

life went it would have seemed to the world, like a beneficent institution, established and patronized by God himself. Gladstone was not one of the leaders who convict the world of its institutional sins and lead it on to repentance and conversion.

Yet it must not be understood that Gladstone's life was a useless one, or that his species of usefulness had no effect upon the world's forward movement. Though he cut no new paths, acting only as a guide in the beaten paths, his face was turned forward, not backward. Belonging to the same general type of leader as Disraeli, since neither lived ahead of his time, he differed from Disraeli in this, that while Disraeli led away from new paths, Gladstone led toward them. In no sense a leader of the first type which we have described above, never even tempted to get out of speaking distance ahead of the popular sentiment of his day, he was nevertheless always on the alert to bring up the main body to the support of an advancing sentiment when the main body was ready for it.

Gladstone's work was that of a great politician. As such he will live in history. But if the lesson of history may be trusted, those who expect his name to fill a large place in it, would, if they could live a few generations hence, be immeasurably surprised. Men have lived in Gladstone's day who while they lived were hardly known except to be despised, men with whom Gladstone would not have deigned to consult upon any public question, whose names, when the history of the time comes to be written by posterity, will be better known than Gladstone's. This will be not because they were abler men or better men. It will be because the part which Gladstone played in the world's onward movement was, in comparison with theirs, a secondary part.

#### BELLAMY.

Edward Bellamy, whose death is noted this week, was an important contributor to the social agitation which has been in progress during the past two decades, and upon the continuation of which depend the possibilities of economic freedom and social justice. His story, "Looking Backward," has been most influential

in fixing attention upon the inequalities that are generated and perpetuated by existing economic conditions and institutions.

But Mr. Bellamy's well-meant method of reform has been but superficially accepted. That is because it is itself superficial. It appeals merely to people who, when anything goes wrong, exclaim: "Let us make a law against it!" Though these people are numerous enough, they lack the directness of aim necessary to the accomplishment of beneficent results. Only when shrewd men with axes to grind make use of the impulses of such people do their numbers count in producing results; and then the results are anything but what they would desire.

It is to this ill-considered impulse to remedy evils by restrictive laws, under the manipulation of self-seeking and far seeing men, that we are indebted for our protective system. "Work is scarce and wages are low; make a law!" that is the cry. And the self-seeking protectionist exclaims: "Of course, make a law! and what more sensible law, what law more directly calculated to remedy the evil, than one which keeps foreign goods out of our market and gives all American work to American labor?" Therefore, a protective tariff, with its intensification of the evils which American workingmen suffer, but with great plunder for the shrewd men who know how to avail themselves of impulsive demands for restrictive laws.

Mr. Bellamy's response, however, to the people who, feeling some kind of wrong, but unable to locate the wrong except in its surface manifestations, cry out for a law, was not of the selfish-shrewd order. He became the honest exponent of their cry by proposing a law, or a system of laws, for the reformation of the awful social conditions which he so graphically described.

This system comprised a new plan of society. Ignoring the laws of nature which operate in social life, he evolved a social scheme from his own inner consciousness. Mr. Bellamy might be likened to a man who with great power should describe the ugliness and barrenness of a worn-out peach orchard, and then by way of

remedy, instead of proposing to set out new peach trees and by guarding them against their enemies allow them to grow according to the order of nature, should propose to whittle peach trees out of pine sticks and decorate their artificial leaves with green paint. The fundamental objection to his constructive teaching is that he tried to invent a social system, instead of trying to discover and apply the natural laws of social growth.

But he did one man's work, in making thousands see the injustice of things as they are. If his method of reform was artificial and superficial, there are many nevertheless to whom he brought a realization of existing injustice, who will be neither artificial nor superficial in their search for a remedy. He is not to be ranked with Gladstone as a political leader; nor yet with George as a pioneer, though he was of the pioneer rather than the political type of leader. But his name will be remembered as that of one of the men of this dying century who honestly endeavored to hand down to those who might come after him a better world than he received from those who had gone before.

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## NEWS

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The center of interest in connection with the war is still in the West Indies. But at the hour of writing there is no absolutely trustworthy news. The cable companies have been forbidden to accept or deliver telegrams regarding the movements of the fleets, except to authorized officials of the government or with the permission of the censor. But rumors have been abundant and of such variety as to meet any demand. They culminated on the 24th in reports of the utter destruction of the Spanish fleet, but at great cost to the Americans, including the sinking of the New York and the Iowa, with Admiral Sampson, "Fighting Bob" Evans, and all hands. This rumor, like most of the others, was accompanied with the explanation that it was "unconfirmed." There was no truth in it.

Commodore Schley's squadron, which was at Key West when last week's issue went to press, left there on the 19th, since which time it has