

PROGRESS AND DEGENERATION.

Prof. Bateson, president of the British Association for the advancement of Science has recently declared that "modern research lends not the smallest encouragement to the view that gradual evolution occurs by the transformation of masses of individuals, though that fancy has fixed itself upon popular imagination." He finds instead many distinct tendencies to degeneration. The fate of a people depends upon its leaders. If their leaders are unworthy, progress fails and degeneracy asserts itself. Hardly a nation can be found which does not exhibit evidence of having at some time occupied a higher plane.

This question of national progress, decadence and death has furnished the enigma to generations of philosophers quite as eminent as Prof. Bateson. And there is no disputing the data. Nations *do* rise to greatness, decline and die, rotting, it would seem, like ripe fruit at the core of which gnaws some secret worm.

The hope of arresting the tendency now rests with a nation's leaders, but it is a mistake to suppose that it can permanently so rest. The only salvation of a people are the people themselves. Democracy must replace dependence upon leaders. But political democracy is not of itself sufficient. There must be economic freedom for the individual. There must be a free people, not a people half free and half dependent—economically. Out of economic inequality are born all the curious forms and shapes of political inequality. It is the fruitful mother of a variety of delusions, tariffs, social prejudices, great wars. It breeds the twisted, perverted notions of trade and commerce. Economic inequality—the denial to men of their equal right to the use of the earth—is the Mother of Death.

The question which puzzles Prof. Bateson, and to which he finds the same hopeless answer that Prof. Huxley found, is answered in "Progress and Poverty." And *this* is an answer full of hope.

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PHILADELPHIA'S MEMORIAL TO JOSEPH FELS.

At the Joseph Fels Memorial meeting held in Philadelphia shortly after his death a committee was appointed to secure the erection of a permanent memorial to Mr. Fels in the shape of a suitable public rostrum in City Hall Plaza. The committee have adopted a design and await the formal permission of the city council. The ordinance is now before the select and common councils of the city, and as there has been much favorable comment from the Philadelphia papers the committee having the memorial in charge are hopeful of its passage without opposition.

The design by Price and McLanahan, architects, contemplates an artistic memorial rostrum of pink granite, massive, simple and dignified in line and proportion. The height and breadth of base, as reference to the scale plan will indicate, is not to exceed ten feet. The location suggested is well back toward the coping surrounding the areaway on the North side of City Hall, midway between the North door at the Northeast corner of the building and the East end of the raised platform, which extends North, East and West from the main North entrance. This is a point at which there would be no interference with public travel or ordinary use of the sidewalk.

Besides serving as a memorial to Joseph Fels, the rostrum will be artistically an ornament to the Plaza and a great convenience to speakers, as well as hearers, at the open air meetings, which have for many years been held at this place.

On the upper part of the main shaft at the back, facing toward the sidewalk it is proposed to place the following:

In memory of
JOSEPH FELS

And his work for
Freedom through equal opportunity.

On the face of the front portion for use as a speaker's desk it is proposed to inscribe:

For the discussion of the public good.

On the wings it is proposed to place the dates of birth and death of Joseph Fels.