

# **THE DEMOCRACY OF METHODISM**

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The Democracy of Methodism by James Allen Geissinger

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**JAMES ALLEN GEISSINGER**

**THE DEMOCRACY  
OF METHODISM**



**BY THE SAME AUTHOR**

**HEART PROBLEMS AND WORLD ISSUES**

*An Interpretation of the Book of Revelation.*

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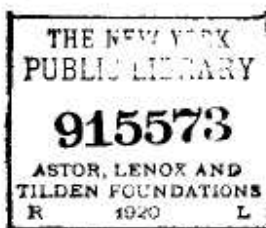
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By  
**JAMES ALLEN GEISSINGER**



**THE METHODIST BOOK CONCERN**  
**NEW YORK CINCINNATI**

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CHAPTER I  
THE TIDAL WAVE OF  
DEMOCRACY

CARLYLE, in his French Revolution, describing the death of Louis XV, speaks in this oracular fashion: "Borne over the Atlantic, to the closing ear of Louis, King by the Grace of God, what sounds are these; muffled, ominous, new in our centuries? Boston Harbor is black with unexpected Tea: behold a Pennsylvania Congress gather; and ere long, on Bunker Hill, DEMOCRACY announcing, in rifle-volleys, death-winged, under her Star Banner, to the tune of Yankee-doodle-doo, that she is born, and, whirlwind-like, will envelop the world!"

This is more than rhapsody. It is prophetic insight. The Chelsea seer rightly rated the rifle-volleys of Bunker

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Hill. These rifle-volleys did announce, not the birth, but the rebirth, of democracy.

If we were going to trace the rise of even modern democracy, we should have to go back farther than Carlyle seems to indicate. We should have to go back anyway to the political struggles of Greece. We see it making headway through the plebeian uprisings of Rome. Christianity, born in a lowly state and moving among the artisans and fisher-folk, gave it a fresh impulse. For many years Jesus worked at a carpenter bench and may justly be called the first real out-and-out democrat. He knew what was in man, and because he knew he taught men to think of themselves as sons of God. If sons, then brothers, so he gave them the great commandment, "Love one another." These two principles, regard for self and regard for others, are fundamental to democracy. The one made possible the radical shift in civilization by which man ceased to be