

CHAPTER XX

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

Here then is the record of my day's work still unfinished at eighty. I began it that I might be free to find answers to questions which life was ^{asking} ~~thrusting~~ upon me. After long floundering ~~I found myself in conscious efforts to add something clear and unassailable to one or another of the problems perplexing and angering the public.~~ I had blundered into man's old struggle for the betterment of his life.

My point of attack has always been that of a journalist after the facts, rarely that of a reformer, the advocate of a cause or a system. If I was tempted from the straight and narrow path of the one who seeks for that which is ^{why it is so} ~~so or not so~~ I sooner or later returned. This was partly because of the humor and common sense of my associates on McClure's and The American Magazines, and partly because the habit of accepting without question the teachings and conventions of my world was shattered when in girlhood I discovered that the world was not created in six days of twenty four hours each. That experience aroused me to questioning, qualifying, even what I advocated, as no first class crusader can afford to do.

I have worked steadily and for the most part honestly - there have been slips - at the problems I tackled, but I have never had illusions about the value of my individual contributions! I realized early that what a man or a woman does is built on what those who have gone before have done, that its real value depends on making the matter in hand a little clearer, a little sounder for those who come after. We are time builders. Nobody begins or ends anything. He is a link, weak or strong, in an endless chain. One of our gravest mistakes is persuading ourselves that nobody has passed this way before.

In our eagerness to prove we have found the true solution, ~~we~~ fail to inquire why this same solution failed to work when tried before for it always has been tried before, even if we in our self-confidence do not know it. ~~In our confidence that we can do it. We fail.~~ *etc.*

There are certain exhibits of the eighty years I have lived which ~~seem~~ *particularly impressive* important to recognize. Perhaps the first of these is the cyclical character of man's nature and activities. The generations repeat all that is essential in them. If I separate my eighty years - 1857 to 1937 - into four generations, examine them, compare my findings, I find startling similarities in essentials.

Take the effort to create, distribute and use wealth. *Now* ~~alike the up & down that have marked that effort.~~

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Take the effort to create, distribute and use wealth.

Under the same conditions, the same results are

97 I was born in 1857 in the year of a major panic. The depression which followed it was smothered in ~~the depths~~ ~~of a war~~. That war over quickly there followed in 1866 a serious depression - world wide. In 1873 came a major panic. When my first generation came to an end in 1877 the country was still deep in the clutch of the unhappy depression which followed ~~the~~ Panic of ~~1873~~.

Each of my three successive generations beginning in 1877, 1897, 1917, has featured a "major" panic followed by five to seven years of depression. Then ^{has} ⁶ ^a came the brilliant short-lived recovery ending in what we euphoniously call today a recession.

My fifth generation just opening promises well to duplicate its predecessor. If I live ten years longer I no doubt will see a ~~major~~ panic, and one more difficult to handle because the world-old recognition of the need of storing the fruits of good years to take care of the ~~crop~~ failures of bad years has been made a political ^{offense} crime. ^{from} No surpluses will exist as they did in 1929 to cushion disaster. Reckless as we were as a people in the years from '24 to '29 under the delusion that we had discovered new economic laws we still were cautious enough to lay ^{up} surpluses, and it was these surpluses that cushioned the fall ~~that~~ our orgy of speculation under our new economic laws brought about.

If we seek the causes of these disastrous panics we find them strikingly alike, their difference being rather in extent than in kind. And that extent is explained by the fact that the work of each generation has been carried on by an increasingly large number of people ^{produced} and the ^{handling} increasingly large wealth/by their inventiveness, ^{and} their energy, ~~their~~ genius for business.

~~Each generation of my five generations~~ ^{from} ~~makes~~ ^{has made} a sad exhibit of itself by repeating panics and depressions which are traceable to similar causes. ^{and} Each seems to ^{have} learned little or nothing from its predecessor. ~~If~~ Side by side with these discouraging exhibits have gone magnificent attempts ^{to correct} to make man's life in the Republic freer, securer, more just, efforts to carry out the avowed purpose of the government we started a hundred and fifty years ago. ^{And these efforts are alike in intention} In their ~~essentials~~ these attempts have been very light, ^{like} their objectives the same, the improvement of the life of all the people. ^{make} That is our present New Deal, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ^{if Franklin Roosevelt} the New Freedom of Woodrow Wilson, the Square Deal of Theodore Roosevelt, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ ^{a larger} the fight for/freedom of opportunity of Grover Cleveland, the struggle to wipe out slavery of Abraham Lincoln, these movements ~~and of all~~

Last Chapter:

5
their leaders
Generations repeat their follies and their
wisdoms. Side by side in each generation men endowed
with superior brains and inspired by love of power and
possession launched ~~their~~ selfish schemes. In each
generation we have our Carnegies, our Rockefellers, our Goulds,
and each of them have left something fatal behind. *They each have*
have also left something *fine* contributions. The public without
whom they could not have lived a day have seen behind their *greedy*
schemes something *fine* doing, and have taken that while they have
ordered their government to control whatever was fatal *summit*

grandiose undertakings
And while they built and served and exploited
other men endowed with an idealism as great as their practical
ability, ~~peured out to men new schemes,~~ new forms of planned
government, all guaranteed to produce security and justice.
Each generation has had its Henry George, its Bellamy,
It De ~~la~~, its Bryan, all intent on persuading man-
kind that they had found the way, could lead men to the good
life.

aged
There have been those who believed in
the entire destruction of existing governments, like the
organized of 1883. They have declared for energetic,
implacable, revolutionary action. There has never been a time in all
these fifty years that they have not been boring within
the existing organized labor bodies, exciting them to war instead
of cooperation.

6

In each generation employer and employee have faced the decision - war or cooperation. If war has been the answer in the majority of cases there have always been those who have ~~found what~~ could be obtained ~~from~~ *by patient cooperative experiments.* They have gone ahead building up a great mass of evidence of what man can do in industry *when properly* if they will bring their natural ~~goodwill~~ *they* into action, employ *it* rather than suspicion *and self-interest.*

Great movements for betterment have spread in each generation. What is our New Deal but a round-up, a nationalization of executives that have been sought by growing numbers through these generations. The attempts of men, the demands of men, through these generations for shorter hours, ~~for~~ higher wages, better conditions, the relief of the child from labor, better security, freedom from sharks of all kinds ^{together into} have progressed, that they put ^{it} one big national bunch and offer ^{it} to the country as a whole.

And what is the New Deal but the New Freedom of Woodrow Wilson, the Square Deal of Theodore Roosevelt, the larger opportunity, the of privilege of Grover Cleveland, the making of all men free of Abraham Lincoln.

Again and again in these generations have we ~~seen the great ship of democracy lift from the ground while~~ *stagger* ~~we held our breath, soar and sail, while those who had chosen the pilot, loaded his cargo, supplied him with fuel watched the flight~~ *over* ~~with tears and prayers.~~

In H But ^{has} The ship always come back and doubters have *in journey, unforgotten* ~~jeered at those who believed in it.~~ *cried out that it would* ~~It will never run~~

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of Woodrow Wilson, the Square Deal of Theodore Roosevelt, the

of privilege of Grover

with confidence & exultation - This time their

dream had come true,

seen the great ship of democracy lift from the ground while

we held our breath, soot and sail, while those who had chosen the path

loaded his cargo, ungladly watched the flight

with tears and prayers.

has the ship always come back and doubters have

deserted at those who believed in it. It will never run

You are crazy dreamers if you think that freedom, equal opportunity, the Square Deal, are more than dreams.

But always others have said, "Let us see what is the matter." It flew, proved it could go. Now let us find out why it does not stay up, make its regular rounds, ^{rest for} only new improvements, new forms of wings and rudder, more directing compasses."

Always each generation has made ~~its soaring~~ the plane a little roomier, a little stronger, a little easier to guide, its flight farther and farther.

But why have we not done better than we have? Each generation has again and again shown the reason. "There

is our great hurry to prove ^{that} this or that idea in which we believed will do the trick, that those we follow know all the answers, that the critic who warns us that this or that will not work, is only throwing cold water, that experience does not count, that youth must man the ship before he has even flown solo. It is not necessary to begin where others have left off if you have a new idea. Plenty of reasons why the flights have been so short, where their failures have been duplicated. A good flight depends on preparation and the careful, patient, handling, guiding."

But all these failures, these returns to ~~the~~ earth of the ship we have launched, the need of beginning again, makes cynics of many of us,

at least been sympathetic holders in the fight

See A 8

were only foolish fancies,

they gloated

Min ^{room} function, only under strong single
single rules - it is done alone alone
make ~~an~~ efficient government - national ^{strong} ~~strong~~
~~And there is no denying that this is a~~
~~failure a half success. When~~

The state not the individual is
the end.

has done better - with the means - better ^{out}
in unworld ^{way}

See 7 - A. Remm

Ph. - 21/11/1902

(As far as I am concerned, however, that smart and cynical estimate, even if I have been inclined to it, never could stand a good night's sleep. I have lived too close to men and women who ~~have~~ labor with their hands and their minds not to know that the deepest thing in ~~human~~ ^{their} nature is the love of freedom. Security - yes. They want it. And masses want it whatever the cost to self-respect, to their ideals, for a time. But always there are those who will not accept, and they are the ones who bring in the end to confusion the fine laid plans, those who attempt to rule

1. ~~AT vi War 2nd ray.~~
 2. ~~See 7 ~~AS~~~~
 3. ~~in 2nd~~

cn

(3)

If I find little satisfaction or hope in examining ⁽⁴⁾ my four successive generations, one by one, ⁽⁵⁾ and ⁽²⁾ comparing them, I find considerable in ^{looking} taking them as a whole.

the group move

When I do that I see not a ^{group} succession of cycles, but a spiral - ^{it is} upward. To be sure, not always a very steady spiral, but I am convinced it is fair ^{that is the real movement} that is the real movement.

cell A

^{that this is true} As a matter of fact, could there be greater reason ^{than} for hope that the world as a whole has today come to ^{conscious} grips over that most fundamental problem ^{shall} of whether all men shall cooperate in the effort to make a free, peaceful, orderly world, or ^{we} whether ^{we} shall ^{comment that} permit strong men to make a world to their liking, force us to live in it. More than that ^{to} train us to carry it on.

It is well that the issue should be so clear, so clear that each of us must be forced to ^{choice} decide, to make a choice.

those who choose democracy want

Even more hopeful, if not ^{are} quite so clear to quite so many people, the demonstrations ~~of~~ the last two decades particularly have given us, that the kind of world ^{we want} we want can never be made by wars, revolutions, strikes, by any demonstration of force. It is no time for recrimination but it is a time for taking stock. What ^{have} do we ^{looking} get out of these appeals to force ^{on} in the more force, We get wars, revolutions, strikes. We launched a magnificent plane when we put up the League of Nations, but into ^{it's making} that plane went ^{greed} grief, fear, hate, a desire to punish, as well as the desire.

name of Democracy

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examining my four successive generations, one by one, and (S)
comparing them, I find considerable in taking them as a whole.
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it is
upward. To be sure, not always a very steady spiral, but I am
convinced it is a spiral. That is the real movement.
As a matter of fact, could there be a
New World in which
reason for hope that the world as a whole has today only to
grips over that most fundamental problem of men
shall cooperate in the effort to make a
orderly world, or whether I shall permit strong men to make a
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following
2000, after another along
the rocky & uneven road

remains
of
Bismarck

For a peaceful
the world as it

June

be re-made and run. If we want to keep the seeds of war, we must
 germanized or all human experiences learned they would
 for revolt, out of our treaties, leagues and contracts we must
 will now
 but the kind of world I am convinced that the great mass

get the k

of world I am convinced
 through pres. Ike want
 women want ~~what~~ 8 wor

om

M. Turb

civilization.
deuses anmahetuna.
volving new schemes amrees

or training armies it is in the discipline and training common

men and women the world over to honest labor, to cooperation.

in them

natural spark, freedom.

How are we going to do it?

See Page 9

The great question Mr. [unclear] face
 this problem fall became in how
 over 2 at the present amount it: We
 have tried the plane the
 enough

and the grandam
peace did not ~~pull~~ ^{uproot} them
uproot - when they appeared,
he did not replace them
with ~~fresh~~ the seeds of
~~health~~ ^{corruption} as concluded
independently - humanly.

to be made and run the world as the victors thought it should

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They are not after water but security
of their own making - freedom to
bind up their security in the very
very little.

our

See page 4

and the greenest
never did not forget the
uproot - when the uprooted
is not yet uprooted there
ought to be the seeds of
freedom or civilization
in the uprooted - civilization

orderly and just ways of life. In 1921 I went to Washington to report to Secretary Hughes' Conference. I went to a wise man at the Carnegie Peace Foundation to ask advice about books. He was a philosopher, knew all the treaties - very interesting. First, (he) said, read John Den Quigley that will tell you what they cannot do, then read Aesop's Fables and that will tell you what they can do. But above all read the St. James version of the Bible which tells you that peace on earth is promised ^{only} to men of good will. There you have it. If we want peace we must make men of good will, also men enlightened by that light of common sense, ^{known} telling what can be done and what cannot be done. ^{also} Where are we going to get them? ^{known}

How are we to do it? I see no more promising path than each person

faithfully
... sticking to the work which ⁱⁿ and seeming size of importance comes his way. The nature of the work/matters far less than that its relation to the place where he finds himself is right. If the need at the moment is digging a ditch or washing the dishes that is the greatest thing in the world for the moment. The time, the place, the need, the relation, ~~action~~ ^{depends} is what makes the value of the act.

It is out of this in following this natural path that new & broader roads are reached open, ~~moments~~ of illumination come.
Mumukshu

2020/11/17

K

Madam Curie had this in mind. She was asked what

a woman's contribution ~~was~~ to ~~peace on earth~~ ^{refined} a better world should be. The contribution she said in substance ^{that it} should

begin ^a at home, then spread out/immediately connected with you -

your family - ^{your} immediate friends - then ^{into} your community

and then if it so happens that your fundamental work ^{turns out} has the character for the world at large, let it spread there. But the

important thing is the beginning and that beginning, Madam Curie

thought ^{inspired} clearly enough, was ^{at} home. ^{the center of}

small things.
William James saw the world re-made
by small things.

he wrote in his 57th year

As for me, my bed is made: I am against bigness and greatness in all their forms, and with the invisible molecular moral forces that work from individual to individual, stealing in through the crannies of the world like so many soft rootlets, or like the capillary oozing of water, and yet rending the hardest monuments of man's pride, if you give them time. The bigger the unit you deal with, the hollower, the more brutal, the more mendacious is the life displayed. So I am against all big organizations as such, national ones first and foremost; against all big successes and big results; and in favor of the eternal forces of truth which always work in the individual and immediately unsuccessful way, under-dogs always, till history comes, after they are long dead, and puts them on the top.

Howdy can be more surprised than I
am that I am at work at 8 o.
that I must ^{still} make sure of
that evening on which I can to
long ^{have} loved my freedom.

~~see 15~~

forward

I ~~did not suppose~~, looking at life at twenty
 five, at thirty, forty, fifty, ^{and} ~~being often weary with work~~ -
 I generally ^{find} ~~have found~~ myself tired and a little discouraged,
 having always ~~had the habit of taking on~~ things for which I was ^{consoled}
 unprepared, things which were too big for me really - ^{I would say}
 at seventy you stop. ^{that is the law} ~~these four score years and ten~~

When seventy came I was not ready to stop. I did not want to stop.

There was that security that had to be looked after if I was to be
 free and fulfill my obligations which really are the reasons for

freedom. I ^{planned for it} ~~had thought that I would stop the regular round~~, that

I would burrow into the country, have a microscope, ^{find out what} ~~was in that old dream~~. I ^{knew} ~~by this time that that was not the way~~

I was going to find God, but I ^{expected to} ~~could~~ have a lot of fun watching the

Protozoa and less anguish than watching men and women. But as I ^{discovered} ~~dreamed~~

^{when 70 came then I realized} ~~say I was not free~~. There was security to look after. Well, I

^{I thought} ~~would make it by seventy five~~. But I did not. And I have come into
 eighty ~~that~~ with a consciousness that so long as my head holds out

I shall work. The amazing part of it is that in spite of all

the old notions that have been instilled into me ^{that the idea of the} ~~of the uselessness of~~

the aged, ^{war} ~~their need of rest and idleness, sitting in the corner~~. ^{our} ~~one~~

I find work is still among my few best friends. One is

books and beauty, my family, my friends. ^{It is like} ~~It is like~~ a discovery that

this can be so, and quite ^{an exciting} ~~an exciting~~ discovery. Old age need not

be what all the text books ~~told you~~. Shakespeare was wrong.

^{etc} ~~Cicero~~ was more nearly right. ^{It can be} ~~It can be~~ an adventure in itself.

and as he is in
 comparison is

assured
 assured it to be

resignedly waiting to die, that letting youth ~~clutch~~
~~was true~~ there was ^{no} place ~~for you in the~~ ^{their} ~~your~~
 days work in the scheme of things - that if betrayed
 to youth - ~~you~~ ^{you} no longer ~~should~~ ^{should} have ~~ever~~ ^{ever} the
 will ~~desire~~ or the power to do a ~~useful~~
 thing in, 2 find things to do which ~~belong~~ ^{belong} to me
 & no way ~~else~~ ^{else}

A case

The discovery that here are a few years that you expected would be dreary, to drag through, still have their possibilities, still things to discover which are not interesting to others but are interesting to you.

My young friends laugh at me when I tell them sometimes that I am finding my eighties an adventure, that in spite of ~~creaking~~ ^{creaking} joints and a tremulous hand, there are peculiar satisfactions belonging to the period, satisfactions different from those of youth, of middle life, even of that decade of the '70's, which ~~was~~ ^I supposed to end all.

No one can imagine what a satisfaction it is to me to find that since I ~~cannot~~ ^{I need} need not work as hard as I have always in my previous decades. I need not always be tired. I have too much in hand. I lie longer in the morning, rest in the afternoon, sit awhile in the sun. I need ~~not~~ ^{not} go to big dinners, after all have ~~that they really~~ ^{noway} would not know that I was there or not, that I need ~~not~~ ^{not} run around on trains and give lectures. Oh, there are various varieties of discoveries. So many bugaboos pulled out of the closet. It is a great comfort to come to a point when you know what you ~~should~~ ^{materially to} do or do not do is going to. It is up to you to make as little nuisance of yourself as possible, save your strength to ^{give a} cry now and then for freedom and always to stretch out a hand to those less placed than you are.

Of course there is a lingering hope that some of the things at different points in your life you have wanted to do and never have found time to do, that you still may work in. There is a considerable list of things I have wanted to do, playing with

Conventions & Overflows

What two in

(1) That job belongs to youth. It has the ~~goal~~ -
 the appetite; the ~~digestion~~ ^{talk}, the ~~relevance~~
~~to the~~ for the ~~entire~~ ~~discussion~~ of
 the function - also the ~~conviction~~
 that salvation is to be received ~~by~~
 them. Still none ~~satisfactorily~~ is the
~~work~~ ~~acceptance~~ of the ~~fact~~ that I have
 not the strength to ~~summarize~~ about it.

(2) is the job of youth ~~and~~ the verb? can
 help for them in that they learn as much about
 purpose as I can? I don't think I did. The humility that
 will be made will be all to their good.

Last Chapter:

me for
A discovery which has given me joy & notice

has something of this about it
~~One of the most consoling and at times it seems almost incredible things in human experience is the~~

durability of an honest friendship born at any period in

one's life. *broken* ~~At~~ *has* Circumstance, time, separation, may completely

break communication. The break may have been caused by complete

difference ~~divergence of opinion, matters of the gravest moment, personal~~

there while I could ~~matters as grave as the breaking up of our old McClure crowd, as grave as~~

the ghastly separations that war brings. *but* ~~you pick up as if~~

when ~~they had never occurred, you pick up at the day/the friendship~~

but ~~was not broken~~ but interrupted.

One of the most beautiful personal demonstrations that

I have had of this unbreakable quality in friendships was ~~the~~ *at*

birthday party which Mr. McClure gave *Miss* Roseboro, John Phillips

and myself when he was seventy-five years old. *at* We sat down

together in *an* ~~exactly the way we~~ *one* had sat down in the old St. Denis

the old Astor, the old Holland House, *various* ~~at the various stages~~ *Denise*

of the progress of McClure's, *when* ~~stages when the Magazine was~~ *U.M.*

ed ~~working itself into successively better quarters -~~ *went* going up town. *U.M.*

And we talked *as* ~~as if there had been no years, no strain,~~ *only of the*

things ~~today, as we always had done - the liveliest interest in what was~~

going on, the liveliest interest on Mr. McClure's part in his hope in

the ~~thing he was doing, and we sat enthralled~~ *as* in the old years.

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(3) I have enlaid in this narrative my
 on properrial pindulity - there be -
 laying li my clay nkh but this dising
^{COVER} corn not turn alone but the rays from
 gillwood to now
 Chr B.

Blushing plover marking the stages by which
 McClure's worked
 Chr B.

(2) As indicated to Mr McClure latent en-
 sturnains - ~~that~~ & mamehly as always over
 his ~~is~~ ^{the} eternal youthfulness, the failure
 of lips to quench him

Last Chapter:

181

UNEL

One of the ~~real~~ satisfactions ~~of~~ my recent ~~latter years~~ has been a revival of my curiosity. ~~At various periods in my life it deserted me temporarily, but after the War, after I returned to work there was a long period - ten years nearly - that I lived not really caring. It was the feeling of the repetitions character of the world. I went on doggedly, but I had a feeling that I knew what men were going to do and how they were going to flatten out, the ability of no longer being an active factor in the generation, but looking them over as a whole - fifty years - restored me. It was the return to the sense that after all this group of cycles taken as a whole made what I had begun to doubt and that was the thing which gave me an over-whelming sense of futility, of convictions these that disappointing generations made it spiral. It is easy enough to see what these generations did on the physical side of life, how they raised standards of living. What was natural and easy to see, was whether or no it raised the thing that really counts, the standard of character. That is where my struggle comes in today, to convince myself that these fifty years have raised, taken as a whole, the standard of character, the willingness of men to accept the higher standard of living at the expense of a lower standard of character. It is obvious enough. The humane outstrips the ethical. But if you believe as I do that under neath any permanent humane betterment there must be a moral basis, then all this excuse of non-ethical, immoral, in the name of~~

~~was getting~~ ~~achieved~~ ~~much~~ ~~but~~ ~~our~~ ~~home~~ ~~world~~ ~~collapse~~ ~~come~~ ~~is~~ ~~later~~ ~~new~~ ~~economic~~ ~~path~~ ~~good~~ ~~intentions~~ ~~fine~~ ~~plan~~ ~~we~~ ~~not~~ ~~enough~~ ~~see~~ ~~it~~

I lost it completely in the 1920's & early
1930's. Human again seemed to me
to be headed for collapse. The war was
not over & the ~~loss~~ incinerator were
taking it for granted it was. The ~~collapse~~^{failure}
of hopes of human civilization had
caught us nothing. The sense of disaster
was strong in me but I was not sure
enough of anything to cry. Fully, I argued,
that here at home we were carrying a
standard going at the expense of a
standard of character - that. As well as
a man's freedom of thought & action.
Now too by a price for a full drive paid.
for a security ^{unearned} created by the sweat of the
now. That we were putting the price of
good things out from under. ~~Main moral~~
~~express~~ our humane efforts at work.

the ③ which divides the heart - ^{20/67} for
greater of mystery it has become for me
the greater of realities;