And as soon as the question is put thus, only one reply is possible: I wish now, this moment, without delay or hesitation, to the very utmost of my strength, neither waiting for anyone or counting the cost, to do that which alone is clearly demanded by Him who sent me into the world, and on no account, and under no conditions, do I wish to, or can I, act otherwise—for herein lies my only possibility of a rational and unharassed life.

THE EXPERIMENT.

Ernest Crosby in "Plain Talk in Psalm and Parable."

The book said, "Love others; love them calmly, strongly, profoundly.

And you will find your immortal soul."
I leaned back in my arm-chair, letting my hand fall with the volume in my lap.

And with closed eyes and half a smile on my face I made the experiment and tried to love.

For the first time I really let my life go forth in love, and lo, the mighty current, welling up beneath and around me, lifted me, as it were bodily, out of time and space.

I felt the eternal poise of my indestructible soul in the regions of life everlasting.

Immortality was mine.

The question which had so long baffled the creeds and the philosophers was answered.

ERNEST HOWARD CROSBY.*

Born Nov. 4. 1856, Died Jan. 3, 1907.

To New Yorkers of one and two generations ago, the pastor of the old Fourth Avenue Presbyterian church was a worshipful figure. This beloved pastor, the Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby-simple Dr. Crosby, or plain Howard Crosby, as he was more widely known -appeared even to his contemporaries as vastly greater than the shepherd of a sectarian flock. His personality while delightful was commanding; his work and ways were an inspiration. He was a firm believer in what he believed, yet charitable to the verge of absolute tolerance toward other beliefs and even toward unbelief. A rigid and devoted churchman, he was also a busy and militant citizen. Though pastor of a wealthy congregation, he knew no distinction of persons. All humanity looked alike to him, whether rich men or poor, high or low, white or black. Even with the bad, it was their badness and not themselves that he hated. On one occasion, at the height of his career as a leading clergyman, he startled the respectable elements of New York society with a signed paper in the North American Review on "The Dangerous Classes," which, according to his characteristically blunt discriminations, were neither the poor nor the criminal, but the rich. To see or hear Dr. Crosby was to respect him, regardless of diversity of opinion. To know him was to love him. He was a man of infinite courage who thought right, spoke right, and did right, as God had given him to see the right.

Dr. Crosby's characteristics are inherited by his famous son, Ernest Howard Crosby. Aside from a

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The Public

is a weekly review which prints in concise and plain terms, with lucid explanations and without editorial blas, all the news of the world of historical value. It is also an editorial paper. Though it abstains from mingling editorial opinions with its news accounts, it has opinions of a pronounced character, based upon the principles of radical democracy, which, in the columns reserved for reditorial comment, it expresses fully and freely, without favor or prejudice, without fear of consequences, and without hope of discreditable reward. Yet it makes no pretensions to infallibility, either in opinions or in statements of fact; it simply aspires to a deserved reputation for intelligence and honesty in both. Besides its editorial and news features, the paper contains a department of original and selected matter, in which appear articles and extracts upon various subjects, verse as well as prose, chosen alike for their literary merit and their wholesome human interest.

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more reserved manner of public address, the son differs from the father only in the wider and clearer vision of right with which a later time and deeper experiences have endowed him. A poet of exceptional insight and powers of rhythmical expression, a speaker of commanding presence with a rare faculty of thinking coherently upon his feet and composing extemporaneously with a simple eloquence and in an unimpassioned manner, a prose au-



ERNEST HOWARD CROSBY.

thor of direct and lucid style, he gives vitality to these talents and acquirements by the nobility of his ideals and a fine courage that never falls below the high level of his convictions.

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Ernest Howard Crosby was born in New York in 1856, November 4. Receiving his preliminary academic training at Mohegan Lake school, he graduated in academics from the University of New York with first honors in 1876, and in law from the Columbia College Law School at New York in 1878.

After practicing law in the city of New York in the conventional way for nearly ten years, Mr. Crosby joined the group of "rich men's sons" who were at that time making a fad of taking their respectability and culture and education and honesty, etc., down into the mire of local politics to rescue the city and

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Attach to the manuscript a sealed envelope, marked outside the same as the manuscript, and with real name and address enclosed. Mss. must be submitted before February 15th.

Available stories submitted, but not taking the prize, will be taken at prices to be agreed upon. Address

SIMPLICITY

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State from professionals who made their living out

This short-lived fad had been started and fostered by such newspapers as the New York Evening Post and by public-spirited men of the class then known as "parlor politicians." Among the young men to respond was a respectable scion of the Astors, who wound up his political career with a scandalous whirlwind campaign for Congress, expensive but futile, under the tutelage of a notorious professional Another was Theodore Roosevelt, who soon learned what the undiscriminating Astor had overlooked, that "parlor politics," although it must be mixed with the professional kind to be effective, must be mixed judiciously, just enough of each and not too much of either, in order to produce the proper compound. Mr. Roosevelt has passed from the unpromising degree in politics of "rich man's son" to the Presidential chair.

Soon after joining this group, Mr. Crosby was elected to a seat in the lower house of the New York legislature, where he held the responsible post of chairman of the committee on cities. He served with ability and was re-elected; but this role in the play of "rich men's sons in politics" was not to his liking. The mixture of low ideals with high, suited neither his temperament nor his scruples. His nomination, therefore, by President Harrison, to be a judge of the international court in Egypt, was a welcome interruption, and upon his appointment by the Khedive of Egypt in 1889 he accepted.

For five years Judge Crosby sat upon the bench of the international court at Alexandria. This court was one of four mixed tribunals (the fourth being appellate), established in 1874, in place of consular courts, for the adjudication of the rights of foreigners in Egypt. One was at Zagazig, another at Cairo, and the third, together with the appellate court, at Alexandria. They were composed of both foreign and native judges, so apportioned as to give the foreign judges control. Their jurisdiction extends to all civil disputes between foreigners, and also between natives and foreigners. They have also a limited penal jurisdiction. Proceedings in these courts are conducted in French and Italian, and Judge Crosby used both languages interchangeably in performing his judicial duties. His appointment was for life. But for one event, therefore—an event of little apparent moment at the time, but large in its resultshe might still be serving upon this Egyptian bench instead of helping to lead modern thought toward higher ideals of civilization. He accidentally fell upon a copy of one of Tolstoy's books, and casually read it.

The Tolstoy book got a grip upon Judge Crosby's attention, and shifting the direction of his thought it changed the whole course of his life.

It made him a democrat where he had been an aristocrat. It prompted him to reflect where he had been satisfied to let others reflect for him. It stirred into activity a latent repulsion to the bloody custom of slaughtering animals to eat their flesh, and converted him to vegetarianism. It taught him to doubt the great value of intellectual culture and superficial refinements in comparison with the culture of good character and the refinements of good will. It made

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him revolt at military ideals. His old respect for "the big stick" gave way before a growing respect for human brotherhood. Even his dignified and indirect share as a judge in wielding "the big stick" for one litigant or another in lawsuits became distasteful to him, and resigning his office in 1894 he returned to the United States.

On his way home he turned aside for a visit to Tolstoy at the latter's country home at Yasnia Poliana, Russia. Here he became personally acquainted with the venerable First Man of Russia, and out of that acquaintance a close friendship sprang up between the two. One of Mr. Crosby's most interesting and successful lectures is "Count Tolstoy and His Philosophy of Life;" and he was instrumental in preparing Tolstoy's "Resurrection"—the unexpurgated edition—for American readers.

While visiting Tolstoy Mr. Crosby was asked by his host if, being an American, he knew Henry George. The American was obliged to answer in the negative. His former aspirations and associations had not brought him into personal relations with the man whom Tolstoy immediately declared to be one of the greatest of Americans. "Make his acquaintance at once upon your return to the United States," was Tolstoy's advice, and Mr. Crosby lost no time in acting upon it. Although he did not immediately adopt George's remedy for the social disorders which Tolstoy had called to his attention, he may be fairly regarded as having since fully accepted its essential principles. His type of sociological thought seems to be that of the extreme individualist who realizes that there are some common interests which must be administered by common action.

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Averse to all aggressive war, Mr. Crosby very naturally opposed the American war against the Filipino republic. He has been president of the New York Anti-Imperialist League since 1900.

In social questions his interest has been keen since his visit to Tolstoy. Early in the '90's he became a founder and was elected first president of the New York Social Reform Club. His life is largely devoted to social reform work in various directions. He does this work in part by speaking and lecturing, in part by writing, and in part by organization effort.

Although a lawyer by profession, his private employment is chiefly that of a farmer, at his home near Rhinebeck, one of the Hudson river towns of New York.

Among Mr. Crosby's lectures, besides that on Tolstoy mentioned above, are "England in Egypt," "The Church and Social Problems," "Imperialism and War," "Golden Rule Jones," and "Walt Whitman, a Study in Democracy."

His best known books are "Plain Talk in Psalm and Parable;" "Capt. Jinks, Hero"—a military satire; and "Swords and Ploughshares." His "Capt. Jinks" is about to run as a serial in one of the principal daily papers of Vienna, and a volume of selections from "Plain Talk in Psalm and Parable" and "Swords and Ploughshares," translated into German, is in preparation in Berlin.

4

A man of Mr. Crosby's strong character, under the

THE CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON IS MARKED BY THE PUBLICATION OF THE NOTABLE BOOK

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This little volume will serve an admirable purpose. The author has succeeded remarkably in packing into a small compass the substance of the life and work of the great anti-slavery leader, and has made the book as fascinating as a piece of high-class fiction.—The Advocate of Peace, Boston.

Mr. Crosby has written a wholesome book for the times, and we hope that it will have a wide reading.—The Dial, Chicago.

A daring challenge.-Unity, Chicago.

The book is rich in quotable passages, and for those who can enjoy a skillful argument waged upon a strictly unconventional point of view, it makes uncommonly lively reading. Since the author is always so terribly in earnest, his style is trenchaut and vigorous, and "Garrison the Non-Resistant" is an example of this strenuous peace maker at his best.—The Philadelphia Record.

16mo, cloth, 144 pages, with photogravure portrait of Garrison, 50 cents (postage 5 cents).

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influence as he is of the Tolstoyan ideas which took root in his mind ten years ago in Alexandria, might be expected to hold pronounced views on the labor controversy not unfavorable to the labor side of it. And this is the fact in Mr. Crosby's case. But whoever is prejudiced in favor of the other side of that controversy will do well to suspend judgment on Crosby's opinions until they know exactly what they are.

Fortunately his opinions have been very briefly as well as very pointedly formulated by Mr. Crosby himself. In the following lines from his pen the merits of the conflict between Capital and Labor are comprehensively adjudicated with precision and indisputable accuracy:

Peace between Capital and Labor, is that all that you ask?

Is peace, then, the only thing needful?

There was peace enough in Southern slavery.

There is a peace of life and another peace of death.

It is well to rise above violence.

It is well to rise superior to anger.

But if peace means final acquiescence in wrong—if your aim is less than justice and peace, forever one then your peace is a crime.

Those eloquent lines declare Mr. Crosby's social philosophy and ideals with reference not only to the

so-called labor question but probably to every other "Justice and peace, forever phase of social life. one"! That is the social principle for which he works, the goal toward which he would have society turn, the test by which he would try civilization. Like his father, he knows no rich, no poor, no high. no low, no black or white or red or yellow. He knows only men, all men, as the equal children of a common Father. He believes that they are intended to live together on earth in good will and peace. He sees that they are in perpetual warfare. He knows that this is because they violate the supreme condition of peace, which is justice, the flower and fruit of good will. So seeing and believing, he is devoting the talents of a great inheritance to the work of restoring to social life the natural equilibrium which a perverted civilization has lost.

DEATH.

Ernest Crosby in "Plain Talk in Psalm and Parable."

Hail, cleansing, purifying Death!

I see you as a pretty red-cheeked housemaid, with neat white cap and trim apron,

Cheerily singing at your work, as you dust and clean and scrub the good old house of Life;