

from three millions nine hundred thousand pounds in 1874 to five millions seven hundred thousand pounds in 1878. The number of members advanced from four hundred and eleven thousand to five hundred and sixty thousand in this same period of four years.

This success must be a matter of the highest interest for the social reformer. For what are the moral bearings of co-operation? It fosters just those two habits of life which distinguish civilization from barbarism, and the higher forms of civilized life from the lower. The one of these is providence, or the habit of looking forward; the other is association, or the habit of looking around and combining with others. The barbarian is essentially isolated. He is isolated in time; for he thinks only of the present moment, he lives only in the present moment. His immediate wants are all in all to him. The future is altogether beyond his range of vision. He takes his first great step towards civilization, when he learns to sow the seed now for the sake of the harvest which he can only reap months hence. According as a man learns to look forward—to next year, to advancing age, to death, to the things after death—so is his progress in the scale of humanity. And again, the barbarian is isolated in space. I mean that though he is surrounded by beings like himself, he has little or no capacity of combining with them for common ends. To gather together in the same neighborhood, to form some sort of society, to submit to common rules—this again is the first great leap from barbarism towards civilization. So that these two habits—the habit of providence, or looking forward and realizing our relations to coming time, and the habit of association, or combining with our fellow-men and so realizing our relations to our surroundings—may be said to be the two pillars of civilization—meaning by civilization the moral and social improvement of mankind. Well, then, co-operation is founded on these two principles. It aims at developing these two habits. And thus it is a civilizing influence of the highest kind. Providence is its lesson, and association is its school.