

The Power of Ideals.



THE variety of conditions found existing in life is largely due to the inequality of the mind, and to its different degrees of development, through education.

It would seem from the nature of its cause, that this gradation of power is of permanent duration, and that Socialism can never revolutionize the existing order of human affairs, by working contrary to nature itself.

The spirit of equality and fraternity can be more surely attained by the adoption of the principles of Christian Charity, through means of which men are taught alike, the real significance and final outcome of all social relations.

These considerations have always given life and color to organizations authorized by the Catholic Church. As a result of her motherly influence, there has arisen a more general endeavor to improve the environment of youth, so that the mind may build up an actuating principle for future thought, decisions, and actions.

We turn naturally to history as the treasury of the past ideals of nations, for a good history, wherein facts are given without the superfluous coloration of personal bias, might be called a biography of national ideals.

In its pages we trace the birth, development, and effect of laws, that have oppressed and served temporary purposes only, or that have uplifted and have lived to meet the growing needs of later times, just as they served in their origin to satisfy early wants.

Humanity, in its evolution, has built better than it knew. Even the less developed nations have lent their aid in the construction of the grand result; and we find that, as society is one organic whole, individuals are inclined to act in sympathy with the laws of total organism.

Proceeding with a fixed ideal, a nation builds with an eye to internal and external development. The best example of such a growth is found in the Government of Great Britain.

England having made many conquests in foreign parts, felt it necessary to consider her territories as an organized whole, in order to maintain possession of them. Then, when these territories produced a corporate mentality sufficient to found a con-