

ratifies for ordinary folk the truth perceived in the past by prophets and poets, such as the Irishman who said:

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey;
Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

Who was the greatest and richest, the dramatist, Shakespeare, or some Fleet Street merchant of his day? The merchant with his ships and houses and land is forgotten, but the characters created by the poet will live to inspire and instruct men through all the ages. As the great poet himself says in one of his sonnets:

"Not marble, nor the gilded monuments
Of princes,
Shall outlast this powerful verse."

Sir Isaac Newton was not a multi-millionaire, nor did James Watt live in the palaces of squirearchy. But their gift to human progress was greater far than that of all the Nabobs who possessed the well-lined purse of Fortunatus.

Men there are (and in this age of feminism, there are women too) who are endowed with a revenue which would make a Caesar turn in his grave with envy. They possess a shrewd eye for a bargain and pride themselves upon their ability to "make good." Yet, to such, the whole of their days are spent in a hunt for lucre, and in their insane sacrifice to Mammon they have crucified all that is noblest and best in life. Not for them did Milton sing, Plato think, and Wagner play. To them, "that inverted bowl we call the sky," with its multi-colored stars and suns is but an incomprehensible chart. They have missed the real landmarks on the high road of life, the lark singing in the morning glory, the stars overhead like the silver spires of God's own cathedral. They simply pass from one grey street to another grey street to add up figures and to swallow patent medicines with no thought of the fact that life can be lived nobly, burning, and knightly, for great ends and in great passions.

Such a one may possess all the ships and own half the land surface of this globe, but he is immeasurably poor compared with he who looks upon nature with an understanding eye, and to whom the beauties of art and science are no sealed book. One sometimes wonders, if these "rich paupers" have ever heard of the carpenter who said: "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I will give unto thee," and of that greatest of all gifts which come from Him who knew not the feasts and houses of the wealthy.

"Two men were behind prison bars,
One saw mud—the other stars."

Far be it from me to decry the employment of money. As a means of exchange it is the very best system yet devised by the mind of man. What I am striving to show is the falsity of many of the current notions regarding money.

Surely in a sane and well-ordered community, the creation and accumulation of money should not be the sole aim and purpose of life. The lesson of history should not be forgotten. Rome fell at the very zenith of its power, because more attention was being paid to the accumulation of wealth than to the right and proper employment of that wealth. When Athens sacrificed art and philosophy to the mere making of wealth it crumbled and fell from power.

Rather should our factories, workshops and mines be creating wealth in order that each and every individual in the community should enjoy life, and enjoy it more abundantly. The making of wealth should, in fact, be a means to an end, and not an end in itself. Let us strive so to order our social institutions that the living foundations of our nation shall be immeasurably enriched, so that no man shall be stunted in body and impoverished in soul, and if we so do we shall have paved the way to true national greatness and have become a people of real wealth. We must refuse, as Bryan once said, to be sacrificed on the altar of Mammon and to be crucified on a cross of gold; rather must we lift up our eyes to the hills and remember the eternities.

Walt Whitman, the poet, once said that "produce great men and the rest follows," and he, with the true insight of the poet, revealed a truth which to most of us has been hidden under the false political economy and unreal statescraft of two hundred years.

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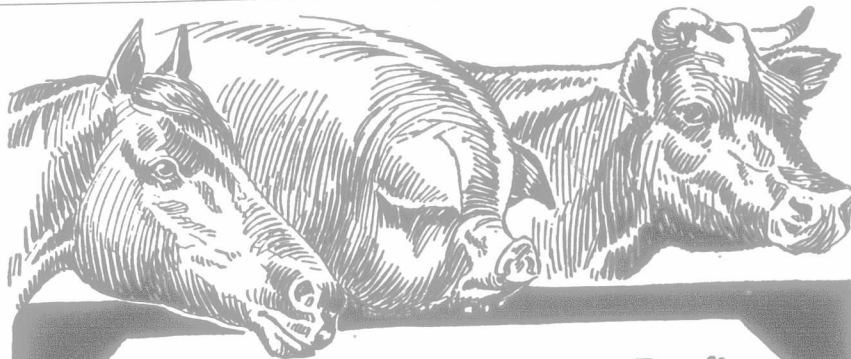
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