

Settlement Bulletin



VOL. III.

DECEMBER, 1909.

NO. 5.

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See that you have it in
your overcoat.

Settlement Bulletin

ISSUED NINE TIMES A YEAR IN THE INTEREST OF THE SOCIAL SETTLEMENT

Vol. III.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., DECEMBER, 1909.

No. 5.

If You Strike a Blow With Fingers Scattered
No one is hurt much except yourself

If You Strike a Blow With Fingers United, as in a Fist.
Your adversary may be knocked out

**Rochester's Charitable Forces, if United,
CAN KNOCK OUT
Some of the Causes of Distress.**

What A United Charities Would Mean For Rochester.

A CLEARING HOUSE For intercommunication and co-operation between all the social and charitable agencies of the city.

A CENTRAL OFFICE Expertly conducted, to which you can refer all applicants for relief, and KNOW that the proper charity will act.

BETTER TEAM WORK To raise the needy above the need of relief, and to help the poor to help themselves; to repress begging and imposition; to prevent duplication, overlapping and waste; to make every penny count.

A GREAT FORCE For keying up the entire welfare of the city; a generator of constructive work; a "social survey," always on the job.

Rochester is considering the desirability of greater co-operation in charitable and philanthropic work. A brief historical review of organized efforts towards this end may be of interest.

The first step was taken in London in 1859 when the London Charity Organization Society was started. This society met with success in its efforts from the start and secured the endorsement and support of such men as Gladstone, Ruskin and Cardinal Manning. The idea spread to other cities in England. The first society in our country, was organized in Buffalo in 1877. In Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, Cincinnati and Cleveland such societies have now been long established and play a very important part in the charitable and social life of the communities. The earlier organizations followed the London idea and used the name of Charity Organization Society, or perhaps as better explaining their intentions, Society for the Organization of Charity.

The essential character of these first organizations should, however, be well noted. They were independent in every way from the other charity organizations in the city. They came into the field and asked the other societies to accept them as the center of intercommunication. It might be argued that they pre-supposed superior intelligence or superior ability to act in this capacity. In any event their plans were undemocratic, and it might be said involved government without representation.

The City of St. Paul seems to be entitled to the credit of first bringing into practice a real democratic union of its charities. A Congregational minister and the most prominent Catholic priest of the city brought about the establishment of the Associated Charities of St. Paul in 1897. All power was vested in a central body composed of delegates from each of the charities. The charities thus choose their own central offices and direct their own work of unity and co-operation. It is doubtful whether in any city of the world there has been greater harmony of greater co-operation than in St. Paul. So far as is known, literally all of the charitable agencies of the city belong to the federation. The St. Paul idea has played a very prominent part in the plans of all united charities established since that time. Two hundred and twenty-five cities of this country are to-day working through, or as members of, some central organization with constantly increasing value to the communities.

The rapid growth of our cities in America and the complexity of life have gradually multiplied the charity problems and charity needs. Efforts should be concentrated upon their solution, and yet those who by favored circumstances are able to give time and thought to these problems, and who ought to be brought in contact with them, are used largely in works involving the raising of money. There is an urgent need all over the country for greater endowment funds in connection with our established charity institutions,

and need of a greater number of individual subscribers so as to better distribute the burden. Any efforts along this line in the City of Rochester are clearly to the interests of all. Conditions in the City of Cleveland much resemble those in our own, and it may be interesting to note that in that city of half a million people,

828 people contribute 90% of the total gifts to charity.

318 people contribute 75% of the total gifts to charity.

74 people contribute 50% of the total gifts to charity.

A preliminary investigation of conditions in Rochester would show that the charity burdens in this city are practically carried by from 300 to 400 people.

A modern business house knows not only the names of its customers, but also the names of those who are not, but should be customers. Modern methods direct a campaign against these non-customers which is constantly followed up and maintained. If the charity force of Rochester were to unite their information they would at once know the names of those who are contributing to the work in the city, and of equal importance they would know the names of those who are not. There should be in Rochester a better distribution of the charity burdens, and there are at least 3,000 to 4,000 non-supporters and probably many more who could and should assist to a reasonable extent. The efforts of Buffalo and Cleveland along this line are of much interest. Every charity in Rochester has from time to time cases presented that they would like to meet, but cannot perchance because of lack of funds available at the moment. To secure funds for the particular charity at such a time, Buffalo attempts to interest its non-contributors in the merits of the particular case, and the individual while he may not be interested to contribute at the start to the institution or organization, does become interested in aiding some particular person. United efforts along the lines of increasing the number of contributors to charity, and especially the establishment of endowment funds cannot fail of success, and this is after all only one of the many things which the charities of Rochester could by working together hope to accomplish.

The following Committee was appointed by President Miner of the Chamber of Commerce to consider the unification of all charitable agencies of the city of Rochester:

Mr. Henry T. Noyes, Chairman.
Mr. W. A. E. Drescher,
Mr. Abram J. Katz,
Mr. James J. P. Duffy,
Mr. Frank W. Lovejoy,
Rev. H. H. Stebbins, D. D.,
Mrs. Helen D. Arnold.

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Settlement Bulletin

Issued nine times a year in the interest
of the Social Settlement of

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TELEPHONES.

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152 Baden Street.

Vol. III. December, 1909. No. 5.

Editorial

The Social Settlement has put on its blankets and is a perfect hot-bed for seedlings of help, health and happiness. Nourished by its own success and the encouragement of its own beneficiaries it has developed new activities while expanding and intensifying the old. In its Day Nursery can be heard the chuckle of well-fed, well-cared-for infants gurgling their appreciation of a foster-mother. In its airy hall the babel of many tongues and foot-notes too, give proof twice a week that we are opening our doors to those whose sense of rhythm is being attuned to dancing. In other words we are suiting our actions to Jane Addams' ideas of the need for decent, respectable dance-halls. Here, with proper instructions, the unsophisticated foreigner is introduced to the approved conventions in social life which arouse the knight rather than the darkness in him.

Our old activities continue with their usual interest on the part of teachers and taught. In the library we try not to give exquisite "Cranford" to the unfortunate imbecile boy who wants "a library." In the Boys' Club we are very busy and should be most grateful for the help of a few men who have not yet forgotten their youth and its demands for a good time.

We want clothes for our weekly sale toys for our kindergarten and when you have given generously from your store we'll search our want-house to ask for more.

Wouldn't it be splendid if one central, civic power could conduct the chariot of charity for the humanity race in our city? At present the powers, horse and human, are stepping all over each other and so hindering each others' progress in striving to win the goal of comfort for the greatest number. We lack the efficiency that only united effort can win. We want first-class methods in a first-class city; hence the Bulletin welcomes any attempt at unifying the various philanthropic organizations of the city.

At this season of the year when our good-will to our friends find expression in daintily done up packages let us not forget that the good-will that is unconfined by ribbons and pasters is after all the most far-reaching. In other words, use your free-will to show your good-will to all by shopping early and with consideration due to those who serve you.

In this issue of the BULLETIN you can read of some of the "doings" at our summer home; but there are several results which simply the narration of facts cannot disclose and which need a few words of comment.

In the first place we proved that no work is drudgery if properly related to its complement play, and interpreted in terms of its relation to right living. We proved this to the satisfaction of the "big-bow" age and a fortiori it would hold true for any other age.

We proved by the example of the "Mother and Father" of the family that to make the home as polished in its impersonal as in its personal relations was the fittest practice to survive; and that we could not atone the crummy aftermath of a meal to go unswept any more than hair to remain uncombed. Indeed, who would crawl off from a meal before all had finished eating when it is easier to ask to be excused? And who cares to fear the angry growl of a door that has been carelessly forced to knock its head against a wall, when the slamming of a door necessitates a quick step back and a word of apology to the inanimate threshold?

The habits we formed in speech and conduct were surely worth while, especially as we didn't know we were forming them.

VACANT LOT GARDENING

Vacant lot gardening was in its origin merely a means of furnishing relief to the great mass of workers created by the industrial depression of 1893 and '94. Mayor Hazen S. Pingree of Detroit, Michigan, casting about for some means of lightening the burden of the Poor Department of that city, conceived the idea of employing the idle people on the idle land of the city thereby enabling them at least to secure food for their families. He, therefore, appointed a Committee to obtain for the unemployed the privilege of raising food on the vacant lots of the city. Land owners readily responded and sufficient land to plant 945 gardens was secured. In the fall when the crops were harvested it was found that on an outlay of \$3,600 the gardeners had raised \$14,000 worth of vegetables. The plan was a decided success financially.

It is not to be supposed that this novel idea of helping the people to help themselves had gone unnoticed. In the spring of 1895 about twenty cities adopted the "Pingree Potato Patch" idea and met with more or less success. Detroit continued the work and in the fall of 1895 harvested 61,840 bushels of potatoes.

Thus far, vacant lot gardening has been considered from the financial side and the value of the crops spoken of only in dollars and cents and only as a means of temporarily relieving the pressing needs of the unemployed.

It has however, found a higher and more beneficial mission to perform; that of assisting in raising the material, moral and physical standard of life. When industrial activities became normal the demand for gardens for the unemployed decreased but another class of applicants came forward—the thrifty heads of families who wished to add to their slender incomes through the means afforded by the gardens. They were not driven to the land in a last desperate stand for existence, but turned to it in an effort to better their condition. Time that heretofore had been idled away by them was made productive, resulting in increased income. A revision of the family budget was necessary and that portion of the family income that had been expended in the purchase

of the vegetables they were able to grow in their gardens was diverted into other channels: better housing conditions, more and better clothing, etc.

The vegetables that were now put on the grower's table were absolutely fresh and in greater quantity than he would have been able to afford if purchased at the corner grocery store. This meant an improved physical condition through proper nourishment. A further physical improvement is directly traceable to his work in the garden: working in the early morning and evening, as he generally would do, he reaps all the benefits and none of the hardships of work in the open air.

The betterment in his material and physical conditions works automatically for a higher moral standard, self respect is increased and a cleaner and more wholesome life entered into. Thus it will be seen that while the value of vacant lot gardening as a means of furnishing relief to the unemployed is great, it has a greater value when considered in connection with its possibilities as a means of improving social conditions.

THE MODERN SAINT

No monkish garb he wears, no beads he tells,
Nor is immured in walls remote from strife.
But from his heart deep mercy ever wells;
He looks hungrily forth on human life.

In place of missals or of altar dreams,
He cons the passioned book of deeds
and days;
Striving to cast the comforting sweet beams
Of charity on dark and noisome ways.

Not hedged about by sacerdotal rule,
He walks a fellow of the scared and weak.
Liberal and wise his gifts; he goes to school
To Justice; and he turns the other cheek.

He looks not holy; simple his belief;
His creed for mystic visions do not scan;
His face shows lines cut there by others' grief,
And in his eyes is love of brother-man.

No mediaeval mystery, no crowned,
Dim figure, halo-ringed, uncanny bright,
A modern saint; a man who treads earth's ground,
And ministers to men with all his might.

—Richard Burton.

Thanksgiving was celebrated by the sending out of many baskets to friends and neighbors. The Pansy Club had its share in the friendly generosity and many others showed the warmheartedness that the season calls forth. The Girls' Club from the Social Center arranged the baskets.

Dancing, ice cream and cake and a good time were the principal features of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Present's annual party to the girls of our afternoon classes. This party is a celebration of Mr. Present's birthday and it is always a great event in our year. The girls had an especially jolly time this year, and each guest took home with her a pretty souvenir of the occasion. The party was on Saturday, November the thirteenth.

THE VACATION HOUSE OF 1909

Vacation at the lake this summer had many good points and a few not so good, but thinking it over in its different aspects it seems most of all to have been a jolly good time for all. They say it takes a real sense of humor to see yourself funny, but it is the kind of laugh that comes from your shoe-tips up when you do; and teachers and children together that's what we did.

Of course we liked all the regulation features of our vacation a great deal. The bathing was fine and it was a new thing for most of us to live so near a lake shore. Some were afraid of the water to the bitter end, but others almost learned to swim and that evened things up.

The picnic suppers every evening or so were a good feature too, and as they required no cooking, they made light work. It was while we were there, out in the field or on the beach, that we made up and acted plays, played "My Susanna Sue" or "Old Witch," and ran races.

Speaking of races there was one special occasion when we enjoyed ourselves in that line. Windsor Beach had a field-day and they asked the children at the Vacation House to join in and enter some of the events. One girl won a tennis racquet as a prize and that was a proud feather in all our caps—although it sounds rather heavy for a feather.

We appreciate this friendliness on the part of our neighbors especially, when we consider that we must have annoyed them a good deal with all the noise that children simply have to make. Now if we could have the country and the lake next year—but that is another story.

Sometimes when we had not eaten our supper out-of-doors we waited until sunset and then walked along the cliff, skipping and watching the colors in the sky. Once in a great while we went out on the pier where we could see the lights on the water and hear the music and sometimes raise a little delicate harmony ourselves. But it was rather dangerous out there—the walking, not the singing—so we had to be very careful. Once in the whole summer our walk was taken along the beach at sunrise, (fearful hour!) and that was certainly something worth seeing.

With all our outdoor parties we must not forget that we were really civilized two or three times. That was when we put a tablecloth on the table (oilcloth keeps cleaner for regular use), had flowers and candy and a sure-enough formal dinner. Of course everyone of us had brought a share of good-things-to-eat down with us, but it was when somebody felt especially lavish and brought a whole lot at once, that these parties just naturally occurred.

But what was I going to tell you about that was so funny? Oh, it was just ourselves and everything we said and did. It was the two teachers playing mamma and papa to such a small army of children; and such adventurous children, always getting bumped or scratched and having to be patched up. It was the children themselves learning to do their share of the housework, often with a broom about twice their size. It was the teachers trying to get the meals, and the children knew they didn't know how to cook very well, and they knew the children knew, but everyone tried to keep up the pretense for politeness sake. So when the children said the potatoes had no salt in, the teacher said, "Dear me, do you like things so highly seasoned," and the girl

who had helped her in the kitchen never told on her.

One funny thing was when we learned to "Fletcherize." A teacher told some of the children that if they did not stop putting things into their mouths whole, they would have to learn to chew them thirty-six times. The next day she saw a little girl and a little boy put whole cookies into their mouths, look solemnly into each other's eyes, and beating out the counts with their right hands, "Fletcherize" for five minutes. The teacher smiled inwardly.

"Laugh and grow fat," and some children who had looked particularly peaked and cityworn certainly grew rosy-checked and rounder. Most of us took on a little weight, but whether we grew fat or stayed thin, we all enjoyed the vacation.

DAY NURSERY

If you follow the walk at the rear of the Settlement a few steps you will find yourself at the Nursery cottage. This new home for the babies is now nearly six months old and just the kind of place that we knew would be theirs.

There are so many wee children who wish to come, that at present only those are admitted who have sick mothers, or whose fathers are sick (or not living). When the father is earning small wages and there is seeming need for both parents to work, then effort is made to secure a better position for him. Thus far fifty-seven children have appeared, but only fifteen are now being cared for, the largest possible capacity of the Nursery being about twenty-five.

The babies, varying in age from eight months to five years, are brought to the nursery at half past six in the morning. At nine o'clock a lunch is served, and then the older children go over to Kindergarten at the Settlement. Dinner is at twelve o'clock and supper at six. Naps, laths, and sunshine fill in the intervals in this bright cheery home. Then at half past six, someone comes to take baby away. If the father gets through work at four or five o'clock he comes then for the child.

This shows the true spirit of the nursery. To these parents there is real necessity for just such a home for their little children during the day, but it does not lessen their interest in them nor their eagerness to have them back home again as soon as possible.

The Day Nursery was a gift in memory of Levi and Theresa Adler, given by their children.

WHY SHOULD THE PINNACLE HILL BE PRESERVED?

The Pinnacle Hills form the most natural site for a great and beautiful park that is afforded by any area in or around Rochester. While this may be admitted by all without question, it might be well to note briefly some of the arguments that prove it.

The Pinnacle Hills form the highest land in Rochester. You must go over ten miles away to find a point as high as the portion between Clinton Street and the Orphan Asylum. High lands are universally regarded as of the greatest value as parks through the country. The broad outlook afforded by hills, the sense of breadth and freedom, the winding roads

and paths, the purer air and fresher breeze all combine to give to any elevated park a distinctive value not enjoyed by any flat area.

Not only the view from the hills, but the view of them with their sweeping slopes and their wooded knolls makes their aesthetic value to the city of Rochester inestimable.

Furthermore, in any systematic park development the hills are unquestionably admirably suited to become the basis of the system. With a beautiful boulevard ultimately crowning the ridge and another skirting its southern base the entire park system of Rochester can be bound into one organic whole and the value of each single part greatly enhanced thereby. No other piece of land in Rochester is capable of fulfilling this function.

Again, the scientific interest of the hills is extraordinary. They are the memorials of the great ice age left by the enormous glaciers, that scores of thousands of years ago swept down upon all this portion of the country. There were probably a number of these terrific ice invasions with long periods of a warmer climate in between during which the country probably assumed much the same appearance as now. In fact, we are probably living in one of the intervals between two ice invasions and the Pinnacle Hills form the memorial left by the last. To all scientists it is of the greatest value, and the layman, too, may find intense interest in a walk over the hills looking for the evidences of the origin of the hills. The Pinnacle Hills form the most striking educational object lesson that Nature could create. Shall man destroy it?

Many incidental advantages might be enumerated. The hills would form a magnificent site for an observatory, if Rochester ever awakens to the loss it suffered in the removal of Warner's observatory. The health of the entire community will be materially favored by the preservation of breathing places of sufficient altitude to be above the dust and dirt of the city. And finally such an act as the preservation of the hills, involving as it does the longest look into the future that this city has taken, will be of immense importance in developing on the part of our people the power to see into the future, to realize the value of a far-off goal and to concentrate their energies upon its attainment, no matter what the immediate sacrifice.

MASON D. GRAY.

WORKMEN'S HOUSES

A city of homes must necessarily be a city of houses. A house to be a home should last in good condition at least a generation. Children must come to the home, cradle, grow, leave home, and after long years return and still be able to point out a home in our city, and say, "That is the house in which I was born," and it should be as worthy of the name of a house at that late hour, as when the baby was born. Of homes and houses in this city many good things could be said, but we all know of streets of houses that cannot last the wear and tear of a generation, built for exorbitant dividends, not for homes. It is hard, cruelly hard to sing "Home, Sweet Home" in a place where a respectable dairyman would not put his cows. Of old it was said "change the man and you change the home," but we say the tenant and his surroundings

must be improved together. To this end, the Chamber of Commerce some time ago called for a prize competition of good house plans. At considerable expense they obtained one hundred and eight plans from every state in the Union and from some foreign countries. As a result of the competition they have on exhibition three sets of plans of workman's houses. In the following description of these sets, no attempt is made to give measurements, but all interested may go and view the blueprints at the Chamber. Here are the main facts. (Since the plans and specifications were made, material and labor has risen, so that from three to four hundred dollars should be added to each estimate).

COTTAGE "A" \$1,500.00.

1st Plan: Cellar. Kitchen, Living Room, Library, Dining Room, Hall. Upstairs, two Bedrooms and Bathroom.

2nd Plan: Cellar. Kitchen, Dining Room, Parlor. Upstairs, three Bedrooms, Bathroom and Attic.

3rd Plan: Cellar. Kitchen, Living Room, Dining Room and Hall. Upstairs, three Bedrooms, Sewing Room and Bathroom.

COTTAGE "B" \$1,250.00.

1st Plan: Cellar. Kitchen, Living Room. Upstairs, two Bedrooms and a Bathroom.

2nd Plan: Cellar. Kitchen, Living Room, Parlor. Upstairs, two Bedrooms (one of them double) and Bathroom.

3rd Plan: Cellar. Kitchen, Living Room, Dining Room. Upstairs, two Bedrooms and a Bathroom.

COTTAGE "C" \$1,000.00.

1st Plan: Cellar. Living and Kitchen in one room. Upstairs, two Bedrooms and a Bathroom.

2nd Plan: Cellar. Kitchen, Living Room, two Bedrooms, and Bathroom, all on ground floor.

Now what we need in the thickly populated poorer districts of our city, is the investment by honest builders, in such property. Plans approved of the Chamber of Commerce should be good, good to view and good to last. Where is the builder, the building speculator who believes in the brotherhood of man to the extent that he will never ask more than four per cent on his investment? Let him do it for Rochester!

Continued from page 3

Rev. Charles H. Rust, Second Baptist Church—

"Not to have such an organization is to put a premium on waste, laziness, graft, falsehood and crime."

Rush Rhee—

"I am convinced that some form of United Charities organization for Rochester would be of inestimable advantage, both to those who need help and to those who desire to render help in our city."

"I believe that the organization may prove a wise guide for personal sympathy rather than a damper upon it."

Joseph T. Alling—

"I am thoroughly in favor of the formation of such a body, having for its pur-

pose the organization of our local charities on such a basis that they will not overlap one another."

Edward Bausch—

"I heartily approve the plan of uniting the Charities of Rochester, and when once it becomes an established fact all interested parties will wonder how it could have been possible to get along without a central organization."

Rev. W. R. Taylor—

"If carefully planned and consistently followed up I do not see how it can fail to register a great gain in economy, efficiency and equity as compared with our present method."

H. H. Edgerton—

"It appears to me that much more can be accomplished if the various organizations, which are now carrying on philanthropic and charitable work in this city, could be brought together under a comprehensive organization."

Max Landsberg—

"A more intimate association of all charitable societies in the city is not only desirable but imperative."

Fannie R. Bigelow—

"While acting independently, we cannot avoid the frequent overlapping of aid given through various agencies; but aside from this duplication of relief, there is a deeper need for such a union."

A. E. Hines, Rescue Mission—

"I am more than pleased with the prospect of having the Charities of our city united. I have known of families who have been helped from at least five different Charitable and Church societies, receiving more provision than they could readily take care of without waste."

The officers of the Social Settlement for the current year are as follows:

President—Mrs. J. L. Garson.

Vice-President—Mrs. Abram Katz.

Secretary and Treasurer—Mrs. Julius Wile.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. M. H. Van Bergh.

Resident Worker—Mrs. Sara Vance Stewart.

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Mrs. F. W. Van Bergh

Mrs. Fred Myers

Wednesday Afternoon.

Miss Julia Brewington, Chairman

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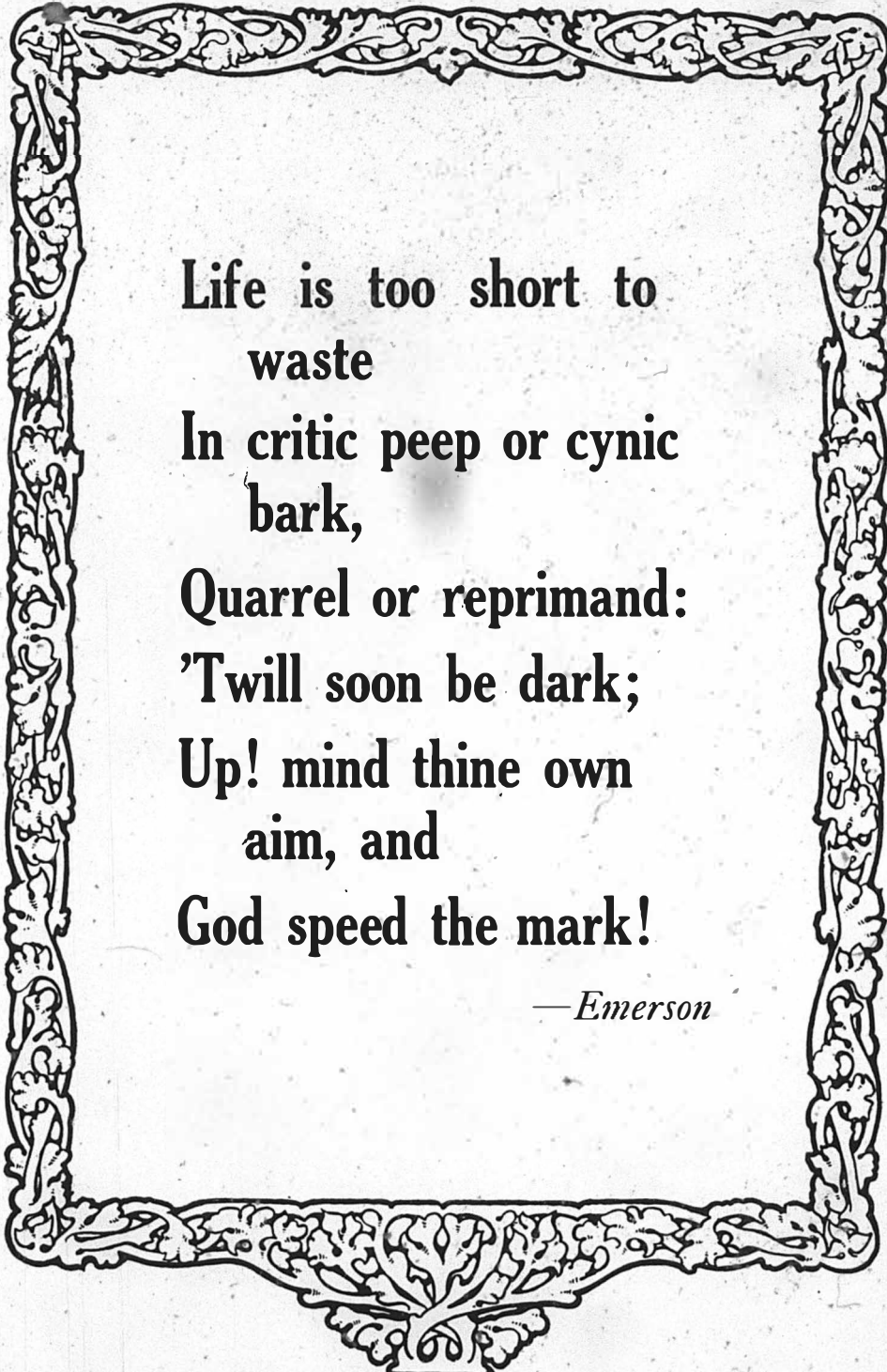
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waste
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aim, and
God speed the mark!

—*Emerson*