

technical classes in a variety of trades taught by skilled mechanics.

What all of these avenues of uplift and interest must mean to the people of "The Ward," whose lives, otherwise, would be a veritable Sahara of drudgery and monotony, may well be imagined. "I recall," says Miss Addams, "that one of the earliest members said that her mind was peopled with Shakespeare characters during her long hours of sewing in a shop, that she couldn't remember what she thought about before she joined the club, and concluded that she hadn't thought about anything at all. To feed the mind of the worker, to lift it above the monotony of his task, and to connect it with the larger world outside of his immediate surroundings, has always been the object of Art.

One cannot close a sketch of the life and work of Miss Addams, so far as she has revealed them in "Twenty Years at Hull House," without touching upon a most interesting episode of her life, a visit to Count Tolstoi at his home at Yasnaya Polyana.

From the very beginning of her study of social conditions Miss Addams appears to have been fascinated by the reasoning of the eminent Russian, but the immediate reason of her decision to visit him was the reading of his "What To Do," almost simultaneously with that of another book, Walter Wyckoff's account of his vain attempt to find work in Chicago during the hard times following the World's Fair. "I was most eager to know," she says, "whether Tolstoi's undertaking to do his daily share of the physical labor of the world had brought him peace."

Together she and Miss Smith set out, pausing on the way in London, where they came into communication with Keir Hardie and John Burns, were entertained by Karl Marx's daughter at a reception which she gave in honor of the famous German Socialist, Herr Liebknecht, and also by the famous Octavia Hill, friend of John Ruskin, who "with pardonable pride, showed us the Red Cross Square with its cottages, marvellously picturesque and comfortable, on two sides, and on the third a public hall and common drawing-room for the use of all the tenants. The interior of the latter had been decorated by pupils of Walter Crane with mural frescoes portraying the heroism in the life of the modern working-man."

"The entire impression received in England," she notes, "of research, of scholarship, of organized public spirit, was in marked contrast to the impressions of my next visit in 1900, when the South African war had absorbed the enthusiasm of the nation, and the wrongs at the heart of the Empire were disregarded and neglected."

At Nijni-Novgorod the two travellers arrived just in time for the famous Russian Fair, "on the very edge of a civilization so remote and eastern that the merchants brought their curious goods upon the backs of camels or on strange craft riding at anchor on the broad Volga."

"But even here," she continues, "our letter of introduction to Korolenko, the novelist, brought us to a realization of that strange mingling of a remote past and a self-conscious present, which Russia presents on every hand. This same contrast was also shown by the pilgrims trudging on pious errands to monasteries, to tombs, and to the Holy Land itself, with their bleeding feet bound in rags and thrust into bast sandals, and, on the other hand, by the revolutionists, even then advocating a Republic, which should obtain, not only in political, but also in industrial affairs."

In Moscow they met Mr. Aylmer Maude, translator of Tolstoi's works, and, later, biographer of him, who very kindly accompanied them to Yasnaya Polyana, and introduced them to the famous old Russian, recommending them by a glowing description of Hull House and its work.

Rather disconcerting, however, was the reception,—so disconcerting that it must have occasioned many a laugh afterwards between Miss Addams and Miss Smith.

"Tolstoi, standing by clad in his peasant garb, listened gravely to Mr. Maude's peroration," says Miss Addams, "but, glancing distrustfully at the sleeves

of my travelling gown which, unfortunately, at that season were monstrous in size, he took hold of an edge, and pulling out one sleeve to an interminable breadth, said quite simply that 'there was enough stuff on one arm to make a frock for a little girl,' and asked me directly if I did not find such a dress a 'barrier to the people.' I was too disconcerted to make a very clear explanation, although I tried to say that, monstrous as my sleeves were, they did not compare in size with those of the working girls in Chicago, and that nothing would more effectively separate me from 'the people' than a cotton blouse following the simple lines of the human form."

As might be expected, the Countess Tolstoi tried to smooth things over, "But neither the Countess nor any other friend was on hand," continues Miss Addams, "to help me out of my predicament later when I was asked who 'fed' me, and how did I obtain 'shelter?' Upon my reply that a farm a hundred miles from Chicago supplied me with the necessities of life, I fairly anticipated the next scathing question, 'So you are an absentee landlord? Do you think you will help the people more by adding yourself to the crowded city than you would by tilling your own soil?' This new sense of discomfort over the failure to till my own soil was increased when Tolstoi's second daughter appeared at the five o'clock tea-table, set under the trees, coming straight from the harvest field where she had been working with a group of peasants since five o'clock in the morning, taking the place of a peasant woman who had burned her foot."

There are women who would have been made repellant and vindictive by such a reception. Not so Miss Addams of the great soul. Even throughout this gridironing, and partly perhaps because of it, she realized all the more the greatness of the man, and, it may be, something of the justice of his point of view, and it is with a tender touch that she tells of sitting in the garden with the Tolstoys that night,—a wonderful night,—with visitors from England, Germany and America, who had come to learn from this grand old Russian. "It seemed to me then," she says, "that we were all attracted by this sermon of the deed, because Tolstoi had made the one supreme personal effort, one might almost say the one frantic personal effort to put himself into right relations with the humblest people."

That night, she tells, the Tolstoi family were much interested in the fate of a young Russian who had come to Tolstoi, as a schoolmaster, to obtain a copy of "Life," which had been interdicted by the censor. "He had been found with it and exiled to Siberia. Subsequently Tolstoi wrote to the papers that it was unfair to exile the disciple while permitting him, the teacher, to be at large, but Russia never found it expedient to lay hands on Tolstoi."

One would like to take space to tell of all the "forward" movements with which Miss Addams has been associated—to secure the municipal enfranchisement of women, juvenile protective association, public baths, better street paving, settlements on behalf of education, the international peace movement, and many others. She says, "I acted as chairman of the federation of a hundred women's organizations"—but this already extended account must come to a close. One would like to tell of the many misunderstandings in regard to her that arose, causing her more than once to be branded as revolutionary, even anarchistic, simply because she undertook to investigate from time to time, from the standpoint of the "under dog." But it is not possible here to say more. May I urge those who are interested enough to wish to know more of this remarkable woman,—of the work she has done, and still continues to do in her great home city, Chicago,—to secure her book, "Twenty Years at Hull House." It has been a pleasure and an inspiration to me to read it; it cannot be less to you.

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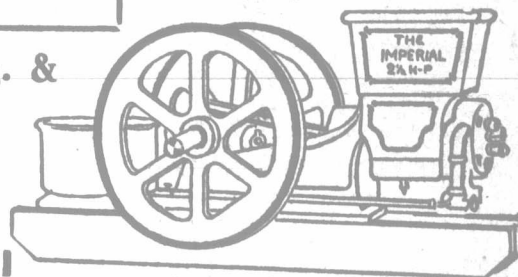
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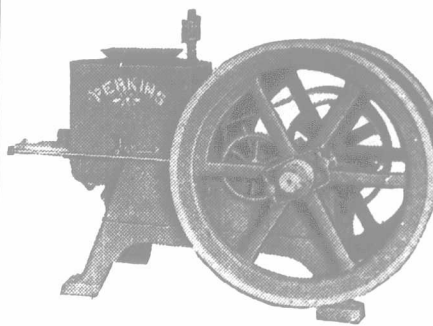
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