

**EVOLUTIONARY
POLITICS: ADDRESSES
AND ESSAYS**

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Evolutionary politics: addresses and essays by Walter Thomas Mills

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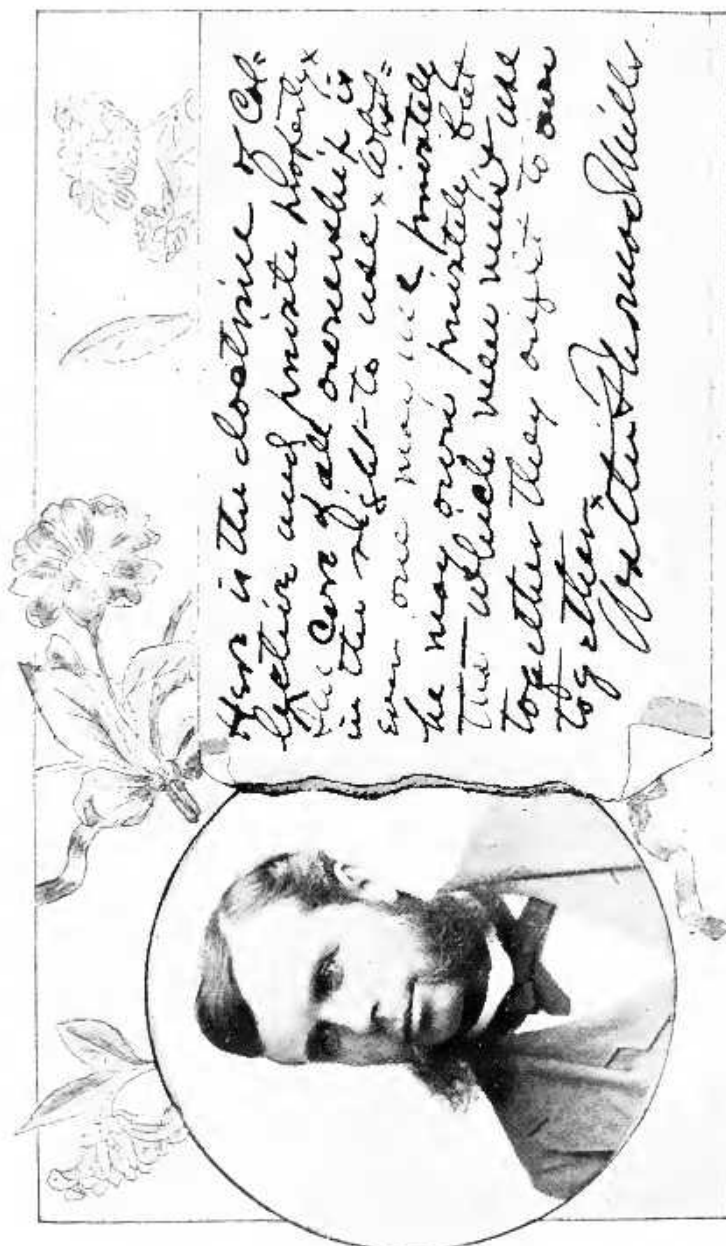
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WALTER THOMAS MILLS

**EVOLUTIONARY
POLITICS: ADDRESSES
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Here is the doctrine of Col. Galt and private property. The core of all ownership is in the right to use. What even one man will privately he may own privately but that which men need use together they ought to own together.
Walter Thomas Mills

Here is the doctrine of collective and private property. The core of all ownership is in the right to use. Whatever one may use privately he may own privately, but that which men must use together they ought to own together. — *Walter Thomas Mills in The Mechanists' Journal.*

EVOLUTIONARY POLITICS.

ADDRESSES AND ESSAYS

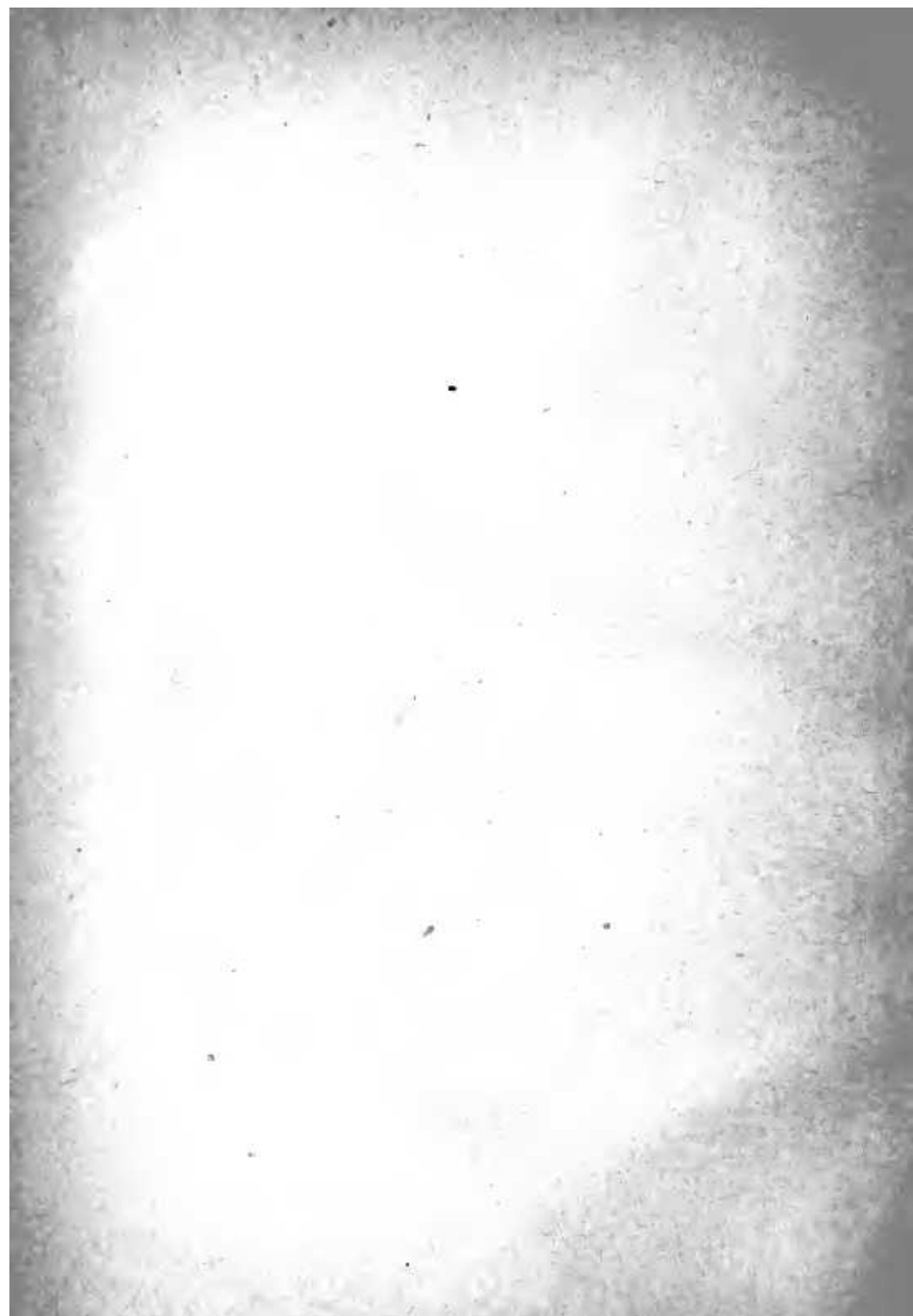
BY

WALTER THOMAS MILLS, A. M.,

"The evolutionary law of advance is first the slightest variation, and then that is repeated and repeated until it becomes the fixed form of the new life. The day of great things is a day of disaster. The day of small things is the birthday of destiny."

"Wise statesmanship asks for small things and gets them, and thus makes substantial advance in the world's progress. Political folly asks for the growth of a thousand years in an afternoon, and not only does not get what it seeks but loses the good it might have had."—From the address on The People's University.

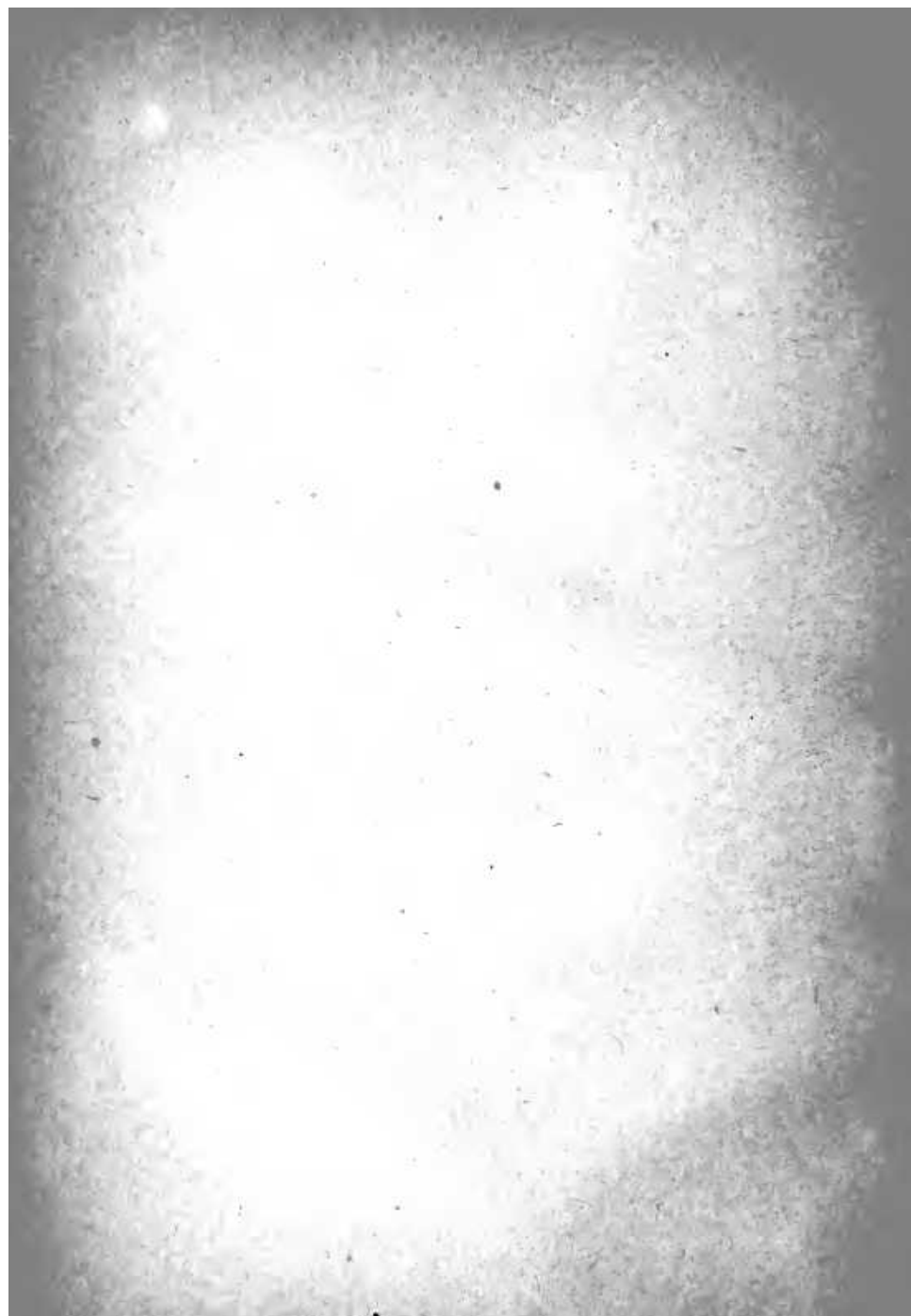
CHICAGO:
CHARLES H. KERR & COMPANY,
1898.



PRELIMINARY.

I want you to listen to me. That is the reason why I have spoken. That is the reason why I am writing. Whether you listen or not I cannot help speaking, neither can I bring myself to think that the things I cannot help saying are not worthy of your heeding. Having spoken to those who were able to hear me, I have revised the stenographic reports of these addresses, hoping that others might read who had not heard. I am a believer in the greatness of the future. I believe that the race I belong to will yet realize here on this earth all things pure and good and beautiful. I believe that the good and pure and beautiful are already ours, for any one of us, just so far as we strive to hasten their coming for us all. If these addresses and essays in any way help you to help along this coming of purity and goodness and beauty, then I shall be glad that I have both spoken and written to you.

WALTER THOMAS MILLS.



UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

INTRODUCTORY.

THE PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY CLUB.

BY

GEORGE McA. MILLER,

CHANCELLOR OF THE PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY.

The People's University Club is a branch of the work of the People's University. The People's University was chartered in order to carry into operation plans proposed by Walter Thomas Mills. These plans provide for a general organization to promote the establishment of local co-operative schools, and at the same time to direct the organization of local clubs for the extension of the study of social and economic topics.

At Hopkins Park, Ill., the university is endeavoring to aid in the establishment of such a school, and the Handel Hall meetings are a part of the general plan for local clubs for the purpose of economic study.

Membership in the club does not mean that the person joining is thereby committed to any doctrines or theories of any sort, or to bearing any responsibility for its management in any way.

The only speaker has been Mr. Mills, and the only work of the club has been the holding of these meetings, where the public has been given an opportunity to hear these addresses. No resolutions are ever passed. No voting is ever done. No committees are ever appointed. No business of a parliamentary character is ever undertaken.

The club has been supported by a ten-cent collection taken from Sunday to Sunday, and voluntary contributions made by friends of the speaker for the support of his work. In this way all the expenses of the club have been provided for, and a considerable surplus turned over to the promotion of the work of

the Co-operative School. As to the support of the speaker, his work is entirely without remuneration. He works on the same footing as his associates, and for his regular share of the joint products of all the workers connected with the university, both at the Farm School and at the settlement on South Halsted street in Chicago.

As to the success of these University Club meetings it is difficult to speak. No one who has not been present to feel the resistless power, the volcanic enthusiasm, the unusual devotion to public ends which have so strongly marked both the speaker and the throngs which have crowded the hall, for forty-five consecutive Sundays, to listen to his message can be made to understand the force and power of these meetings. No printed page can reproduce the face and tone and gesture, or the humor, the disgust, the joy, the horror, the faith, the despair, the determination, the fearful calm, the tumultuous storm which alternately possessed the man who was born an orator, is a trained scholar, has even in his young manhood twenty years of actual experience on the platform, and with regard to whom those of us who know him well can truthfully say that but one passion possesses and fills his dauntless spirit, that of love for his race. If no printed page can report these things concerning the speaker, by simply printing the words he has spoken, neither can any words of description adequately describe how the contagion of every emotion and the echo of every sentiment from the speaker possessed, enthused, enraged, calmed, inspired, stirred into tremendous cheering, broke out into sobbing, and crystallized into the most exalted patriotism in the hearts of those who heard him.

The more than ten thousand people who listened to him at Battery D, when the space at Handel Hall was known to be too narrow for the multitude which it was certain would wish to hear his address on "Judicial Conspiracy as a Factor in Politics," listened and cheered and wept and resolved, as if but one spirit possessed them all.

These meetings were undertaken with no local organization to support them, nor any funds for the necessary expenses. Mr. Mills simply advertised to speak, and having spoken once kept speaking. The people having heard him once kept coming. His listeners were men and women of all classes and faiths and conditions in life. Professional men, merchants, salesmen, mechanics, the well-to-do, the helplessly poor, not infrequently a tramp from the street; just as frequently a great employer or a millionaire from the boulevards. They were thoughtful and