

A CHRISTIAN CITIZEN.

His Rights and Obligations Defined
by Bishop Watterson.

SOUND AND PRACTICAL VIEWS.

Bishop Watterson of Columbus, Ohio, delivered an address on Washington's birthday, before the Y. M. C. A. of that city. His Protestant audience received his utterances with enthusiastic applause.

"As Christian citizens" the Bishop continued, "we have no sympathy with the doctrine which holds that the many are made to be hewers of wood and drawers of water to the few. We hold all men to be of one origin and one blood and to be equal by at least the physical law of their nature and to have the common rights of humanity, according to the plan which our Lord marks out for us and on which the social body is to be taken as a whole as a sort of organized being in which there are many parts distinguishable but not separable from one another. All the parts are to be linked together in one living and loving union and to move together in sympathetic concert for the good of all. Those who are better conditioned by wealth, education or any other source of influence are not to regard themselves or be regarded as existing apart and for themselves alone but for the good of the people.

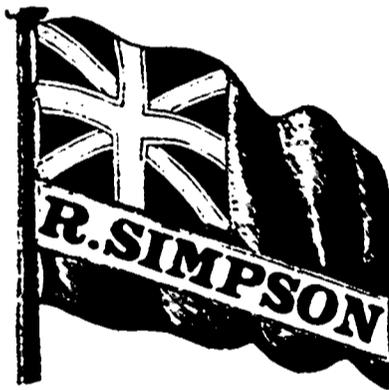
When men and women forget this and live for themselves alone they fail in duties of their citizenship, become a burden on the people and cease to be worthy of the name of freemen. Those, therefore, who are distinguished from others by superiority of wealth, education or any other source of influence must appreciate their responsibilities to the State, and especially to the community in which they live and thus strengthen the bonds of sympathy between the members of the social body for the good of all and thank God there are men of this sort among us here and elsewhere, who, making a right use of their advantages, are striving to fulfil their obligation to others in the sympathetic spirit of Christian citizenship. (Applause.)

"In our own country, one of the greatest in the world, evils are growing to an extent, which, no matter how much we may trust the good sense of the people, must make every observant man and woman apprehensive of the future. Everywhere men are clamoring for a change. Class is arrayed against class, capital against labor, and labor against capital. The spirit of unrest and discontent is stirring the masses, and the scum rises upmost while the nation boils, but to make the nation boil as it does, there is a wrong some where. The true relation of rights and duties extending all through the complicated elements of humanity, is either not rightly understood by a large portion of our people, or is wantonly disregarded. The principles of Christianity are the only effectual means for the restoration of order. Infuse its spirit into the hearts of men until by its sweet influence it overmasters the avarice and injustice which makes them insensible and obdurate. Teach the rich to love money less and men more, individual employers and corporations to look upon their employes not as soulless machines, not as mere instruments of consumption and production, but as intellectual, moral and religious beings created not for earth but heaven. Teach the poor that wealth is not an absolute good. Whilst they are to try to better their condition, by faithful industry and all other lawful and honorable means, patience and resignation are to be practiced in the spirit of

the gospel of Christ. If the true relations of rights and duties be sympathetically observed among all the members of the social body this rich and great country of ours ought to furnish every industrious man the means of an honest livelihood. One ought not to profit at the expense of another.

The best criterion of the intelligence and character of a city or a nation is its choice of those who are to govern it. Wisdom and virtue wherever they are actually found, in whatever condition or trade or profession, should be the only qualification for office; for they are in the eloquent language of Burke, "heaven's passport to human place and honor." Strive, then, against the deadening influence of that leveling tendency which recognizes not excellence or superiority, and which would blindly bury the talents given by Almighty God to subserve his interests in the community and to shed lustre and glory round the State. Turn the inequalities of condition to advantage by using them as means to an honest ambition; and remember that every rung we climb in the golden round only increases our obligations to society, while at the same time it puts us in a better condition to discharge that patriotic debt, which every man owes to his country and to the flag which is his protection wherever he may go.

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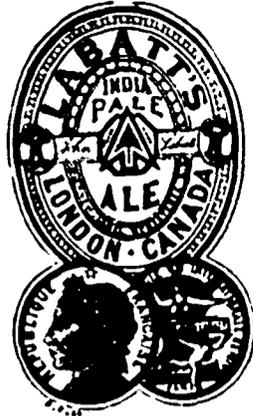
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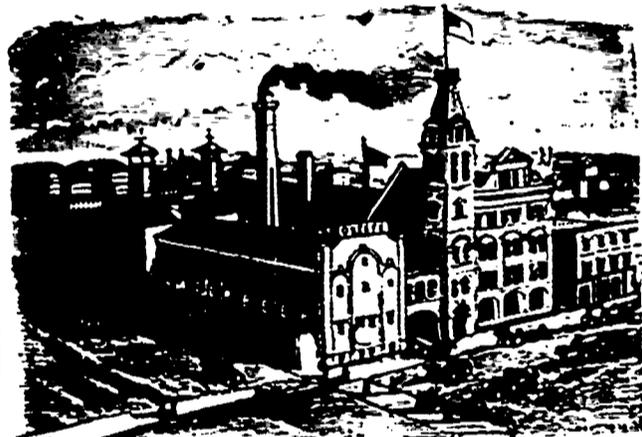
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