HOPE FROM THE CRISIS.

(By Nephi L. Morris.)

THAT the United States of America has reached a great crisis in her history cannot be doubted. For more than a century and a quarter her career has been one of unparalled growth and advancement, yet the theory of government for which she has contended on the battlefield as on the platform, that the solidarity of the race could imply, the one issue to which all outer things must bend and minister. So with hopeful outlook on the year, believing in the unfailing movement of the law of advancement which has marked the social evolution of the race, the writer believes that above all other things the new year will see the emphatic re-assertion of fundamental democracy and inherent liberty and privilege throughout the earth.

One would be blind, too, if he did not sense the note of brotherhood that is vibrant. The corollary of a clear view of individualistic rights of common liberty, is a recognition of the value of federation. In the great peace conference, which dispite the tiny result that makes one think of the mountain bearing the mouse as a figure of that evading abortion by a narrow limit, there is in the very federation of all the earth's peoples for a common and beneficient, nay, more, a righteous and humanitarian end, the utmost encouragement. The growing willingness to throw causes, which erstwhile were the sure presages of war, into the arena of debate for peaceful arbitrament is rather satisfactory pledge that the door is opened for the adjustment in pan-national congress of the irritating and important questions that are economic, social and ethical. Those broad and charitable views which have bounded since the seventh or eighth decades of last century have been fitting us unconsciously perhaps, but none the less effectively, to grant as vital the man, despite his creed whether it be a pulpably ethic or manifestly divine one. In that keen sense of the soul-worth, the clear conception of life agony back of spiritual evolution. There seems to be beyond question a following of men in the ethics and ministries of brotherhood.

And if the year 1908 is to see this emphasis and development of the fundamental ideals of liberty, and thereafth a deepening note of brotherhood, of actual worldwide, compelling, methinks it will have its dynamic in the turning with passionate self-surrender to those divine ideals of supreme reason whose power and necessity have been wrenched alike in the shallow and unsatisfying arches of a self-complacent morality that fell short of those ideals, and in the great movements of the centuries past, every advance of which has been preceded by a baptism and endowment under those supreme ideals, in the power of which freedom and brotherhood have known alone their advance. And in the mephitic atmosphere of a material day a very host of imaging faces, that tell their meaning of great stirrings to be, is turning to the Master of the years for grace to truly know His Fatherhood and translate the glory of the knowledge into the service of brotherhood.

with sword as with the pen, is by no means solved to our perfect satisfaction. That it will be satisfactorily solved is a matter of certainty for the hopes and destinies of a cause bound to triumph are involved in the proper solution of the theory.

Our nation has advanced in one century as far as other nations have in five or ten centuries. It is acknowledged that the whole of Europe has been moving forward in an impulse of progressiveness which must make the nineteenth century a brilliant eclipse of all preceding centuries. Not only has America imbibed the spirit but she has greatly stimulated it with the result that she has elevated herself to a world power of the first order and is exercising a remarkable influence over the international policies of the world.

In the interest of peace and the common brotherhood of mankind, our nation has wielded an influence unequaled by any other. In the protection of weaker nations against the tyranny and despotism of greater ones she has proven herself the champion of justice. In the reconcilement of warring nations, bent on the destruction of each other, she has merited the title of arbiter of the age. In the advancement of human learning, in the promotion of arts and sciences, she has moved side by side with the foremost. In the uplifting of man and in placing him in a position favorable to growth, in fact, in his complete emancipation from the fetters of ancestral invironment, she has shown herself the most potent of nations. Her ports have been open to men and their families from all nations, almost without exception, offering to them the opportunities of a land with limitless resources, a trade of boundless possibilities, and only requiring in return a respectable citizenship of the newcomer. Nearly all of those who go to make up our 90,000,000 population would never have known the growth and capacity of their natures had it not been for the opportunities the nation affords them.

Civilization always follows in the path of industry and along the avenues of commerce. In respect to trade, America has performed the Herculean task of lifting the center of commerce from its long abiding place in London across the Atlantic and planting it in New York. With this proud achievement comes prestige abroad, abundance and prosperity at home. But, strange as it may seem, with our nation occupying this splendid position, the commerce of the country is seriously disturbed and hampered, and the financial interests of all sections are threatened with a disaster of incalculable injury and loss. There is no failure of crops, no closing down of mines and mills and factories, no exhaustion of the sources of revenue, no closing of the avenues of export trade, that can be pointed to as the cause though many of them are already the apparent results of this disturbed financial condition. The cause seems to be here: Money has become too great a power in a land consecrated to democratic principles. Corporations have grown too arrogant in the defiance of the laws they could not frame for their own aggrandisement, or the laws they could not wipe from the statutes because they were inimical to their interests. Thus the fundamental principles of our government have been violated almost without restraint or censure. And public officials have been the supplicant servants of the avaricious class of money makers. This long tolerated condition of affairs gave such strength to lawless greed that the man of abnormal wealth could easily become the dictator of city, state and nation. This has been the case to such an extent that the liberties of the people have been flagrantly infringed, their rights ignored and the dignity of the law unpardonably affronted. An effort at correcting these evils is being made in the election of plain, honest citizens to offices long held by that crafty animal called a politician. These citizens in office have made most searching investigations which were promptly followed by legal proceedings against the offender. The results of the investigations were given publicity and the trials were before open courts with the result that the money-made autocrats and dictators and their depraved political tools, ranging from aldermen to congressmen, have been so exposed in their evil-doing that many of them have skulked into the shades of oblivion to die in disgrace and contempt. Others have and are serving time in state prisons. Men holding corporate trusts in various capacities have had their private deeds cried from the house tops. Their salaries, amounting to comfortable fortunes each year, published to the astonishment of the thousands of stockholders whose investments were being thus lavishly misapplied. The long list of sinicurist relatives was also published to the embarrassment of themselves and the universal disgust of the public. This condition has coined the word graft, by which the age shall yet be known. Graft—the getting of money unfairly—is almost a national disease. High financiers have sought to shift the responsibility of their own acts from themselves to the soulless corporations of their creation. But the clean, honest, citizen, clothed with civil authority and armed with the invincible right, is finding a way to fix the responsibility for an act upon the party in whose interest it is performed. And now the burden of the millionaire with his ill-gotten gain is a vexatious one. He is inspired with a desire to travel abroad and when he returns it is incognito. He cannot be found at the company's place of business and when brought before a court of inquiry his ignorance of the large concerns under his direction is as amusing to the public as it is ridiculous to himself.

This class of men have become so vindictive as they see the sentiment of a national crystallizing into law aimed at the stopping of their illegal methods that their weapons of wealth are used in retaliation. Hence the Wall street episode of a few days ago. They are striking back with all their power and in a manner so desperate that the extent of their peril is strongly suggested by the strenuous fight they are making for their preservation. Their opponents have used the weapons of investigation and publicity, backed by law and in the interest of the people. Their weapons are the control of trade and the possession of the banks and money centers. They close factories, shut down the mines, demand the payment of loans from all sources and to meet their own demands scatter their surplus millions among their debtors at an ever increasing rate of interest ranging from 20 to 40 per cent.

That is the crisis and its cause as it appears to a layman. How shall the conflict terminate? In dispossessing the wealthy of their millions? In revoking the charters of their vast corporations? In government control of their business enterprises? No to all of these interrogatories. The wealthy financier has rights as inalienable as those of any other citizen and the guarantee of protection in those rights is equal to all. Corporations in their very nature can promote and perpetuate business enterprises as private ownership never can. A system of finance that can accomplish what our system has accomplished in the last 20 years cannot be fundamentally untrue. It may need reform and that is exactly what the American people have to see to if they would perpetuate their proud station in the world of finance.

It will not be done by an unreasonable and relentless prosecution of the men who have the faculty of organizing capital and industry with such beneficial results; but by bringing the financier to appreciate the obligations of the greater citizenship of which he is a very important unit. If he cannot be brought to a consistent attitude in this relation he must be permitted to pursue his selfish career until he fall.

As this nation has stood and as it shall endure all men who go to make up its citizenship must forever stand equal before the law. They must recognize the fact, somewhat lost sight of these days, that no man, no matter how great his interests, can supersede the law, or become the object of special privilege by legislative enactment of laxness of executive administration.

When this condition shall obtain the universal ideal of the American people shall be one of intelligence and honor rather than one of wealth and the power it can exercise. The qualification of the citizen shall be responsibility, righteousness and loyalty. And these are the only principles upon which the perpetuation of the nation shall be secured.

Shall the American people succeed in the proper solution of the new problems involved in the present crisis? Our history brings to us such an abundance of assurance that there is but one answer. She is born to victory as truth is bound to ultimate triumph.

"To despair of America would be to despair of humanity, for it would show that men, after all, have no capacity for governing themselves."

BOOKS AND MENTAL BALANCE.

(By Fred W. Reynolds.)

OUR EASY access to books is without question a chief advantage of our time. This advantage entails responsibility.

In the past, poor in books, we read all we could get and read them well. Like Sundays and holidays to a working man, the thin volumes that came our way were to be made the most of. Today, on the contrary, with an utter profusion of books about us, we are as helpless as the Superannuated Man who is left suddenly with nothing but Sundays and holidays on his hands. Our responsibility is too great for us to manage, and demands the help of steward or judicious bailiff.

Our way of meeting this responsibility of plenty of books has distributed them into three classes, which I beg permission to call the cook book, the text book and Hamlet. About each of these I wish to say a word as prefatory to the hope I am invited to express concerning the future.

I call class one the cook book without aspersions against the culinary art. Though the term is vague, I use it because of a story I have read recently of a sick man, whose one chance, the doctor said, lay in his being stirred from his mood of despair. The choicest verse irritated him, fiction and philosophy were intolerable. Finally, in desperation, one must suppose, somebody began to read recipes from a cook book. Instantly the mutterings ceased, and when the list of cuts of flour and butter, of milk and eggs and sugar, of pinches of salt and dashes of lemon came to its monotonous close a voice from the bed muttered, "Go on, go on." And so in the darkened and silent room, for hours without cessation, the reading continued until dawning recovery permitted the solace of the cook book to be withdrawn. No occasional picture word gave these lists of things their magic. "A dash of lemon," "whip to froth," and "squeeze through a colander," were of no more power than the capsule of ingredients. Nor did these recipes conjure visions of delectable dishes fog the table. The man was not a cook. It was the meaningleseness of the formulas which made them effective. The man's mind was tired. Books which yielded information or stimulated his thought or emotion were worse than useless. The irrelevancy of the cook book was the quality which gave it its power of enchantment.

I use the cook book term, then, for irrelevant reading—for the book or play or magazine into which one may lazily sink, confident of reaching the end of the hour or evening or half day undisturbed by any thought or unusual emotion. I have a friend who has made long railway journeys possible by taking them at night. Crawling into a berth he has come to regard as temporary death. Possibly for the irrelevant book I might have used the term the Pullman berth class of literature.

The irrelevant book has its use. Every one knows fine scholars and active business men who get rest from the indifferent novel, the wild melodrama, or the ephemeral magazine. Taxed with an active life elsewhere, they find in these things what the sick man found in the cook book—the solace of irrelevancy.

The irrelevant book becomes vicious just as soon as it is permitted to constitute one's chief reading. One's chief reading should be "craggy." As applied to books which are worth reading, the word is Byron's, who used to say, "I like something craggy to break my mind on." Byron wanted books that would do for his mind and imagination what climbing a steep mountain does for one's muscles and blood. The lighter reading leaves one sluggish, smugly satisfied with one's self, indifferent to the heights and depths of really great minds. Craggy reading, over which one can break one's mind, route sluggishness and smug complacency, and even while it shows how dwarfish is one's soul, brings the vital revelation also of the undreamed of capacity of one's soul to reach heights and sound depths.

Is it too far off the mark to say of our age that it is niggardly in its use of books? The heirs of vast estates of reading, do we not read as if we were beggars or paupers? If we turned to the flat, the dull, the irrelevant, merely for rest from the sinewy, the vigorous, the inspiring, would the comic Sunday supplement and the moving picture show thrive as they do? May not a fairer distribution of our reading among the three great classes of books be a reasonable expectation of the moral regeneration through which the country is now passing?

Craggy reading, over which one may break one's mind, I have classed as the text book and Hamlet.

Rather than of Hamlet or of the Epistles of Paul or the Divine Comedy the present is the age of the text book. Devotion to the text book has made the present what it is. This is the age of the application of the text book to the actual uses of life. From the text book Elihu Thompson, Thomas A. Edison, and Nicola Tesla obtained their grounding in electrical science. To the text book every citizen who walks safe at night under an arc light owes a debt of gratitude. What is more important in modern life than a grasp of the facts and ideas which belong to the text book sort of literature? Without such grasp on the part of many men, modern life could not go forward as it does. Manufacturing would cease, commerce become clogged, our houses stand dark and cold, and our lives grow isolated and uninformed.

Far be it from any one's mind to abuse the text book. It may contain errors, the theories which it records may soon be outgrown, it may in no way be final, but it expounds the matter which you must master for your profession. Are you a doctor? Then you must know facts about the human body and about the material of medicine. Are you a lawyer? Then you must know about legal forms. Are you an engineer? Then you must know at least which end of a transit to look through. Are you a shipping clerk? Then you must know about freight routes and charges. If your occupation is intellectual, even in part, then you must know your text book.

Our mastery of the text book has made our age great. May it not also have had its part in bringing our age into whatever unfavorable light it may be in? Mastery of a book comes from close—almost exclusive—attention to it. Exclusive attention to a text book means the ignoring of other books, which also are craggy and high, which brace the muscles, set the blood coursing through the veins, and inspire the mind.

Human activity has been going on for generations and generations. A large and important part of that activity has spent itself on the matter which goes into text books. But a large part has been given to matters less definite, if none the less real, to the mysteries of human existence. Over the whence, the why, the whither of life, these generations have thought and felt. Their attempts to interpret have filled human life with joy sorrow, fear, hope. Countless ages of such life have resulted in an emotional attitude towards human existence, which is the heritage of the race. No members of the human family can escape it. It is the bond that holds that great family together. Wherever there are persons there is the puzzle of mortal existence. It does not die. It is vital, throbbing. Hence arise, naturally, and generation after generation, ideals of beauty, of love, of veneration, which with time may change in outward form or other small detail, but which do not lose their power. Herein is the material of literature, already drawn upon through long ages of time, but not exhausted, and never to be exhausted, always ready for the great human genius who can draw it forth and stamp it with form of beauty which makes it everlasting.

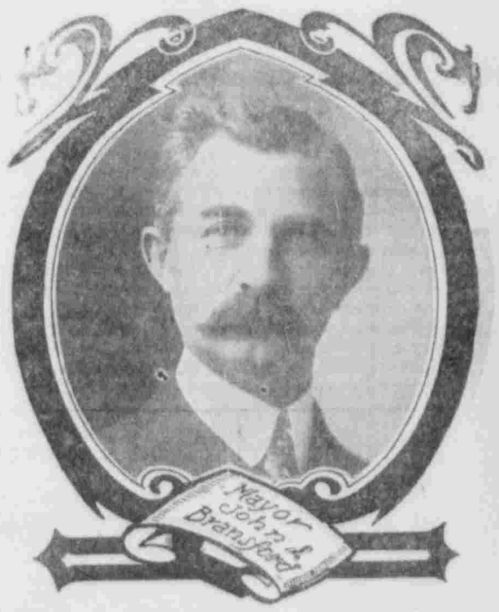
It is the hobby of many persons who advise young people about their reading, to warn them not to worship books. Books they say contain errors, they become obsolete, they are in no way final. If they were entirely destroyed and all memory of them erased from the minds of men they would soon be entirely reconstructed. This hobby has point only with respect to the text book. As to the matters of fact recorded in the text book, investigation changes points of view and renders conclusions on which the past slumed itself inconsequential if not absurd. But the warning is not sound for Hamlet. If Hamlet were destroyed and all memory of it erased from the memory of man, who is so bold as to say that it might be reconstructed? Some books should be worshiped.

But the present age has worshiped the text book and at forced intervals in the devotion has sought relief in things irrelevant and trivial.

Is this hope for the future altogether without grounds, or altogether too lofty to be possible of realization? That undue emphasis upon the text book will be given up, that the trivial and irrelevant will come to be used solely for rest, and that literature—the Hamlet class of books—will come to be the chief craggy heights upon which men lift their way to positions of rightmindedness and balance?

SALT LAKE CITY.

(By Mayor Bransford.)



THE year which is drawing to a close has been a remarkable one in the history of the development and growth of the city.

A comparison of the years 1906 and 1907, with any other year preceding, would serve only to accentuate the present high position which we have attained, and to set in a blaze of glory, the great work that has been achieved towards the making of a "Greater Salt Lake City."

We should not for one moment think that this is the time for rest. The expansion of the city along the many lines which it has undertaken the past two years has added greatly to her responsibilities, and consequently demands from us a more concentrated and determined effort to meet and adequately solve problems affecting our civic policy, which such expansion and increased responsibilities have brought to us.

Let there be no cessation in the great work of making a "Greater Salt Lake City." Let there be no halt in the improvements, which have gone on multiplying themselves during the past two years in a manner totally unparalleled by those of other years that have gone to constitute the annals of the people of this city.

The strength required to meet the issues of tomorrow is born of the courage with which we grapple with those of today, and the marvelous rapidity with which we have advanced has demonstrated the capabilities of the people of Salt Lake City.

The State of Utah, and contiguous states, constitute in themselves, with their immense mineral deposits, an empire, of which Salt Lake City is the metropolis, of such boundless riches, as are not equalled by any territory of similar extent. Every day that passes brings to us the news that, in some part of the country, immediately close to us, there has been discovered or disclosed a rich vein of percious metal, the finding of some new source of wealth, the disclosure of some new opportunity, that but wait the enterprise and energy of the man with the capital, and the industry and skill of the workman, to set flowing a stream of wealth that will enrich us.

The railroad construction that has been in progress throughout the state and surrounding states, is speeding up an increase to transportation facilities to the state in general, and to this city in particular for the tourist and the homeseeker.

What inducements are there that we cannot offer to those who desire to invest capital, or build homes? With a superb climate, and a soil made fertile by the waters that flow from the mountains which surround us, we are in position to offer every inducement; therefore there is no reason why Salt Lake City should not attract new population in great numbers, and should not contain a happy, contented, and prosperous people.

That a number of people have taken advantage of the opportunities which the city offers to home-builders and investors, recently, is very much in evidence. The improvements which have been completed, or are in course of completion, the reconstruction of old buildings, the wonderful activity and general scope of construction in new buildings of many kinds, together with the new mammoth structures now in course of erection, demonstrate, beyond all manner of doubt, the confidence of the outside world in the destined greatness of a "Greater Salt Lake."

In view of the fact that other large undertakings of a nature calculated to make the city the most attractive of any in the west are contemplated in the near future, let each one of us ask, what should be our duty?

Clearly this: To manfully and cheerfully co-operate with those who have charge of the affairs of the city, to continue the great and good work they has been in progress during the years 1906 and 1907.

Let us then begin the coming year with hearts full of hope, animated with the determination to leave nothing undone that migh contribute to the upbuilding of the city, the elevation of the morals of the city, and the general welfare of all.