

PLUNKITT OF TAMMANY HALL

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Plunkitt of Tammany Hall by William L. Riordon

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WILLIAM L. RIORDON

**PLUNKITT OF
TAMMANY HALL**



EX-SENATOR GEORGE WASHINGTON PLUNKETT, ON HIS ROSTRUM, THE NEW YORK COUNTY COURTHOUSE BOOTH-LACK STAND

PLUNKITT

OF

TAMMANY HALL

A SERIES OF VERY PLAIN TALKS ON VERY PRACTICAL
POLITICS, DELIVERED BY EX-SENATOR GEORGE
WASHINGTON PLUNKITT, THE TAMMANY PHIL-
OSOPHER, FROM HIS ROSTRUM — THE
NEW YORK COUNTY COURT-HOUSE
BOOTHBLACK STAND — AND
RECORDED
BY
WILLIAM L. RIORDON



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PREFACE



PREFACE

THIS volume discloses the mental operations of perhaps the most thoroughly practical politician of the day — George Washington Plunkitt, Tammany leader of the Fifteenth Assembly District, Sachem of the Tammany Society and Chairman of the Elections Committee of Tammany Hall, who has held the offices of State Senator Assemblyman, Police Magistrate, County Supervisor and Alderman and who boasts of his record in filling four public offices in one year and drawing salaries from three of them at the same time.

The discourses that follow were delivered by him from his rostrum, the bootblack

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stand in the County Court-house, at various times in the last half-dozen years. Their absolute frankness and vigorous unconventionality of thought and expression charmed me. Plunkitt said right out what all practical politicians think but are afraid to say. Some of the discourses I published as interviews in the *New York Evening Post*, the *New York Sun*, the *New York World*, and the *Boston Transcript*. They were reproduced in newspapers throughout the country and several of them, notably the talks on "The Curse of Civil Service Reform" and "Honest Graft and Dishonest Graft" became subjects of discussion in the United States Senate and in college lectures. There seemed to be a general recognition of Plunkitt as a striking type of the practical politician, a politician, moreover, who dared to say publicly what others in his class whisper among themselves in the City Hall corridors and the hotel lobbies.