

**CONCERNING
ALL OF US**

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Concerning All of Us by Thomas Wentworth Higginson

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THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON

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CONCERNING ALL OF US.

I.

THE PILLARS OF THE REPUBLIC.

N glancing wearily over the Society Column in some little country newspaper—or some large city journal either, since it does not make much difference—the reader constantly feels how minute, after all, is the fraction of the community represented in any such department. Grant, if you please, that these persons have an influence disproportioned to their number, yet such is the insignificance of that number, the total importance is but small. The republic rests upon its masses, upon those who not only do not appear in the society

columns, but do not even see them. I refer to those who would be called in other countries "the common people," but whom Charles Sumner more felicitously christened "the plain people." When we study "society people," we find them so small a handful that they hardly represent or typify anything; but when we have to deal with "the plain people," it sometimes comes over us with reverence and sometimes with dismay that those whom we observe are types—that they stand as representatives for good or for evil of thousands or millions more who are just like them.

I talked not long since in a country town with a woman between fifty and sixty, who was left a widow some fifteen years ago with ten children, including one unborn, and with no property but a hill farm of a hundred acres, which was mortgaged for seven hundred dollars. The children are now all grown to maturity, the mortgage is paid off, and the mother is still a hale and hearty woman, able to do a day's work with any one, and to dance the fisher's hornpipe, with