

mon understanding of the sacred word Justice come to mean what the statute law allows? But that is far from the lofty conception of Justice which is termed Equity. I might continue this indictment of civilization without end, but it would serve no purpose. Everyone capable of reading the newspapers, teeming as they do with the noisesome details of all sorts of depravity, knows our boasted civilization is not a state of blessedness, but rather a most unholy disorder. It is so far from being perfect that a band of chattering baboons might be depended upon to make a better one. According to the true, therefore cutting, epigram of Ruskin, our two objects in life are, "Whatever we have, to get more; and wherever we are, to go somewhere else." This is not the golden age: it is only the age of gold. And this is the delightful civilization we give praise unto ourselves for forcing on weak nationalities and savage nations at the points of our most Christian bayonets!

The social problem which seeks for a betterment of the condition of mankind by a wider and fairer distribution of the good things of life is as old as Job. Throughout the years, proposal after proposal has been made. The shores of the stream of time are studded with the wrecks of schemes for the improvement of the world. And, like the torrent at Niagara, still they come. If failures have been, there is no reason that there shall not be a success. The men who propose to restore harmony to civilization even by the radical means of a new economic system, be their schemes never so drastic, deserves respectful hearing; especially if they stop short of violent revolution.

The people that float such schemes are now known as socialists. Strictly speaking, socialism denotes simply the consideration of the social state. Socialism may be defined as the science of reconstructing society on entirely new bases by substituting the principle of association for that of competition in every branch of human industry. It is opposed to individualism, which means "skin your eye" and "paddle your own canoe." A socialist is one who looks to society organized in the state, for aid in bringing about a more perfect distribution. He believes that man, associated with his fellows in the state, has duties to perform which, single and alone, he is unable to fulfil. The individualist, on the