

AMERICA IN THE MAKING

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America in the making by Lyman Abbott

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PREFACE

My object in this course of lectures is practical rather than scientific, and, in the broad sense of that term, religious rather than secular. As I follow gentlemen who possess an international reputation as scholars and statesmen, it would have been folly for me to attempt to compete with them in the realm of political scholarship or practical politics. I must approach the American problem from that which is, and throughout my life has been, my point of view. That point of view will appear more clearly as I proceed, but it may be foreshadowed in two sentences: I accept Matthew Arnold's statement that "there is a power not ourselves which makes for righteousness"; that this power works in and through humanity to a predetermined end, a divine ideal; and that social and political evolution can be understood only as we understand in what direction mankind is moving under this divine direction. I assume also that the clearest interpretation of that ideal which history

affords us is that furnished by the teaching of the prophets of the Old Testament and of Jesus and his apostles in the New Testament; that to understand these principles and to know how to apply them to the complicated problems of modern life is to work with the divine Power for the divine end. It is because I gladly welcome the opportunity to point out to the men of Yale University what are some of these principles, what are some of the obligations which they lay upon us, and in what direction we must move and in what spirit we must act to accomplish a real success in life, that I welcomed the opportunity which the invitation of this University gave to me.

LYMAN ABBOTT.

THE KNOLL,
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January, 1911.

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