

new era and He who cannot be answered has undertaken a task of reconstruction in international book-keeping prodigious yet commonplace." Would one not think that the French writer and thinker was describing conditions existant in the year 1920, rather than events which transpired over a century ago.

In the reconstruction following the deluge as in every case when reforms have been instituted from without and where the moral fibre has not been regenerated by the impulse of a great love, the results of the general washing were disappointing. Barbaeles began to attach themselves to the ship of state long ere it rested on Ararat, and the species have shown a wonderful power of propagation and adhesiveness even under the democratic forms of government of our day. Scarcely had the world new-born emerged than lust brought forth its fruits. Down the long vista of recorded facts the same sad sombre story reveals itself—namely, that men are not induced to live nobler lives and strive for higher ideals by catastrophes, as evidenced by quite recent events.

When the war was in progress and when civilization was passing through its gethsemane in the spring of 1918, we all said that when the men at the front came back they would teach us how to live better, how to find a greater joy in service and the mass of humanity would respond with such eager alacrity that the Scottish bards prayer and dream—"When man to man the world o'er shall brithers be for a that"—will have been realized. I fear however, that the vision splendid has in too many instances, resolved itself, on the one hand into a material calculation of the value of the service