

a vision of the whole. They are hag-ridden by their impressions, and when they would produce literature it is not an illusion which they create but an hallucination."

I offer these observations to your thoughtful consideration in no carping or fault-finding spirit. If I have failed to impress upon you the importance of the subject—the uplifting of our people, it must be in its imperfect presentation.

I would have preferred a pleasanter topic, but I have felt it borne in upon me that the time had come for some action in this matter. I do not pretend to say that we are especially sinners in this respect above all others, but I do say that we cannot afford to lag behind other countries. If we expect to keep well to the front in the race, we must cast aside everything that will prevent us from doing our best.

This is a young country, it has scarcely reached the adolescent stage. There is no excuse for us if we start blindly on our national career. We have no classes among our people, nor vested rights of great antiquity to clog the wheels of progress as in older lands. We have a clean sheet upon which to write the beginnings of our history. Not like a mediæval palimpsest where the life of a heathen divinity was scratched out to make way for that of a Christian saint. Although we have been dealing this evening with the dark side of our social life, going down among the submerged tenth, which, though numerically small, is sufficiently large to infect the mass, yet I am by no means a pessimist, for I have unbounded confidence in the future greatness of our people. I am one of those who think there is "no land like the homeland."

I do not say it in the spirit of a jingo, but in that of a lover of his country.