

**THE INDUSTRIAL PROBLEM;  
BEING THE WILLIAM LEVI  
BULL LECTURES FOR THE  
YEAR 1905**

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The industrial problem; being the William Levi Bull lectures for the year 1905 by Lyman Abbott

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**LYMAN ABBOTT**

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# THE INDUSTRIAL PROBLEM

BEING THE WILLIAM LEVI BULL  
LECTURES FOR THE YEAR 1905

BY

LYMAN ABBOTT

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## The Letter Establishing the Lectureship

Bishop Whitaker presented the Letter of Endowment of the Lectureship on Christian Sociology from Rev. William L. Bull as follows :

For many years it has been my earnest desire to found a Lectureship on Christian Sociology, meaning thereby the application of Christian principles to the Social, Industrial, and Economic problems of the time, in my Alma Mater, the Philadelphia Divinity School. My object in founding this Lectureship is to secure the free, frank, and full consideration of these subjects, with special reference to the Christian aspects of the question involved, which have heretofore, in my opinion, been too much neglected in such discussion. It would seem that the time is now ripe and the moment an auspicious one for the establishment of this Lectureship, at least tentatively.

After a trial of three years, I again make the offer, as in my letter of January 1, 1901, to continue these Lectures for a period of three years, with the hope that they may excite such an interest, particularly among the undergraduates of the Divinity School, that I shall be justified, with the approval of the authorities of the Divinity School, in placing the Lectureship on a more permanent foundation.

I herewith pledge myself to contribute the sum of six hundred dollars annually, for a period of three years, to the payment of a lecturer on Christian Sociology, whose duty it shall be to deliver a course of not less than four lectures to the students of the Divinity School, either at the school or

elsewhere, as may be deemed most advisable, on the application of Christian principles to the Social, Industrial, and Economic problems and needs of the times ; the said lecturer to be appointed annually by a committee of five members : the Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania ; the Dean of the Divinity School ; a member of the Board of Overseers, who shall at the same time be an Alumnus ; and two others, one of whom shall be myself and the other chosen by the preceding four members of the committee.

Furthermore, if it shall be deemed desirable that the Lectures shall be published, I pledge myself to the additional payment of from one to two hundred dollars for such purpose.

To secure a full, frank, and free consideration of the questions involved, it is my desire that the opportunity shall be given from time to time to the representatives of each school of economic thought to express their views in these Lectures.

The only restriction I wish placed on the lecturer is that he shall be a believer in the moral teachings and principles of the Christian Religion as the true solvent of our Social, Industrial, and Economic problems. Of course, it is my intention that a new lecturer shall be appointed by the committee each year, who shall deliver the course of Lectures for the ensuing year.

WILLIAM LEVI BULL.

## P R E F A C E

FROM 1870, when I took up my residence in Cornwall-on-the-Hudson, to 1887, when I assumed the pastorate of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, I was engaged in two courses of study: one in the New Testament in preparation for a Commentary on that Book; the other on our industrial and sociological problems, impelled thereto by the journalistic duty of reporting and interpreting the incidents in our current American history. The result of that study was an early conviction that the principles of the Manchester School of Political Economy, which had dominated academic instruction in my college days, as they were commonly understood and practically applied, could not be reconciled with either the principles or the spirit inculcated by Jesus Christ. To apply those principles to the solution of our industrial problems became my endeavor, which has now been



pursued as a life purpose for upwards of a quarter of a century. In an appendix to this volume is given a list of some of the principal books which have entered into this course of study; but more important has been the study of that problem at first hand,—in the investigation of specific incidents and events in our industrial development, in visits to mines, factories, and other organized industries, and in conferences with both labor leaders and captains of industry. When in 1904 I was invited to give this course of Lectures on the conditions expressed in the letter establishing this Lectureship, the invitation was gladly accepted because it furnished an opportunity to put into a compact form some of the conclusions which had been reached as a result of my faith "in the moral teachings and principles of the Christian religion as the true solvent of our Social, Industrial and Economic problems." The American community is slowly coming to the conclusion that universal suffrage is no solvent of

our political problems unless it is accompanied by a universal education which must be moral as well as intellectual. It is also slowly coming to the conclusion that industrial liberty is no solvent of our economic problems unless it is accompanied by a recognition of economic duties and obligations. This too tardy rediscovery of the essential teaching of Jesus Christ makes this beginning of the twentieth century far more full of hope for industrial peace and prosperity than was the beginning of the nineteenth, with its calm assurance that educated self-interest would prove a panacea for all industrial evils.

This brief statement sufficiently explains the genesis of this volume, the object of which is to indicate certain lessons which the industrial evolution of the last half century has to teach us in the light of the precepts and principles inculcated by Jesus Christ.

LYMAN ABBOTT.

*Cornwall-on-the-Hudson, N. Y.,  
May, 1905.*

