

"THE SIMPLE LIFE" fells of a Book That is Replete

ROOSEVELT ON

With Things That Americans Should Know:

IT PREACHES TO ALL CLASSES.

"No Republic Can Permanently Exist When it Becomes a Republic Of Classes."

Washington, Nov. 22.-President Roosevelt introduced Rev. Charles Wagner, the author, to a large audience at the Lafayette opera house this afternoon, where he delivered a lecture on "The Simple Life," The president presented Mr. Wagner to the audience in the following words:

FIRST AND LAST.

"This is the first and will be the only time during my presidency that I shall ever introduce a speaker to an aud ence, and I am more than glad to do it, in this instance, because if there is one book which I should like to have read as a tract and also, which is not invariably true of tracts, as an interesting tract, by all our people, it is 'The Simple Life,' written by Mr. Wagner. There are other books which he has written of which we can gain great has written of which we can gain great good, but I know of no other book writ-ten of recent years, whether here or abroad, which contains so much that we of America ought to take to our hearts as is contained in "The Simple Life". hearts as is contained in the three to be Life.' I like the book because it does not merely preach to the rich and does not merely preach to the poor. It is a very easy thing to address a section of the community in reprobation of of the community in the tis not the forms of vice to which it is not prone. What we need to have impress. ed upon us is that it is not usually the root principle of the vice that varies with variation in social conditions, but that it is the manifestation of the vice that varies: and Mr. Wagner has well brought out the great fundamental truth that the brutal arrogance of a truth that the brutal arrogance of a rich man looks down upon a poor man because he is poor, and the brutal envy and hatred felt by a poor man toward a rich man merely because he is rich are at the bottom the manifestation of the sume when The arrowing that are at the bottom the manifestation of the same vice. The arrogance that looks down in one case, the envy that hates in another, are really exhibitions of the same base and unlovely spirit that happens to be in one case in differ-ent surroundings from what it is in an-other case. The same kind of man who would be arrown in one case is prewould be arrogant in one case, is pre-cisely the kind of man who would b envious and filled with hatred in the other. The ideal should be just and generous, the broad-minded man who is incapable of arrogance if rich as he is of malignant nevy and hatred if poor, NO REPUBLIC OF CLASSES.



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and do not actually practise some of Mr. Wagner's preachings, then small is the use of your coming. It is not the slightsit use to hear the word if you don't try to parit into effect afterward. The Young Mea's Christian associations have accomplished so much because those who have managed them have those who have managed them have these who have managed them have tried precically to do their part in bringing about what is expressed in the phrase. The fatherhood of God and brotherhood of men.' We can act individually or by associations. I in-tend to illustrate by a couple of ex-amples what I mean by a man acting individually, and what I mean by a rean acting in associations with his nan acting in associations with his ellows. I besitated whether I would fellows. use, as I shall use, the names of the reople whom I meant, but I came to the conclusion that I would, because the worth of an example consists very largely in an understanding that the example is a real one.

CIVIC CLUB OF NEW YORK.

I have been interested for a number of years in the working of the Civic club in New York, which has been started and superintended by Norton New York City, the range of whose membership includes a big district ex-tending from Lexington avenue to the East river. Mr. Goddard realized that such work can be done to the best ad-vantage only upon condition of there being hearty sympathy among those doing it. There are a great many peo-ple so made in this world (I think most of us come under the category) that they would resent being patronized about as much as being wronged. Great good can never be done if it h attempted in a patronizing spirit. Mr. Goddard realized that the work could be done efficiently only on condition of getting into close and hearty touch with the people through whom and with whom he was to work. In con-sequence this Civic club found, and it has gradually extended its operations until now the entire club memebership of 3,000 or 4,000 men practically form a ommittee of betterment in social and clvic life; a committee spread throughout that district, each member ing a sharp lookout ever the fortunes of all his immediate neighbors. Thereany case of destitution or great suffering in the district comes to the attention of some member of the club, who then reports it at headquarters, so that steps can be taken to alleviate the misery, and I have reason to be-lieve that there has been in consequence a very general uplifting, a genral in crease of happiness throughout the dis-trict. If we had a sufficient number of trict. of this kind throughout our great cities, while we would not by means have solved all of the terrible problems that press upon us for solu-tion in connection with municipal misent and the overcrowding misery, vice, disease and poverty of great cities, yet we would have taken a long stride forward in the right direction toward their solution. So much for the example that I use to illustrate what I mean by work in combination.

No republic can perm when it becomes a republic of classes where the man feels not the interest of the whole people, but the interest of the particular class to which he belongs or fancies that he belongs, as being of prime importance. In antiquity repub-lics failed as they did because they they tended to become either a republic of the few or exploited the many, or a repucile of the many who plundered the few, and in either case the end of the republic was never in doubt, just so in one case as in the other and no more so in one than in the other. We can keep this republic true to the prin-ciples of those who founded and of those who afterward preserved it; we can keep it a republic only by remem-bering that we must live up to the theory of its founders, to the theory of treating each man on his worth as a man, neither holding it for nor against him that he occupies any particular station in life, so long as he does his duty fairly and well by his fellows and

by the nation as a whole. "So much for the general philosophy taught so admirably in Mr. Wagner's book-I might say, books, but I am thinking especially of "The Simple Life." because that has been the book that has appealed to me.

Y. M. C. A. WORK.

"Now, a word with special reference to his address to this audience, to the Young Men's Christian association: The profound regard which I have ways felt for those responsible for the work of the Young Men's Christian associations and the Young Women's Christian associations is largely be-cause they have practically realized or at least have striven practically to realize the ideal of adherence to the text which runs: 'He ye doers of the word and not hearers only.' If you come here with only the idea of passing a pleasant afternoon and then go home



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AN INTERESTING CASE.

"As an example of what can be done and should be done by the individual. I shall mention something that recently occurred in this city of Washington, a thing that doubtless many of you know about, but which was unknown to me until recently. A few weeks ago, when I was walking back from church one Sunday, I noticed a great fire,and found that it was Downey's livery stable-you recolect it-three or four weeks ago. Through a train of circumstances that I will not mention my attention was particularly called to the case and looked into it. I had long known of the very admirable work done with singular modesty and self-offacement by Mr. Downey in trying to give alms and to be himself a friend of those in a sense friendless in this community, and, by accident, found out what happened in connection with this particular inci-

connection with this particular inci-dent. It appears that last apring Mr. Downey started to build a new stable. His stable is next door to a colored Baptist church. Mr. Downey is a white man and a Catholic, and these neighbors of his are colored, and Bap-tists, and their kinship was simply the staship of that broad, humanity that kinship of that broad humanity that should underlie all our feelings toward one another. Mr. Downey started to build his stable and naturally enough wanted to have it as big a stable as posible and build it right up to the lim-its of his land. That brought the wall close up against the back of the colored Baptist church, cutting out the light and air.

A GENEROUS GIFT.

A GENERIOUS GIFT. "The preacher called upon him and told him that they would like to pur-chase a strip six feet broad of the ground of Mr. Downey upon which he was intending to build, as it would be a great inconvenience to them to lose the light and air; that they were aware it was asking a good deal of him to cramp the building out of which he in-tended to make his living, but that they bored he would do h because of their need. After a good deal of thought Mr. Downey came to the conclusion Mr. Downey came to the conclusion that he ought to grant the request, and so he notified them that he would change his plans, make a somewhat smaller building and sell them the six smaller building and sell them the six feet of land in the strip adjoining their church. After a little while the preacher came around with the trustees of his church and said they very much appreciated Mr. Downey's courtesy and were sorry they had bothered him as they had, because on looking into the affairs of the church they found that, as they were already in debt, they did s they were already in debt, they did tot feel waranted in incurring any fur ther obligations, and so they had to withdraw their request. They thanked him for his kindly purpose and said

good-hye. WOMEN PRAY, MEN WORK.

"But Mr. Downey found he could not get to cleen, but alebt until finally he made up his mind that as they could not buy it he would give it to them anyway, which he did. But unfor-unately, we know that the tower of Siloam often falls upon the just and the unjust alike, and Mr. Downey's livery stable caught fire and burned down. It was soil that that morning the Baptist stable caught fire and burned down. It was said that that morning the Baptist church was in session next door to him, and the clergyman stopped and said: 'Now, you wemen, stay here and pray, and you men, go straight out and help our benefacior, Mr. Downey.' And go out they did, and got his horses all out, out they did, and got his horses all out, so that none of them was burned, al-tifbugh he suffered atherwise a total loss. Now I call that a practical ap-piltation of Mr. Wagner's teachings. Here in Washington we have a right to be proud of a citizen like Mr. Dow-ney, and if only we can develop enough such citizens we shall turn out just the kind of community that does not need to but will always be slad to study "The Simple Life," the author of which I now introduce to you."









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