

The people of the steerage are in a large measure what I told you they are—primitive, uncultured, untutored people ; with all their virtues and vices in the making. They are the best material with which to build a nation materially ; they are good stock to be used in replenishing physical depletion ; and capable of taking on the highest intellectual and spiritual culture. They are a serious problem in every respect ; whether you shut the gates of Ellis Island to-day or to-morrow, those that are here are an equally serious problem.

One thing the journey in the first cabin has done for me ; it has made me grateful for my journeys in the steerage ; grateful that I could stand among those tangling threads out of which our national life is being woven, and see the woof and the warp, and know that the woof is good. I am conscious of the fact that it will take strong sound warp to hold it together, to fill out our pattern and complete our plan. Oh, my dear lady ! What a great country in the making this is ! And how close you and I are to the making !

Here are we, living at a time in which the greatest phenomenon of history is taking place. Future generations will wonder at the process and will say : " A new gigantic race was being born between the Atlantic and the Pacific ; a race born to build or to destroy, to cry to the world,