

NOBLESSE OBLIGE.

(Wealth, like rank, imposes obligation.)

The causes that have led to the existence in wealthy England of the dire poverty that two-penny dinners are proposed to alleviate are so complicated that it may be impossible to find a simple remedy. Logically the first step is to ascertain the causes. The fact that great wealth and great poverty commonly exist side by side presents a striking contrast, and it is not surprising that socialistic reformers are in the habit of saying that they account for each other, and of claiming that these gross inequalities are due to class privilege, to the law of primogeniture and the system of entail, or to undue political. English radicals are found of pointing to the origin of the fortunes of some of the great families of England; to estates conferred for inadequate military service; for services to the King or to the King's favourites; or for other more or less weighty or more or less moral considerations. The sovereign remedy they urge is "Democracy" with a big "D." Some ardent reformers seem to imagine that if the accumulated results of all this alleged undue favoritism could be once wiped out by some scheme of confiscation and re-division; in future, wealth would tend to divide itself more equitably. A curious contribution to the discussion of this question may be found in a recent number of Munsey's Magazine entitled "Two miles of Millionaires." The writer describes the palatial residences existing within two miles of the length of Fifth Avenue, which are tenanted exclusively by millionaires. He incidentally mentions that if all the millionaires living in Greater New York were gathered together and resided on a single street, there would be no less than twenty continuous miles, perhaps forty miles of them. He gives sixty of the names of the millionaires who live within the two miles, and casually observes that a single dozen of these names stand in round numbers for twelve hundred million dollars; or an average of a hundred millions each. The statement is not difficult of belief when we come to read the list of names, which is as follows:—

Frederick W. Vanderbilt.
Marshall Orme Wilson,
Colonel Lawrence Kip.
Russell Sage.
Henry B. Plant
Mrs. Ogden Goelet.
General Daniel Butterfield.
William Ziegler.
D. O. Mills.
R. T. Wilson.
General Thomas T. Eckert.
Miss Helen Gould.
Frederick Roosevelt.
James B. Haggin.
Robert Goelet.
John W. Mackay.
William T. Aston.
James Tolman Pyle.
George W. Vanderbilt.

William D. Sloane.
William K. Vanderbilt.
Mrs. Elliott F. Shepard.
H. McK. Twombly.
William S. Webb.
F. Gallatin.
Harry Payne Whitney
Cornelius Vanderbilt,
Mrs. Moses Hopkins.
F. H. Benedict.
Andrew Carnegie.
George Gould.
Isaac Stern.
Charles F. Yerkes.
William C. Whitney.
John H. Inman.
H. R. Bishop.
John Sloane.
James A. Burden,

James D. Layng.
Elbridge T. Gerry.
W. V. Brokaw.
Isaac Wormser.
H. O. Havemeyer.
Ogden Mills.
John Jacob Astor.
Colonel Oliver H. Payne.
H. H. Cooke.
Isaac V. Brokaw.
H. M. Flagler.

H. V. Newcomb.
George A. Morrison.
William Rockefeller.
Levi P. Mottion.
Calvin S. Brice.
James Everard.
Benjamin Brewster.
Robert D. Evans.
Herman Oelrichs.
Collis P. Huntington.
William E. Iselin.

We do not need to go very far from Fifth Avenue to find poverty as dire as can be found in the slums of London.

"Democracy" with a big "D," as a panacea for the disease of the body politic, known as the unequal distribution of wealth, is evidently a failure. With a few noble and notable exceptions it is doubtful if any wealthy aristocrats in the world render less direct service to the state than do the American millionaires. We do not contend that these gentlemen have rendered no service to the country in accumulating their great fortunes. Their energy and foresight, their ingenuity, their financial pluck, have perhaps covered the country with railways or industrial enterprises. The remarkable thing is that the American democracy has not devised means by which these things could be obtained without practically putting the country in pawn to the gentlemen who live on Fifth Avenue. It is foolish to abuse these men for succeeding in what practically every man in the United States is attempting. What is true of the American millionaires as a class is true of industrial millionaires everywhere else. In both England and the United States people have been going to the ballot boxes for years to elect their own law-givers, but neither at Westminster nor at Washington has much been done to attempt a solution of this problem which is vital to both nations.

The democracy having failed, it might be worth the while of the millionaires to anticipate the confiscatory schemes which are sure to be evolved in some era of popular discontent. In all ages aristocracy has been associated with responsibilities. In the industrial age, the wealthy captains of industry are the natural successors of the war lords of the feudal ages, and the motto of their class should still be *noblesse oblige*.

THE KLONDYKE AS KNOWN TO-DAY.

(Based upon information received from THE CHRONICLE'S correspondent.)

On the 23rd ult., at the Savoy hotel in London, a dinner was given to Sir James Grant, of Ottawa. In responding to the toast of the guest of the evening, Sir James Grant, after eloquent allusions to the progress and development of Canada, is thus reported in a London newspaper, *The Citizen*:—

"Referring to the mineral resources of the country, he said there was no gold-producing country on the face of the globe to be compared with Klondyke. They