

his life about by stakes of his own setting. Whether of his deliberate purpose or otherwise, the energies of his being are impinging upon the life of the world. If the relation of the component drops of the mighty ocean are such that a pebble cast into it affects the whole body, it is no less true that the throb of the individual life has its effect upon the whole ocean of human being. The nexus of the component souls is yet more sensitive than that of the component drops of water, and the touch is at a larger number of points. We cannot get away from the great laws that govern the interaction of all lives on one another through contact. Both the sensitiveness and wideness of this contact in our day imperially demand our attention in shaping our life purposes.

This universal interaction of life is for weal or for woe, according as the dominating force is self-giving or self-seeking. The world is rising or lowering as the one or the other of these principles is dominating the lives of men. It is not at present by any means an ideal world, nor are any of its component elements ideal personalities. It is just as it is, and we are just as we are, as individuals in it, and of it. How then can we, such as we are, help on this world, such as it is, to something higher and better, and, in so doing, help ourselves on with it? There is no place in this world for romancing with speculative ideals. The great problem is, what are we, real personalities, in this real world, of which we are a part, going to do to help it on to a life that is higher, truer and better? Let us remind ourselves again that, whether we will or not, our lives will bring to the world a contribution of either weal or woe. Life is not a negative quantity. We shall make the world either better or worse. Moreover, if we do not make the world better, it will make us worse. Such is our constitution and relationship that if we are not helping others to something higher, we are ourselves being dragged down to something lower. Commingling human life, like commingling waters, tends to a level.

When I speak of our being in the world just as we are, I refer to the facts by which we are conditioned in our lives. Man has been endowed with physical, mental, social and spiritual nature. We, however, as individuals have not inherited these endowments under the condition of their original creation. An