

An Appreciation of A. E. S. Smythe

I AM possibly a hero worshipper, for a person whose achievements stand out in bold relief on the pages of history has ever been to me an inspiration to endeavor, and to be through doing is the earnest of aspiration. It has been one of my pleasing indulgencies to write appreciations of many men and women who are still close to us and whose work is not yet finished.

The poet, the philosopher, or the orator have especially appealed to me for to them we are indebted most of all for keeping alive the ideals which make for "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

They open the door to a consciousness capable of better appreciating the so-called common things of life.

They tint the grey experiences of every day with the pink flush of understanding and make it known that there is a mystic meaning in everyday's happening of each life, worthy to be magnified into classic words.

They reconcile us to the gross anomalies to be met with in our social system by showing us the evolutionary trend of social growth, and that we have arrived this far is an earnest and a prophesy that we will arrive thus far.

A poet cannot be unless he teaches.

A philosopher cannot be unless he teaches.

An orator cannot be unless he teaches.

A teacher then, who is poet, philosopher, and orator is pre-eminently in the advance guard of our social life and is an especially valuable citizen.

That Mr. A. E. S. Smythe can be placed in this classification, no one who knows the man will deny.

Mr. Smythe has passed the milestone of high noon, but he faces the west with a vigor only possible when the physical body has been treated as a sacred dwelling for the spirit's finest growth.

Twenty-five years ago the Toronto Theosophical Society was founded by Mr. Smythe and others.