

less and varied wealth, the administrator of such vast resources, the provider of so many things desirable and useful—that its services will call for and receive the best talent; and no one will be so sufficient unto himself that he can afford to be indifferent to the success of the public administration.

It is a very great thing to have attained to some sort of clear conception of the possibilities of the ideal city of the future. Already that ideal city is emerging. Its elements to a large extent already exist, some in one place, some in another, all of them capable of transplantation and entirely compatible with one another. Thus the city with an ideal water-supply is not debarred from possessing ideal schools and public libraries. The city that has perfectly paved and well-cleaned streets may have everything else that makes for health, attractiveness, safety, and pleasure in the public appointments. No private schools can possibly be as good as the free public schools of the United States are destined to become in the due course of time. No private museums or galleries of art, no collections of scientific objects, no libraries, no monumental art or architecture could possibly, in private hands, attain such importance as that which will belong freely to all the people in common. No private grounds could equal our public parks as they are destined to develop. No individual could conceivably so surround himself with safeguards for the health of himself or his family as the community will supply to him and to its humblest citizen alike.

Thus the evolution of the new order of things is to give us some

approximation towards the ideal of the modern city with its low death-rate, its admirable facilities for education, recreation, and physical culture; its improved industrial conditions; its well-guarded housing arrangements; its clean streets—free from dust and largely free from noise; its pure atmosphere—with smoke abolished; its playgrounds; its public baths, and its varied opportunities for the use of leisure.

While the present tendency in the re-grouping of population, under which the large towns are growing, is doubtless to continue for some time to come, the contrast between city and country life will become less marked; for with the readier access of the children of the towns to the out of door and open life of the country, there will also come about a great movement for supplying the country itself with some of the advantages of the town through the co-operative agencies to which I have alluded. The populous community of the future, even more than of the past, must stand firmly by the principle of democracy. One of the chief objects must be to equalize conditions, to lift men up in the scale of being and to fit the oncoming generation in the best possible way for responsible citizenship.

When one compares the conditions of life in the great towns as they commonly were twenty-five years ago and as they are at their worst to-day, with those conditions that we now see can be feasibly supplied to all, we get a new sense of the reality of social progress. For 't is nowadays regarded, not as a wild dream, but as a fairly sober and reasonable proposition to demand that the poor man may at