

# "EDUCATION"\*

BY LOUIS H. SULLIVAN

AFTER the long night and longer twilight we envisage a dawn-era—an era in which the minor law of tradition shall yield to the greater law of creation, in which the spirit of repression shall fail to repress.

Man at last is become emancipated, and now is free to think, to feel, to act—free to move toward the goal of the race.

Humanitarianism slowly is dissolving the sway of utilitarianism, and an enlightened unselfishness is on its way to supersede a benighted rapacity, and all this, as a deep-down force in nature, awakens to its strength, animating the growth and evolution of democracy.

Under the beneficent sway of this power the hold of illusion and suppression is passing; the urge of reality is looming in force, extent, and penetration; and the individual now is free to become a man in the highest sense, if so he wills.

There is no estoppel to his imagination.

No limitation to the workings of his mind.

No violence to the dignity of his soul.

The tyranny alike of Church and State has been curbed, and true power is now known to reside where forever it must remain—in the people.

Rapidly we are changing from an empirical to a scientific attitude of mind, from an inchoate to an organic trend of thinking. Inevitably we are moving toward the larger significance of life and the larger relations of the individual to that life as embodied in the people.

Truly we are face to face with great things.

The mind of youth should be squarely turned to these phenomena. He should

be told, as he regards them, how long and bitterly the race has struggled that he might have freedom.

His mind should be prepared to cooperate in the far-reaching changes now under way, and which will appear to him in majestic simplicity, breadth and clearness, when the sun of democracy shall have arisen but a little higher in the firmament of the race, illuminating more steadily and deeply than now the mind and will of the individual, the minds and wills of the millions of men, his own mind and his own will.

He should be shown, as a panorama, as a great drama, the broad sweep and flow of the vast life in which he is a unit, an actor; and that of a vital necessity fundamental principles must nourish the roots of his life-work and permeate its branches, just as they must animate the work and life of the neighbor, for the general harmony, the good of all.

He must be shown what the reality of history shows, namely, that optimism is an abiding emotion in the heart of the race, an emotion arising from the constant pressure of aspiring democracy seeking its own.

He must be imbued with that pride, that sure quality of honor, which are the ethical flower of self-government and the sense of moral responsibility. He must be distinctly taught his responsibility to his fellow-men.

He should be taught that a mind empty of ideals is indeed an empty mind, and that there will be demanded of him, if not self-sacrifice, at the least self-restraint, self-denial, and that the highest of ideals is the ideal of democracy.

To this end history must be illumined

\* The above was a paper read at the Fourth Annual Convention of the Architectural League of America, held in Toronto in May of the present year, and afterwards appeared in *The Brickbuilder* and *The Inland Architect*. It is such an able contribution to one of the vital questions of the day, that we wish our subscribers to read and study it. It is suitable to the general public as well as architects.—EDITOR.