

The Immediate Task

those serpents in its own breast. Show them that at present there is no sign that the United States has a single enemy among the nations of the world, nor will have so long as she practices justice. Show them that her real enemies are her traitorous children who live off her and rob her and despoil her people, while often crying patriotism loudest—corrupt legislators, unscrupulous party leaders, takers of bribes in senates, politicians who squeeze the tills of great cities and take commissions on sales and contracts, grafters, patent medicine firms, adulterators of foods, liquor sellers, brewers, procurers, employers who grind down the poor and employ little children, lawbreakers both in trusts and in housebreaking, defenders of mob-rule, promoters of race hatreds:—these are our real enemies, our deadly ones, those for whom we may have real fear. Then there are tuberculosis, typhoid and a hundred diseases eating at our hearts. These are the things our youth must defend us from. Just at present they threaten the nation a thousand times as much as any foreign foe. Real patriotism is the determination to expel them from the nation. They are also the foes common to all the world.