

However, such a person is not a fair specimen of the average American citizen. The average American is capable of being educated through information and appeals to reason. That is a gloomy pessimism which regards education as incapable of reaching the common people and of no use. Education is of use. The common people can be educated. What they chiefly need is what the dying Goethe prayed for, what we all, living or dying, need—"more light."

Despite the result of the recent election, the intentions and motives of the American people are worthy of all confidence. The great heart of America beats true.

It is said that the heart muscle, which so uninterruptedly throbs in the human breast, if its force were directed against a granite pillar the size of the human body, would, in the course of an ordinary lifetime, wear that granite pillar to dust. The simile holds good. Whatever granite pillars of imperialism, despotism or base appeal are erected in the pathway of the American people, the great, throbbing heart of America will in time wear them away.

It is sadly true, however, that at the present time a majority of the people do not understand. They neither know what are the rights of others nor how to maintain their own. They need education. And the next campaign of education cannot begin too soon nor continue too steadily.

If the leaders of democracy are wise, they will begin educational work for 1904 right away. It can be carried on through anti-imperialist leagues, anti-trust organizations, and many other independent and non-partisan channels, as well as through the regular machinery of party action.

"We must educate. We must educate, or we must perish by our own ambition." Never was this more true than to-day; nowhere was it ever more true than in America.

The worst foe to human knowledge, human progress, human rights, in America is not, as some think, the priesthood. It is not, as others think, the saloon. It is the daily press. There are, of course, noble and not-

able exceptions; but the daily press, as a rule, is owned, body and soul, by Mammon, and by its suppressed, its colored, its distorted news it hoodwinks and deceives the people and imprisons them in what Socrates rightly regarded as the worst possible ignorance—"the seeming and conceit of knowledge without the reality."

There are not a few weekly journals, however, which are truly independent, and the reading of which during the year amounts to a liberal education. These should be wisely distributed and strongly supported. This will act, in large measure, as the needed corrective for the misinformation of the daily press.

The lecture platform should be revived, rescued from the uses of mere amusement, and restored to the pristine vigor and worth which it possessed, as the people's university, in the days of Phillips, Parker and Beecher. This can be done. It is indeed true, as the Rev. Dr. George H. Peeke has said, that "the lectures which please most" are, for the most part, "full of wind and rose leaves," but it is also true that if those who believe in and desire social and political reform will send out, to give free lectures, men and women of power whose chief ambition is not to win applause nor to amass a fortune, but to instruct the teachable and inspire the patriotic, a large hearing can be obtained and a vast amount of educational work be done among the common people.

In these and other open ways, the next campaign should be begun at once. Four years is none too long in which to educate the people how to see, to think, to vote.

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NEWS

The most important event of the week, to Americans at least, is the opening, on the 3d, of the last session of the Fifty-sixth congress. And of that event the most important feature was the reading of President McKinley's message. It is a very long document and deals with a great variety of subjects, chief among them being the situation in the Philippines and the Chinese problem.

Beginning with congratulations upon our "individual and national prosperity," and assurances that "American liberty is more firmly established than ever before" while "love for it and the determination to preserve it are more universal than at any former period of our history," Mr. McKinley dwells for a moment in his message upon the larger statistics of our national growth, and then plunges into the Chinese question. His account of the evolution of this question is a model of clear statement, leading up to a presentation of the American policy on the subject. This policy, which he says has been adhered to consistently, he describes as having consisted first in rescuing the imperiled American legation at Peking; second, in obtaining redress for wrongs already suffered; and, third, in securing all possible safety for American life and property in China and preventing a spread or recurrence of disorders. Involved in this policy is the idea of "permanent safety and peace to China" along with preservation of her "territorial and administrative entity," protection of "all rights guaranteed to friendly powers," and maintenance of the "principle of equal and impartial trade" with all parts of the empire. These views coincide with "the views and purposes of the other cooperating governments," and negotiations for settlement accordingly are in progress. "The Russian proposition looking to the restoration of the imperial power in Peking has been accepted" by us; but "we forego no jot of our undoubted right to exact exemplary and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors" of the anti-foreign outrages. For them, "full expiation becomes imperative, within the rational limits of retributive justice." This is "the initial condition" of settlement. An essential factor of durable settlement is a guarantee by China of freedom of worship, and a question of grave concern is the matter of indemnity. China may not be able to pay an adequate money indemnity, yet all the powers disclaim any purpose of dismembering the empire by demanding land grants. In this dilemma President McKinley is "disposed to think that due compensation may be made in part by increased guarantees of security for foreign rights and immunities, and most important of all by the opening of China to the equal commerce of the world." But he inclines favorably, in the event of disagreement among the co-