THE MIRACLE OF HOME-MAKING

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From the beginning of time Nature has had no use for the poor quality of anything. She has made it her business to destroy the makeshift. Poorly built houses, badly made furniture do not last. Nature sees to it that misused materials are rescued from their worthless job. She absorbs them back again into her vast storehouse and in the course of time restores them to life and a chance for a worthier destiny. She has various ways of destroying those things of which she does not approve. All the elements are her messengers of destruction. The wind and the sun and the rain, the heat and the cold she sends forth to destroy the impermanent. And unless a man plans his home with a knowledge of Nature, with a knowledge of those good materials that Nature will put the seal of her approval upon, he can no more hope for permanency than he could in any other transaction in life which Nature refuses to recognize. It is impossible to build satisfactorily unless one builds efficiently and efficiency is born of knowledge and knowledge of experience.

We hope to make our new Craftsman Building a clearing house for experience. We want questions to pour in through every channel of this new Craftsman movement, and these questions will be answered by men of experience with a wide knowledge of all lines which lead to the final satisfactory home. We are sure that the people who want information from us will be benefited by the knowledge we place at their disposal and we shall be benefited by the questions that are asked. That is why we feel that the new building will be a clearing house for information on all home-building problems that can face the man or woman planning a permanent home. We do not want people to ask us to face the responsibility of the success of their home. When clients come to me and ask me what kind of a home I can build them, I invariably ask what kind of a home they want. And when they say they do not know anything about home-building, I tell them immediately that it is their business to if they want a home. It is my business to give them information, but it is their business to seek it and to know everything that is possible to know about the planning, the designing, the building, the fitting and the furnishing of a home before they permit one stone to be laid in the foundation. It is no use simply to go from one builder or architect to another getting a lot of estimates and then deciding upon the cheapest one. The cheapest one may be the poorest economy or the most expensive one may be the most unsatisfactory. You cannot decide about the building of a house by the price charged. You can only decide whether the price is right when you know the kind of house you want and what the materials that go into it are worth. It is going to be possible to find out all these things in the new Craftsman Building. Any one who wants to build a house can study house-building there from start to finish. He can make a comparative study of different kinds of brick and their varying prices, of different kinds of concrete and stucco construction and their different prices, also the relative expense of brick, wood and stone. He can get information about the most desirable building material for the climate and site which his house is to occupy. He can find out all the things he needs to know about roofing and wall covering and about every sanitary detail for his house. He can concentrate on the study of this question of house-building in a few days, or he can roam about the building for a week or two, and take as it were a course in house-building. He can so prepare himself for the building of a permanent home that on his return to his own country he can superintend the construction of his home in the most efficient possible way, putting into it the best materials at the most reasonable prices, knowing exactly what he wants and what he ought to pay for it. We feel that only in this way can a man build permanently and can the full leaven of efficiency go into his plans and into the final construction of his home.

We do not ask people to seek us to erect fine homes for them which express our point of view and our individuality. We ask them to come and study the art of home-building with us and prepare themselves to make their houses express their own point of view and bear witness to their own knowledge of the kind of home they have decided that they want for themselves and for their children.

The chance to build a home is really the great opportunity of a man's life, greater
than going into business, greater than anything in fact that we know of except his marriage (which should be the great event of all lives), because it means the surrounding of his life with that which seems to him the most beautiful and comfortable environment he can select. How can any one else know what this man wants to surround his life with? How can any one offer him a home that is what he ought to have? And how can he know too much about the building and the furnishing of the place that is to encompass his own life and his family's life as long as they need a home?

To me home-building has always seemed the great miracle. I go out into the world to find somewhere in it the place that seems best for me to live. Then in that particular spot I put up the structure that seems best and the most beautiful and the most suitable for me to spend my life in.

I have always felt that a man's house should be his monument, the final thing in which he expresses to the world his sense of what is beautiful and fit for himself and for those that he loves. And so naturally I feel that there is nothing a man should take so seriously as the erecting of this monument. How can he be satisfied to take a few days or a few hours to prepare himself for the making of this beautiful place in which his life is to be spent. It would never surprise me if a man came into the new Craftsman Building and said to me, "I am going to stay in New York a year to study about building my home." I could understand that perfectly. He would seem to me a very wise man to give that length of time to find out what was the very best thing the world held for him in the way of home-making. I should like to meet such a man and talk with him and advise with him and I know that my life would be richer for such a talk. For a man would have great wisdom who intended to take a year to plan for his home. In fact, it seems to me he would be a very great man and I should miss his companionship very much when he went away to build this wonderful place for himself and his family. I am sure we should part very good friends and that some day I should find the time, of which I have very little, to go and visit his home and see the wonderful things that he had put into the walls and the furnishings and the garden. I should find there his own spirit, the spirit that would survive his life and that would be an inheritance for his children.

"THE FRIEND OF THE PEOPLE"

EVERY so often we are shouted at by some man who insists that he has found a remedy for all our political or financial or physical ills and we line up in front of him and listen to him and he talks fluently to us, and we find he has some plan for his own success. We help to make him a hero or a millionaire and then he vanishes away and lives happily ever after. In fact, so often lately has the people's confidence been used, so often have we been tricked that we are beginning to shut up our sentiment away from the so-called reformers. That wonderful thing which binds the whole human race together, the sentiment that responds to good and great deeds, to tenderness, to unselfishness, to courage has been wrung from us so often under false pretenses that we are getting a little weary of handing it out in return for smooth words.

We have begun to doubt the "friend of the people." Why should any one want to save us from the consequences of our own acts? Why should any kind gentleman elect to stand between us and temptation, to face our struggles for us, to rob us of all the conflict which is ours by right of an immemorial inheritance and upon which we should strengthen our spiritual muscles? The very organization of the universe is based upon conflict, all growth is through conflict. The seed that we plant by our own muscular effort must force its way up through the soil to sunlight and air. Without effort it grows stale and rots. The bird that we cage, and feed and care for and keep from battles of the air and earth is without power of life once it is freed in the garden and the woods. It cannot win its chance for daily existence because we have weakened its strength and its will. All vegetable and animal growth is through conflict, conflict with the wind and the sun and the various enemies that are appointed to battle with it and strengthen it. The human race in no wise varies from all other natural physical expressions. Success comes to the nation or to the individual through conflict, and no more demoralizing entity has been known at any time through the history of the world than.