THE LARGER LIBERALISM, OUTLINES OF A SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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The Larger Liberalism, Outlines of a Social Philosophy for the United States of America by Edward Bernard Benjamin

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INTRODUCTION

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ENTHUSIASTS in any great cause with a past tend naturally to err in relating the present to that past. Thus it is that in estimating the strength of the liberal tendencies of the day, we easily overlook the half century which brought forth such men as Cobbett, Bentham, Place, Owen, Fourier, Saint-Simon, Proudhon, Disraeli, Engels and Karl Marx; and the decade which produced the Webbs, Shaw, Wells and Hobson.

However this may be, the fact stands that probably never before in history has the cause of social reform received a more respectful hearing than at the moment. We are speaking now in particular of social reform as directed towards more equitable distribution of wealth and the improvement of working conditions in industry. This liberalism of the hour has become for the intellectuals of all countries a