black magic where our knowledge becomes a sword instead of a shield. If we will to shorten our own evolution, we must take all the subtle dangers into account. These dangers are the more real because they are hidden. Centering on our own development at whatever cost is exceedingly dangerous. We should receive only to give. We should consider ourselves channels for higher forces to flow through. The channel must be kept open by constant service. The moment it becomes clogged it is useless.

Different levels of consciousness so beautifully graded, each blending into the one above and reaching in love to the one below! Rhythmic order, perfect planning—death only a step ahead into fuller life. Truly there is nothing to fear except our own selfish ignorance.
No. 27

The Presence

Often when we have difficult work ahead, we dread it. We feel unequal to the task. We wish we could escape from the responsibility. We grit our teeth and go ahead with dogged determination, knowing the job must be done. Or perhaps we are in a situation where we do not know what to do. All doors seem closed. We have no idea which way to turn. The plan on which we had set our hearts fails to materialize. We are blocked and utterly bewildered.

At times like these the one and only avenue of escape is reliance on the Power within. So few of us realize there is such a Power. We feel we have to do everything for ourselves. It is true we have the active part in carrying out our duty in the material world. But a greater Wisdom than ours is at the helm to steer our ship. The sooner we know this, the better for all concerned. Our work will improve, the strain will lift, and best of all we shall reach our objective with a minimum of effort.

We make life so unnecessarily difficult. We think we have to stand alone. When we are in extremis, we turn to God; and all the time, with us every step of the way, is this great reservoir of Wisdom and Strength, untapped, unrecognized.
GOD'S COUNTRY

When we are the loneliest, we have at our side the truest of friends. When we seem utterly helpless, there stands ready the greatest of helpers. When we are sick, weak, completely discouraged, the great Physician is near to heal, comfort, and strengthen. “Closer is He than breathing, nearer than hands and feet.”

We know the anguish of loss when the one we love more than life itself disappears from our sight. The tenderness that has enveloped our every moment, the comfort and understanding that have never failed—all are gone. We wander in the wilderness of loss and grief; and at every step the greatest of lovers is with us, the One who understands our every emotion, our every thought. Self-centered in our own misery, we do not see Him. We cannot hear His voice or feel the touch of His hand.

Only Infinite Patience could wait so long for recognition. Only Infinite Love could survive such ignorant rebuffs. Only Infinite Wisdom could smile at such short-sighted childishness. When our grief is deepest, warm arms enfold us. When our need is greatest, a hand grasps our trembling fingers. When our eyes are blinded with tears, we are led safely out of anguish and despair.

Why? Why? Why? There are reasons, of course, which with our limited knowledge we cannot grasp. We do know, however, that the cry in the night is answered, that a way always appears, that no suffering lasts forever, and that even-
GOD'S COUNTRY

tually we shall know even as also we are known.

The dark hours become bright when we sense the Presence, the heartache stops, duties are easy and labor light. Within ourselves is this greatest of guides, this ever present Help, the Comforter Who takes us in His arms and enwraps us in His love. Lo, He is with us alway, “even unto the end of the world.”
No. 28

The Habit of Hope

Often when we least expect it, help arrives. A sudden burst of sunshine breaks through the clouds. A rainbow spans the heavens. The unexpected brings new hope. We reach the limit of our endurance. Then suddenly we see the end of the ordeal.

When we know deep within us that no distress can last forever, why can we not live in the faith that is knowledge? We can thereby keep the even tenor of our way and refuse to sink under the load we carry. If we see the end from the beginning, we can train ourselves to center on that end and forget the intermediate steps. This attitude shortens the period of probation. By ignoring trouble we drop it. By centering on hopeful expectancy we gain the end desired.

Our thoughts may be generous and kind. Then we run counter to a distressed mind, distorted in viewpoint, delighting in making other people suffer. What are we to do? Live so far as possible in the center of peace within ourselves. If we are not strong enough to meet the situation, Fate will eventually remove us or change the conditions. Not all tests can be successfully passed. Even if there seems to be failure, a continuous attitude of
GOD'S COUNTRY

forgiveness helps to nullify the apparent weakness.

This harmony within one's own soul is vital to development, for it means harmony with the highest we know. We cannot vibrate to higher planes of knowledge and achievement unless we are in accord with those loftier levels of thought and action. Times of withdrawal from lower vibrations may become necessary until we gain sufficient spiritual strength to withstand cross-currents and keep our own equilibrium. This withdrawal is not necessarily a sign of failure. It should be a girding of the loins to meet new situations with new strength.

The tangled threads of human lives reach far back into the past. For every difficulty there is a reason; for every antipathy, a cause. Sooner or later the chemical of selfless love dissolves all knots in the pattern and smoothes the threads in perfect interblending and coordination. This takes time but come it must.

Meanwhile we do our part as best we can. Hope should never fail. It is an essential part of our spiritual equipment. Along with it comes imagination which never loses the picture of the perfect pattern. Night must go; day must break. Rain must stop; sun must shine. Clouds must pass and stars appear. Centered on the joyful outcome of all perplexities, we forget our troubles and live in the happiness to come.

This attitude is not easy but it can be cultivat-
ed. We can practise it as a musician plays the scales, as a runner takes his daily round, as an athlete persistently follows the training which some day will make him the champion. We can even try this as a game of skills. When we do any work long enough, it becomes automatic. Habit takes hold. Finally the whole process becomes more or less subconscious. We must train ourselves to expect only the best. This attitude built in hour by hour, day by day, month by month, becomes second nature; and before we know it, our problems find their solution and our souls their peace.
No. 29

The Tide of Opportunity

THERE is a time for everything under the sun. The wise man seizes the opportunity at the appointed moment and proceeds on a happier and more satisfactory journey. The uninformed or unobservant lets the chance slip by unnoticed and remains the poorer. We do not mean to imply that opportunity comes but once in a life-time. That is not true. Certain ages are of course better than others for the acquisition of certain skills. It is more difficult to train mind and body after a certain limit has been passed. Greater effort is required for less result. This applies only to the material world, however.

In the science of soul, opportunity is ever present. We grasp a spiritual truth and it becomes a part of us. It sinks deep into consciousness and remains as a constant resource and refreshment. The old-fashioned conversion, so-called, was not limited to young or old. All responded according to the inner urge. God is ready at all times in all places. The “tide in the affairs of men” does not affect Him, for all tides are His. It is a great blessing for us that He waits, that the chance is never lost. Tragic indeed would be the fate of a soul for whom there was no longer any hope. The moment a faint stirring of aspiration arises, a distaste for
GOD'S COUNTRY

the dreary present and a longing for better things, that moment our chance comes. We can never entirely lose it again. A beginning has been made.

God's opportunities arise from man's necessities, as has been so often said. Grief, suffering, despair make us turn for comfort and strength to a Power greater than ourselves. The child who stubs his toe and tumbles picks himself up and runs to his mother for comfort. We grown-up children do the same. When we can no longer help ourselves, we call for help. Our cry has an immediate response in that the portal of our inner self begins to swing open and makes possible a very real communion with higher planes.

It might be well to fix in our minds this conception of various levels of being, all closely connected. The unseen is far more real than the seen; the spiritual far more permanent than the material. On the earth side all is constant change from birth to death; no landmarks remain untouched. On the spirit side are the patterns, indestructible, perfect. Even a beautiful design may be ruined by imperfection in the material or the making. The moment the human element steps in, the ideal becomes obscured, hidden by the very nature of the imperfect plane on which it is expressing. It takes the eye of the poet, the lover, to catch this beauty in apparent ugliness, this harmony in seeming discord. Most of us cannot see or hear it.

Once we make up our minds, however, to find Truth, our opportunity arrives. The road is not
GOD'S COUNTRY

easy; no worthwhile training can be soft. Persistence of effort, faith in the quest bring the inevitable reward. We cannot attain by one leap; but the initial impulse may come like a flash of lightning, which illumines the whole being and changes aim and outlook.

We should pray for such illumination and await it in sure faith. When we least expect, it will arrive and make the next step clear. This is the true "tide in the affairs of men" which takes us out of shallows and of miseries. How short-sighted to neglect the most important thing in life—the knowledge of the purpose for which we came and the glorious destiny that is ours.
No. 30

Blind Flying

The inexplicable changes and chances of fortune become clear when we know the underlying causes. Immutable law works here as everywhere. Our only course is to go with it, not struggle against it. We must ride the air-currents as seasoned travellers in the confidence that we are headed for a safe landing. We could understand much of what is now obscure if we were developed to that point. At our present stage, however, such knowledge would be a two-edged sword. We could not use it without great danger. Not until we are ready can we take such information and handle it wisely.

There are times in life when blind flying becomes necessary. We have to trust to the mechanism of Providence like those who put themselves in the hands of an automatic pilot. Providence is by no means a robot; no greater intelligence exists than the knowledge of the All-Knower, the wisdom of the All-Wise. We have to go with it as little children who have no thought of the morrow and no care for the day. The more we can cultivate this habit of dependence on the great Guide of all life and all experience, the sooner can we find the peace our hearts desire.

This does not mean a devil-may-care attitude.
GOD'S COUNTRY

It does not mean laziness or slackness or lack of effort in any form. It does mean steady concentration of will to do our part as that part becomes clear and to leave all worry as to the outcome in the hands of the Director of our course, Who knows where we are going and why, and what we are destined to accomplish. Steady reliance on that Power will give us intuitions, “hunches”, clear convictions, unusual opportunities, until by experience we learn the art of putting ourselves entirely in the hands of our Greater Self. Understand there is no slackening of effort. The chances are we shall work harder than ever. The great difference is we have no worry about the outcome. We act in the calm assurance that all is and will be well as long as we keep in direct touch with the highest we know.

It is uncertainty about the future that kills—the corroding anxiety that saps energy and undermines strength. All such attitudes are worse than futile. They are definitely destructive. Instead of progressing we stand blocked, eventually to slide back. Meanwhile time and opportunity are lost. We head straight for disaster.

We all crave happiness. We like to see others happy. Man was made to rejoice, but he has wandered far from the Source of joy and lost his perspective. It would be well worth the experiment to train ourselves to live entirely in the present, resting secure in the faith of a happy future under unfailing guidance. This is not the happy-go-
GOD'S COUNTRY

lucky frame of mind of reckless ne'er-do-wells. It is the steady poise of the tested and tried disciple who knows through faith that all is working smoothly every mile of the course. The goal is straight ahead and the landing sure for him who centers mind and heart on the guidance of Divine Intelligence.
No. 31

The Future of the Republic

The work ahead needs clear minds and clean hearts. For that reason we have emphasized the spiritual side of man's make-up and the essential need of spiritual development. All of this is definitely linked with the future of our Republic. God's country cannot remain God's unless the people in it do His will. They cannot have the wisdom to do His will unless they develop the attitude of agents. They cannot be agents if they do not open and keep open the channels of communication.

An operative on an important mission may know the ultimate objective or he may have the key to only one move at a time. His contacts must be right or he will fail and his homeland suffer. He is usually a link in a chain; if he drops out, the chain breaks. The important moves are planned far ahead; the intermediate steps may be left to the agent's own ingenuity. He taps certain help at certain times. His mission may be to stand and wait until the order comes. But he never loses sight of the fact that he is acting for a Power greater than himself, which depends on him to carry out orders and use his head.

In a sense this analogy applies to us as citizens of the Republic. To be skilled we must subject
ourselves to strenuous training. We must count no sacrifice of the lower self too great for the high mission which is ours. It may be an obscure part about which the world will never know. It may be among the seats of the mighty. We stand pledged to the highest of which we are capable. Too many have suffered and died, for us to be weaklings now.

While we wait for our individual cue, we have time and opportunity to make ourselves letter-perfect. God's country by its very nature is a spiritual domain. If we are to serve, we must develop our spiritual nature and learn to live in it until the practice becomes automatic and the viewpoint far-reaching.

Only so can we respond when the emergency arises and the time comes for us to step into action. Preparedness is four-fifths of the game, spiritual preparedness, for with such equipment we cannot fail. We lose the personal in the universal, the selfish in the unselfish, the ephemeral in the eternal. As a link in a long chain we pass the word to the one waiting to receive it at the appointed time and place. The chain must remain unbroken, that golden chain which binds us in love to the Eternal.

Thus we lose our life in service only to save it in the greater whole. The personal fate of the individual is in this sense unimportant; the success of the mission is all that counts. We know the complete fearlessness of one who has lost himself
in the cause he serves and lives only for that cause, ready to catch the slightest whisper of command and act accordingly. The Republic needs our devotion as never before. We have been asleep at the switch too long. The war between light and darkness goes on and on. If we would save our heritage we must be ready at a moment’s notice to do our part. This means complete purity of mind and heart so that we can hear the inner voice, and hearing, fearlessly obey. For this we have come at our appointed time. If our part is to stand and wait, we can at least be sentries at listening-posts, keyed to catch the slightest whisper and relay it to the next in command. God’s country calls for our devoted service. Are we ready?