

**THE RURAL LIFE PROBLEM  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES; NOTES  
OF AN IRISH OBSERVER**

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The rural life problem of the United States; notes of an Irish observer by Sir Horace Plunkett

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**SIR HORACE PLUNKETT**

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NOTES OF AN IRISH OBSERVER

BY

SIR HORACE PLUNKETT

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## PREFATORY NOTE

THE thoughts contained in the following pages relate to one side of the life of a country which has been to me, as to many Irishmen, a second home. They are offered in friendly recognition of kindness I cannot hope to repay, received largely as a student of American social and economic problems, from public-spirited Americans who, I know, will appreciate most highly any slight service to their country.

The substance of the book appeared in five articles contributed to the *New York Outlook* under the title "Conservation and Rural Life." Several American friends, deeply interested in the Rural Life problem, asked me to republish the series. In doing so, I have felt that I ought to present a more comprehensive view of my subject than either the space allowed or the more casual publication demanded.

I have to thank the editors of the *Outlook* for the generous hospitality of their columns, and for full freedom to republish what belongs to them.

HORACE PLUNKETT.

THE PLUNKETT HOUSE, DUBLIN,  
April, 1910.

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