Let The Righteous Inherit The Earth

My friend Plumtree leads what, they tell me, is a truly virtuous life. As a social benefactor he certainly looms large, for his department store gives work to scores of elegantly-garbed young men and women. That noted establishment—with its library, its rest rooms, its gymnasium, its literary, religious and commercial courses—is justly held in high esteem; and to serve in it, as the mediaeval page served at the ducal court, is a privilege which the daughters of our gentry, who desire to see life and can afford to be indifferent to money, do not disdain. Thus expenses are curtailed; capital is released for larger operations; new philanthropies are rendered possible, and these in turn bring other connections which lead to other charities, and so ad infinitum. One hand washes the other, and it is pleasant to think that virtue is no longer doomed to be its own reward; that to be good need not spell bankruptcy; that somewhere righteousness can get its pay in cash.

* * *

Nevertheless even the saintliest must bear his cross. My friend Plumtree, for example, is cursed with neighbors, who rob his home of that dignified decorum to which alike his tastes and reputation entitle him. Many a night the quiet of his wide-spreading gardens is rudely broken by those who dissipate the prayerful hours in revelry. While in the stately mansion grave discourse is being held, coarse interruptions come from the adjoining house where mirth is abandoning itself without reserve. Moreover, its ill-kempt aspect puts the neighborhood to shame; where all around is trim and smug, it alone brazenly fronts the world with paintless doors and broken windows. The corner lot on which it stands riots in weeds, which is the more unpardonable because that corner lot is valuable and most desirable. It is needed to round out the Plumtree property and has no business remaining in possession of those who cannot put it to serviceable account. Generous offers of purchase have been made, but the objectionable owners will not sell.

* * *

Such an estate is Mexico; a country that occupies an excellent location; so rich in neglected opportunities as to give its thrifty neighbor constant heart ache; inhabited by a race naturally prone to pleasure and the taking of life easy, careless of money and with lax customs that shock our self crucifying creeds. Why should not David covet Naboth's vineyard? Was not Solomon justified in lusting for Uriah's neglected wife? Does not every instinct cry to us that the earth should belong only to those who can render a faithful stewardship account? Let us get the drop on the barbarian and put him through a business course. Let us take up the White Man's burden cheerfully and shoulder arms.

* * *

The everlasting sequence is the trader, the cross, the sword. First the money interest is aroused; then comes the conscience, awakened opportunely to its stern duty; finally the army and navy complete the job. The sermon text has changed but the end pursued remains the same. We no longer accuse the Mexicans of not worshipping at the particular altar before which we prostrate ourselves, but we charge them with being commercially incompetent. We feel the urge not to a religious but an economic crusade, for the poverty of their method of production shocks our trading propriety. We cannot look on indifferently while valuable gold mines continue undeveloped; while water powers that might set ten thousand factories running go to waste; while forests which could furnish jobs for armies of choppers are still standing. Was not Great Britain justified in taking the Kimberley diamond mines and the Transvaal gold deposits from the unambitious Boer? Assuredly. Duty calls! Shoulder arms!

* * *

Just as Poland, hedged in by three greedy empires and inhabited by a people more artistic than commercial, has been repeatedly the prey of the invader, so has it been and is with Mexico. She stands between the money making North and the seductively alluring and almost virgin resources of the tropical El Dorado. Used for generations to free communal access to land, wood and water, her people have adapted themselves to their climate and taken life easy. They have none of the long industrial training and discipline back of us; none of that commercial astuteness our highly artificial life has forced us to develope. All they can oppose to the roaring tide of a commercialism which threatens to engulf them is the rocky barrier of an Indian temperament which is tenacity incarnate; which has clung for centuries to simple ways of life that suit it, which has simple but most decided ideas of right and wrong; which regards the rent-gatherer and the tax-gatherer as robbers; which hates the centralized government that renders collection of rent and taxes possible; which wishes to work for itself at tasks satisfactory to itself; which abhors, above everything else, the military regime which forces it to fight on behalf of a patriotism in which it does not believe. A race at once communistic and individualistic. People who will take in free exchange all the labor-saving machinery we can supply, since they wish to save themselves all trouble possible; but who do not take at all to the idea of working that machinery in factories to profit others.

* * *

Huerta is said to be borrowing money abroad, at ruinous discount. Foreign bankers are taking the admittedly hazardous risk and inducing their governments to minimize it as much as possible by acknowledging his usurped rule. That means that if he shall be overthrown and the loans repudiated, as Carranza has formally notified them, the foreign governments will assert their right to collect, by troops and battleships. That means friction with the United States over the Monroe doctrine—always a danger point. In a word, the Mexican situation bristles with difficulties, and probably is giving the President and his cabinet even more anxiety than does the Japanese embroglio. Two intrinsically hostile economic systems are face to face, and all the sociological problems now beginning to disturb our own nation so deeply are presenting themselves for settlement.

WM. C. OWEN.

Mexican Notes

Military news during the past week has been comparatively scarce, operations against Guaymas, on which for the moment interest has centered, having been unexpectedly delayed. The delay is laid to an accident to the aeroplane which made its way across the border and got as far as Hermosillo, the capital of Sonora. A swarm of sensational rumors attended the aeroplane's evasion of the United States authorities, and it was asserted in particular that European powers were protesting vigorously against the proposed use of aeroplane bombs, as certain to be injurious to their shipping. The latest reports—May 24—are that the rebels are assembling for the Guaymas attack not one but eight flying machines.

The capture of Guaymas would release large Constitutionalist forces for the complete subjugation of Chihuahua, in which Huerta still maintains a considerable garrison—at Chihuahua City. It has been estimated at 2500 and was being reinforced by Gen. Mercedo's column of 1200, which recently evacuated Parral. The latest despatches have it that a force from Torreon is moving in to take the place of the late Parral Garrison, and that a large body of federals, under Gen. Rabago, military governor of Chihuahua, is moving south. According to the "Los Angeles Times," federal desertions leave only some 200 men to defend the entire territory traversed by the Mexico Northwestern Railway.

Rumor has been busy with the $100,000,000 loan which Huerta is reported as having been successful in negotiating in Europe. It is said that all the Cabinet and a majority of Congressmen oppose the loan, and that Huerta has threatened to dissolve Congress and openly declare himself dictator. Meanwhile Carranza has notified the European Powers that if Huerta is overthrown the loan will be repudiated, and that any attempt to collect it will be opposed by force.

Rebel victories have been reported from Durango and Morelos, and 100 federal troops are said to have been ambushed and killed near Sacramento, in Northwest Mexico. There was a feverish rushing of federal troops, May 21, to Necaxa, a suburb of Mexico City, it being stated that the power station there, which supplies the capital and other near-by towns with light, was in danger of falling into rebel hands. According to "El Imparcial," Jesus Salgado is sweeping Guerrero and dividing up the large estates among the peons.

Naturally the American press has paid much attention to the anti-American boycott started in Mexico City, but the Huerta government appears to have taken energetic and successful steps to prevent anticipated rioting.

Railroad communication has been reported by the Associated Press as having come to an almost complete standstill, but from all quarters reports of minor uprisings have been drifting in. Twenty-five hundred federal troops revolted at San Luis Potosi.

Despatches from Philadelphia have described the activity in the U. S. Naval yards at League Island as being greater than at any time since the Spanish war, and have added: "The impression is that the forces now mobilizing are intended for Mexican waters."

What will the Anarchists, the Socialists, the Single Taxers of Los Angeles—in all they number thousands—do about the San Diego affair? Probably nothing. For years they have drunk at "the line of least resistance" fountain presided over by the political Socialists; for years they have adopted the "wait-until-election-comes" method of facing present difficulties. Don't do the thing yourself, and now. Put it off a year or two and then let some other fellow do it for you. Fine revolutionary policy! Magnificent training for a fight!

Emma Goldman has had fine audiences in Los Angeles, and we, who have grown skeptical of words, admit that she has spoken finely. But let her not deceive herself. Los Angeles dotes on oratory and loves revolutionary resolutions as a cat loves cream. Will it sacrifice its comfort, not to mention other things? We guess not.

The whole nation has been hysterizing over the social question for a generation past. As for doing anything, why should it? What are the professional politicians for?

We ask our readers to study carefully the Appeal to President Wilson, given in this number. If it also appeals to them as just and right we ask them to assist us in circulating it, by sending it to Congressmen and Senators, newspapers and sympathetic or influential friends—wherever, in short, it may be likely to do good. We wish to publish it in leaflet form, but our ability to do so depends on the demand; our finances being, for the moment, at the lowest ebb.

President Wilson Urged To Act

Members Of Junta Cannot Be Deemed Criminals

TO THE HONORABLE WOODROW WILSON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

Sir—The Federal Department of Justice having decided (most unjustly as we think) that Ricardo Flores Magon, Enrique Flores Magon, Librado Rivera and Anselmo L. Figueroa, now imprisoned in the McNeil Island penitentiary for alleged violation of the neutrality laws, shall be neither paroled nor released, we turn to you. We turn to you with some confidence because we recognize that the United States now has in the presidential chair one who can see beyond the narrow limits of a ledger; a scholar, who has studied and written history, who has an eye for the causes that underlie great national and race upheavals; who needs must understand that, to those who brave them that they may enlarge the sphere of liberty, the cross and the gibbet are halos of glory and not brands of shame. Your record as a student assures us that the technicalities which fetter your lawyers can have no hold on you.

Above all we are encouraged by the unprecedentedly bold stand you have taken against plutocracy; against those monopolists who have been the curse of Mexico as they are of the United States. What you have written in such a book as "The New Freedom;" the public addresses you have made since your election to the presidency and made often to the face of privileged and, therefore, intensely hostile audiences—all these inspire us with the belief that we shall not turn to you in vain. For we plead the cause of emancipators; of men who have struggled for years, and against terrific odds, to overthrow a slavery so real and undeniable that no eloquence is needed to set it forth.

It is undeniable that Mexico is one of the richest countries in the world, and its inhabitants among the poorest. It is undeniable that this gross and appalling contradiction exists because the country is monopolized by a very few, who thereby are enabled to enslave and starve the many. Such a mind as yours must know full well that when one man monopolizes practically all a State so vast and fertile as Chihuahua; that when, according to the evidence of your own government reports, one American company owns four and a half million acres of Mexican land, and another two million acres, while, in Los Angeles, American real estate speculators have hawked round property represented as having an ocean frontage of five hundred miles—such a mind as yours, we say, knows well that thereby the wind has been sown and that, sooner or later, the whirlwind will be reaped. You know, as surely as you know anything, that the awful slavery of the Yucatan plantations, of the Valle Nacional, of many other parts of Mexico we could name, follows the establishment of such conditions as inevitably as the night follows the day.

Appeal to Sense of Truth.

As a teacher you have made it your life's business to learn and impart the truth; to delve for causes instead of dealing only with effects; to trace the decay of nations and the overthrow of mighty empires based on injustice. All this has been your life's work; has shaped the prosperous career which finally has culminated in your being presented with the most sacred trust the American nation has it in its power to grant. You occupy your present exalted position, beyond all question, because the masses believe you are the wise man, the just man, the man who can look beneath the dazzling surface and into those dark depths to which the ordinary politician or prosperous financier is blind. For these reasons we, habitually most skeptical as to politicians and men in power, address you with a confidence we otherwise could not feel. We do not believe that you, with such a record as you have behind you, would have sanctioned that long partnership with tyranny which marked the infamous years when your Republican predecessors were aiding Porfirio Diaz to sell away his country. We do not believe you would have sanctioned the system of espionage established throughout the border States of this country, whereby thousands of detectives and American hirelings in the pay of Diaz were permitted to kidnap, from what should be a land of freedom, hundreds of Mexican patriots and hand them over to execution or an imprisonment that was often worse than death. We judge you by your writings, your public utterances and your established record, and we believe you would have fought such infamies; would have sympathized with the unhappy victims; would have declared boldly that the land which welcomes strangers with the figure of Liberty holding aloft the torch of rebellion against tyranny can have no part in handing over to despots those who revolt against them. In a word, we believe that the United States has, at last, in you a chief executive who will struggle to clothe her axioms with actual life, and give a literal rendering to what has been hitherto the merely verbal sentiment that "resistance to tyrants is obedience to God."

Equity Higher than Law.

You will agree with us that governors and presidents are endowed with the prerogative of pardon and release precisely in order that they may look behind technicalities and drag to light the real justice of the case. They are supposed to represent the generosity of equity as opposed to the narrow harshness of the common law. You know that it is so, and we cannot imagine that you, either as chief executive or as a man of culture and literary attainments, can sanction such proceedings as those which marked the conduct of the case of the United States vs. Ricardo Flores Magon et al.

Your Department of Justice has passed on the question of a revision of the case, and passed adversely. That is to say, the professional man-prosecutors in Washington have stood by their brothers, the professional man-prosecutors in Los Angeles, California. Moreover, they have done so on the report of the Los Angeles prosecutors, and we insist that such testimony is not to be credited; that the Los Angeles prosecutors are themselves vitally interested, for we have attacked them and accused them of suborning perjury; that by no civilized code of ethics is the interested party allowed to be the judge.

Consider what has happened. We have produced a series of most explicit affidavits, in which the government's own witnesses swear that they were bribed by your official prosecutors to work up a case; that they were paid most handsomely for doing so; that—which is incomparably worse—the fear of the law was held as a sword above their heads. Mr. Dudley W. Robinson, who had charge of the prosecution, promising them release from prison if they would work and testify as directed by him, and threatening them with additional criminal charges if they failed to do so.

That is almost serious accusation, which, if generally believed, brings the entire machinery of justice into contempt. It may be said that the Department of Justice in Washington does not believe these affidavits, but as to its reasons we cannot speak, inasmuch as its decisions are secret and retain, in this twentieth century, that star-chamber character against which our English ancestors so righteously rebelled, and for maintaining which they executed their king. Nevertheless, we submit to you certain reasons, not hitherto considered, for supposing they are true.

We Cannot Bribe.

The makers of these affidavits came to us voluntarily. They had nothing in the world to expect from us in the way of money or position, since we have none to give. On the other hand, they had everything to fear from the avenging power of the United States prosecuting attorney's office, which has a long and vindictive arm, and a memory which does not forget. The makers of these affidavits, therefore, had everything to lose and nothing to gain by coming to the rescue of the men now imprisoned in McNeil's Island, and we believe they did so solely because their consciences tortured them.

Their story of pressure brought to bear on them by Dudley W. Robinson becomes most probable when we consider the course that gentleman pursued in court. Of that the stenographic report of the case is evidence, and it will show that, using his privilege of having the final word; speaking when neither the hapless prisoners in the dock nor their counsel could contradict or controvert him; he exhausted his vocabulary of invective to rouse the passions of the jury, and dragged in side issues to drive home the conviction that the accused were enemies of society whom it was the jury's duty to place safely, and for as long a term as possible, behind the bars.

That was contrary to all legal ethics, for the prosecuting attorney is not allowed to be vindictive; is not supposed to convict by superior powers of oratory, but is supposed to lay the facts coldly before the jury and give the prisoner the benefit of every doubt.

Furthermore, when Judge Wellborn—to whose impartiality as presiding Judge we have always testified most gladly—refused to sentence our comrades on other than the one charge of conspiracy, we were presented with the astounding spectacle of the prosecuting attorney protesting against the action of the court, and demanding—as he had demanded previously, in his closing speech to the jury—the full statutory penalty on each of the numerous counts in the two indictments he had lodged. Technically, we suppose, he was within his rights; ethically his action breathed vindictiveness of the extremest type.

The stenographic court report receives further corroboration from the method pursued by this same Dudley W. Robinson when testifying respecting our imprisoned brothers before the Subcommittee of the Committee of Foreign Relations of the United States Senate. His evidence covers seventy-three large and closely printed pages. It contains an enormous amount of, as it seems to us, entirely foreign matter introduced for no other purpose than to show that the Revolution in Mexico menaces most seriously the interests of certain speculators whom Mr. Robinson considered it his special business to protect. Why, for example, did he give in evidence Vincent St. John's pamphlet on "The I. W. W., Its History, Structure and Methods," or that on "Industrial Combinations" by Wm. E. Trautman and George Schleeweis?

Irrelevant Declarations.

Mr. Robinson introduced in evidence an immense and largely irrelevant correspondence; declarations that "the Magonistas were constantly advised by the best attorneys;" that money poured in on them—unfortunately a cruel misrepresentation; that "Gen. Otis and Harry Chandler and the rest of the fellows have always backed up the government in a vigorous prosecution of these men," and so forth. All which we mention to show how marked was the animus in what should have been an impartial investigation.

Is it not also suggestive that, prior to the trial, Mr. Stewart had resigned his position as assistant prosecutor that he might accept a heavy fee from the Mexican government to work up and assist in the conduct of this supposedly fair trial; there being pitted against the one attorney we were able to employ the combined efforts of Mr. Robinson, Mr. Stewart and Senator del Valle?

Again we ask you, both as chief executive and searcher after truth, to look behind the technicalities and into the realities of this prosecution. We think you are bound to do so because, for every monopolist whom you, as the official head of the nation, represent, there are a hundred thousand of the common people; and because the feeling of the common people is that only the monopolist, the land-grabber, the Wall Street speculator, have been interested in upholding such monstrously unjust conditions as have prevailed, and still prevail, in Mexico. The monopolist may wish this government to stand on technicalities and follow the rigid letter of the law, but the common people do not. They take a broader and, as we submit, a juster view; they recognize that the causes at work in their own country to keep them poor and suffering have been at work in Mexico: that the men who profit financially by such conditions are the very few, and indeed are largely identical in both countries; that everything has been done to hedge with protection the privileges those few enjoy, and that nothing whatever has been done to protect the millions whom those privileges have reduced to penury. They cannot be brought to regard those who war against such privileges as criminals. Neither can you, if you wish to be true to yourself and to your reputation as a scholar.

Hounded by Detectives.

Let us take the case of Ricardo Flores Magon, one of the imprisoned men, as typical. He has been in this country about ten years. Nearly half of that time he has passed in prison; when out of prison he has been dogged by spies and detectives, and hounded from East to West, in constant fear of being kidnaped across the border. He came to this country only when it had become no longer possible for him to live in Mexico, for, as soon as he was released from one prison he was arrested again, as an enemy of Diaz. He had not taken up arms against Diaz. His offense, was merely that, as a journalist, he had exposed the true conditions prevalent in his country. Scholar that you are, you must know that thereby he performed invaluable service not only to his own country but to all mankind, for "he who serves truth serveth all" as Emerson reminds us.

Last January, Sir, you yourself stood before the wealthy Commercial Club of Chicago, and said this: "We must see that the business of the United States is set free from every form of monopoly." We feel sure you meant it, and we point out to you that what you so clearly and tersely expressed as the one crying need is precisely the work to which Ricardo Magon and his fellow-prisoners addressed themselves these many years ago. Do you blame them for trying to carry into action what you, then president-elect, declared imperative? Can you regard these men as criminals? Do you not recognize that they belong to the class of Washington, Mazzini, Garibaldi, Kossuth and the many other Liberators whom the United has delighted to honor? Mr. Robinson declaimed to the jury that our comrades' teachings led to bloodshed. What has that to do with it? The men just named and every emancipator honored by history are open to that charge. The abolition of chattel slavery in this country sowed death broadcast, but we applauded the deed and hold in the highest honor the memory of Garrison.

Neutrality Laws Evaded.

Nothing has been more farcical than the administration of the neutrality laws under the plutocratic dominance of the Republican Party. That party was anxious to annex Cuba, and accordingly the chiefs of the Cuban revolutionary Junta were lionized in New York City, where they were permitted to establish their headquarters. Irish societies have been allowed to plot against Great Britain to their hearts' content. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were collected openly on behalf of those who, ten years ago, were trying to dethrone the Czar of Russia and revolutionize that country. Still more recently Portuguese republicans had headquarters in this country, and worked openly and unmolestedly until they succeeded in overthrowing the monarchy. But all was different when investments in Mexico were threatened. Then all our most honored national traditions were thrown to the winds; then Mexican spies and detectives by the thousands were given a free hand to harass the population of our own border States; American detective agencies were encouraged to assist Mexican agents in kidnaping and other monstrous crimes; then the entire legal machinery of the United States was placed at the service of one of the most oppressive despotisms this world has known. For Diaz swept almost the entire territory of Mexico from beneath the nation's feet; sold it for a song to native politicians and foreign adventurers; thrust a whole race into slavery to absentee landowners and usurers; drove his countrymen into involuntary exile by tens of thousands. It was an invasion almost without parallel in history, and Diaz checked resistance to that invasion by methods that put even Russia to the blush. In no other way than by the institution of a regime of brutal cruelty could the righteous indignation of the Mexican people have been temporarily suppressed, and it is to the lasting shame of the Republican party in this country that it lent itself as an eagerly willing accomplice to the perpetration of that great historic crime.

Motives Not Personal.

We appeal to the Chief Executive of the United States as to one who should consider the equities rather than the strict letter of the law; to the scholar and statesman habituated to broad and generous views; to the man whose career shows a hatred of injustice and deep sympathy for the oppressed. We think the case is very clear. We think lengthy Congressional investigations and the gathering of more voluminous evidence a waste of time and effort. We consider it established beyond dispute that economic conditions in Mexico were such that a revolution, to overthrow those conditions and introduce institutions more responsive to the nation's basic needs, had become inevitable. We consider that neither you nor any other man of honor could expect virile and intelligent men, such as our imprisoned comrades, to stand indifferently idle while their fellow-countrymen were struggling for economic freedom. We feel that, if they had not agitated as they did, you and other earnest men would have accused them rightly of cowardice and treason to the higher law; that in your heart of hearts you would have held them in contempt.

We ask you to look at this whole question, not as would the technical lawyer, but as the ordinarily thoughtful and sympathetic man regards it. We tell you such men never view our imprisoned comrades in any other light than that of men called on to bear their share in a great and irresistible struggle, for which they individually were not responsible. On this broad and, therefore, impregnable ground we ask for the release of the members of the Mexican Liberal Party Junta now imprisoned in McNeil Island, thanks mainly to a technical conviction based on evidence confessedly perjured.

For those who pledge their lives to noble causes a few months more or less in jail amount to nothing. With men of our imprisoned comrades' stamp they cut no figure. But it is all-important to establish the principle that those who fight for liberty shall neither be branded nor punished as malefactors; it is imperiously necessary that the United States, professing to be the world's great exemplar of Liberty, shall cease persecuting her champions; that men of your bold initiative and exalted position shall teach the people that the technically wrong is often the eternally right, and that Democracy can best assert itself by upholding the cause of the oppressed as against the proud powers with whom they wage a battle most heroic because so tragically one-sided. In brief, our comrades are not pleading abjectly for mercy to themselves as individuals, but demanding the higher justice as representatives of a high and holy cause.

Teo. M. Gaitán, Blas Lara, Alberto Téllez, Juan Rincón, Trinidad Villarreal, Wm. C. Owen (staff of "Regeneración," organ of the Mexican Liberal Party.)

Emma Driven Out Of San Diego

With Reitman And Gerke Thrown Into Jail

Emma Goldman, Dr. Ben L. Reitman and Wm. Gerke were arrested in San Diego, at 4:40 Wednesday morning, May 20, the moment the two first-named alighted from the train in which they had travelled from Los Angeles. Their alleged offense lay in the fact that Emma Goldman was billed to deliver a lecture, the cards for which, previously distributed by Mr. Gerke, read as follows:

"Do you believe in giving people a chance to be heard before you condemn them? Emma Goldman, publisher of 'Mother Earth' Magazine,' author of 'Anarchism and Other Essays,' will lecture in San Diego, Tuesday, May 20th, 8 p. m., at Socialist Hall, Overbaugh block, Sixth and H streets. Subject: 'The Enemy of Society,' by Henrik Ibsen; a powerful arraignment of the economic and social wrongs in society. Admission 50 cents. Dr. Ben L. Reitman, Chairman. Miss Goldman is addressing large audiences in Los Angeles."

The back of the card contained an advertisement of Miss Goldman's book, which ran, in part, as follows: "'Life,' the most intellectual weekly in the United States, in its review of Feb. 16, 1911, says: 'Emma Goldman's book, 'Anarchism and other Essays,' ought to be read by all so-called respectable women, and adopted as a text-book by women's clubs throughout the country.— For courage, persistency, self-effacement, self-sacrifice in the pursuit of her object, she has hitherto been unsurpassed among the world's women— Repudiating, as she does, every tenet of what the modern State holds good, she stands for some of the noblest traits in human nature.'"

Vigilantes Rounded Up.

In a screaming front-page head "The Los Angeles Times" jubilates over the fact that "Anarchists are glad to get into jail so as to save their hides." It happens, however, that the article beneath the head gives an accurate description of what really happened, contained in the following lines:

"Emma and Reitman stepped from a Santa Fe parlor car in the dawn of the morning into the arms of a trio of policemen who lost no time about getting them safely within prison walls. Lurking about the jail, despite the fact that it was not yet 5 o'clock, was a member of the vigilance committee of last year, and within a few minutes he had summoned a number of his former comrades by phone. Men with determined faces and bulging hip pockets began to arrive in autos. Hour by hour the throng swelled, until before noon the vicinity of the jail was thronged by thousands, most of whom wore in their buttonholes the little American flags so much in evidence during the I. W. W. troubles. Once a man refused to don one of the little flags, and it was only through the determined efforts of the police that he was saved from violence.

"Gathering about, they hustled him quickly away, and he was glad to go.

"The excitement was added to when some joker telephoned to the Spreckels engine plant and requested the engineer to blow the militia alarm, which was the signal a year ago for the assembling of the vigilance committee. He did so, and the thousands already in evidence about the jail materially augmented."

Mr. Gerke, who is a man of education, was until recently part proprietor of a book store in Los Angeles, and is reliable, met Emma Goldman and Reitman at the train, and he confirms the "Times" account in all its essential details. He tells the editor of this section that at the early hour when the arrests took place the town was quietly asleep, that the depot platform was practically deserted, and that the police walked their prisoners all the way to the city jail without attracting notice. He himself was arrested, as he was entering the room of his hotel. Nevertheless Admiral Manney, superintendent of police in San Diego, has given out accounts so worded as to convey the impression that the arrests were made solely to perserve the prisoners from being torn to pieces by the infuriated populace.

Soon after the arrests, however, a crowd began to gather, and it is self-evident that they gathered according to a preconceived plan. The fact that they wore in their buttonholes the little American flags to which the "Times" referred is sufficient proof of that, and I may add, incidentally, that my opinion of the Stars and Stripes has not become more exalted as a consequence. There will be tens of thousands who will feel as I do.

The further fact is that the "San Diego Union" and the "San Diego Tribune" had published, the day before, most inflammatory articles, urging their readers to indulge in that infamous suppression of free speech by which, in the estimation of all thinking people, they have stamped, once more, the brand of shame on the city in which they have the misfortune to reside. It is also stated, and Dr. Reitman has so declared himself in an article in the "Los Angeles Record," that money was spent in the saloons like water for the purpose of working up an agitation against the visitors. A Mr. Porter, the reputed leader of the Vigilantes whose exploits gave San Diego most unpleasant notoriety a year ago, is said to have been the chief inciter. He is one of the innumerable real estate boomers with whom San Diego is cursed.

Up to date the Vigilantes are on top. They have called the bluff and made good; for nearly two years have said, "Get out!" and free speach advocates have got. Are we to understand that the fight is over; that the sponge has been thrown into the ring? If so, progress has received a set-back which fine words and hysterical mass-meetings cannot regain. The man of action, as always, has knocked out the non-resistant and sat on him.

The Right to Learn.

On her return from San Diego, Emma Goldman lectured on "The French Drama" to an audience of about 500, and gave a most penetrating interpretation of Rostand, Maeterlink and Mirbeau. The hall was packed and it was noted that many took voluminous notes, evidently considering the lecture an important literary event. What a stupidity that there are people who allow prejudice to stand in the way of their own intellectual development! What an outrage that a brutal few should be permitted to rob others of their right to learn!

Nevertheless, bad as is the San Diego incident, its real significance lies in the fact that it is part of a nation-wide, insane endeavor to put back the clock, and forbid research in the one department which needs it most—Sociology. On the very morning that the "Times" played up the San Diego outrage it carried, and played up in a box on its front page, the following barbarous dispatch:

"BOSTON, May 20.—The carrying of any flags other than the national or State emblems, or the flags of friendly foreign nations and their dependencies, in any parade in this commonwealth is prohibited in a bill which received today the approval of Gov. Foss. The measure further provides that no sign bearing an inscription opposed to organized government, or which is sacrilegious or derogatory to public morals, shall be carried in parades."

And England Took the Lead.

Without wishing to make invidious national distinctions, and merely by way of illustration, this much should be said. Three centuries ago England fought for free speech, and won. Men perished at the stake and underwent atrocious torture—but not for long. The nation endured it, under "Bloody" Mary, only a few short years. Then it rose in revolt; sunk the Spanish Armada; gave proud, imperial Spain her mortal wound; abolished Inquisition methods, and created a literature on freedom which to this day is unsurpassed.

England reaped her reward; reaped it immediately; reaped it more richly than any other nation of which we have record. Instantly she jumped into first place and led the world in science, art and commerce, because she led in free investigation.

That blood will rebel again, even if it must rebel alone. When Massachusetts crawls—the harlot of authority—back to the mental dungeons of the darkest past, that old-time revolutionary spirit will assert itself once more. It cannot be kept quiet; it will be compelled to break the law, and it will shatter it to pieces because it will have at its back every force that works for progress.

Prior to Emma Goldman's lecture on the "French Drama," and the day following the return to Los Angeles, Messrs. Sprading, McKee, Kirk, Gerke, Reitman, Emma Goldman herself and the editor of this section spoke on the San Diego outrage. From the practical trend of the talk, and its reception by the audience, we have some hopes that there may be a coming-together of those who understand that, all over the country, a bitter fight on this free speech question is being precipitated.