

The companion poem on "The People's Advent" is equally inspiring and instinct with truth:

"'Tis coming up the steep of time,
And this old world is growing brighter!
We may not see its dawn sublime,
Yet high hopes make the heart throb lighter!
Our dust may slumber under ground
When it awakes the world in wonder;
But we have felt it gathering round—
Have heard its voice of distant thunder!
'Tis coming! yes, 't is coming!

"'T is coming now, that glorious time
Foretold by seers and sung in story,
For which, when thinking was a crime,
Souls leaped to heaven from scaffolds gory!
They passed, But lo! the work they wrought!
Now crowned hopes of centuries blossom,
The lightning of their living thought
Is flashing through us, brain and bosom;
'T is coming! yes, 't is coming!

"'Creeds, empires, systems, rot with age,
But the great people's ever youthful!
And it shall write the future's page
To our humanity more truthful;
There's a divinity within
That makes men great if they but will it,
God works with all who dare to win,
And the time cometh to reveal it,
'T is coming! yes, 't is coming!

"Fraternity! Love's other name!

Dear, heaven-connecting link of being;
Then shall we grasp thy golden dream,
As souls, full-statured, grow far-seeing:
Thou shalt unfold our better part,
And in our life cup yield more honey;
Light up with joy the poor man's heart,
And love's own world with smiles more sunny!
'T is coming! yes, 't is coming!

Massey's poems of social justice and popular progress were companioned by some remarkably fine lines on the spiritual life and the relation of man to the Infinite and to the life beyond the veil of materiality. From the following brief extracts selected from his longest spiritual poem we may gain something of the faith and spiritual insight that characterized this poem:

"There is no pathway Man hath ever trod,
By faith or seeking sight, but ends in God.
Yet 't is in vain ye look Without to find
The inner secrets of the Eternal mind,
Or meet the King on His external throne.
But when ye kneel at heart, and feel so lone,
Perchance behind the veil you get the grip
And spirit-sign of secret fellowship;
Silently as the gathering of a tear
The human want will bring the Helper near:
The very weakness that is utterest need
Of God, will draw Him down with strength indeed.

AN UNSOPHISTICATED TRUST

(From the "Literary Digest.")

A sheep in wolf's clothing appeared in court in New York last week in the form of a wrapping-paper trust, that asked to be let off lightly because it did not know it was a trust and had dissolved immediately upon hearing it. Upon this excuse and because the trust pleaded guilty the judge let the manufacturers in the combine off with a fine of \$2,000 each. The argument of the trust's lawyer is reported in the New York Journal of Commerce thus:

"The lawyer said that all the companies composing the association were small, that for some time prior to the organization of the association their business had not been paying well, that the association was organized to save them from threatened bankruptcy; and that their organization had not been the cause of the rise of price of wrapping-paper. He added that the whole of the twenty-five corporations controlled only 23 per cent. of the output of wrapping-paper in this country. None of the companies, he declared, had any thought of violating the law and that in going into the organization as they did they were ill-advised, and that as soon as they understood that it was in violation of the Sherman Act all withdrew from it and it was dissolved."

Not everyone, however, seems to take this representation of the trust's lamb-like character at its face value. Mr. John Norris, chairman of the Committee of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, which is investigating the price of news print paper, says of the trust:

"In September, 1906, twenty-five fiber and manila mills formed the Manila and Fiber Association, of which John H. Parks was made manager. Immediately after the formation of the Association the production of paper dropped from 64,000 to 50,000 tons a quarter and the price of paper was advanced \$5 a ton. Other advances followed until the price had been raised \$16 a ton. The admitted profit of the pool was \$1,500,000 annually.

"John H. Parks, the manager of the Manila and Fiber Association, also ran four other pools or 'price associations,' as he called them. From these he drew an income of \$150,000 annually."

The New York Commercial, which is after spoken of as the organ of Standard Oil, ridicules the claim of the wrapping-paper trust in the following manner:

"Officers of the various concerns involved are reported to have projected the explanation or apology that they

'had no idea' that their 'combine' was violating the law!

"It passes understanding how any intelligent man involved in the combination could put up such a plea and expect anybody to believe the allegation—because for years past nothing has had more publicity and discussion given to it than this matter of the 'trusts' and 'pools' and 'combines' and the sort of transactions that make them unlawful. But even if it be assumed that all these men were ignorant at the outset of the character of the 'deal' in which they were engaging, it is a matter of record that on October 12, 1906—not long after this 'trust' had perfected its organization and gotten into working order—its organizer sent a communication to all concerned in the course of which he said:

"Without your Association you would, in an 'open market,' undoubtedly be now selling your outputs at prices as much below your selling prices as is represented by your 'pool taxes' contributions—if not more. Therefore, it is equally clear that all the money you now obtain by your sales above your 'cost schedule values' is the property of the Association. Why? Because all you get above your 'cost schedule' is 'artificially' created for you by means of your co-operative pool agreement.

"The expenses of the pool are not paid by its members. The expenses of the pool are paid by the public. The said expenses are paid out of the excess price obtained above your cost schedule which the pool requires the public to contribute.

"Barring old orders, it is not what you pay in, but what you get out of, your pool that determines its value to you respectively."

"Perhaps the members didn't read the letter of their organizer any too carefully, being perfectly content to pull in the \$1,000,000 a year extra profits in the aggregate that this arrangement was bringing them. But if any one of them did read that letter, he must, to-day confess himself a fool if he didn't understand its meaning and that he was violating the law.

"The public was not a bit surprised to learn that the fines were paid promptly by the attorney for these law-breakers, along with the announcement that their 'trust' had been dissolved.

"The least said the soonest mended.' Small wonder that these twenty-four concerns want to regard their late 'combine' as a closed incident!"