

**AMERICAN PHILANTHROPY OF
THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.
CONSTRUCTIVE AND
PREVENTIVE PHILANTHROPY**

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American Philanthropy of the Nineteenth Century. Constructive and Preventive Philanthropy
by Joseph Lee & Jacob A. Riis

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JOSEPH LEE & JACOB A. RIIS

**AMERICAN PHILANTHROPY OF
THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.
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PREVENTIVE PHILANTHROPY**

American Philanthropy of the Nineteenth Century

EDITED BY HERBERT S. BROWN

Constructive and Preventive
Philanthropy

The M Co.

Constructive and Preventive Philanthropy

BY

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

JACOB A. RIIS

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CONTENTS

[For a summary of the contents of the individual chapters the reader is referred to the marginal analysis accompanying the text.]

CHAPTER	PAGE
I Essence and Limitations of the Subject	I
II Before 1860	10
III Savings and Loans	21
IV The Home: Health and Building Laws	37
V The Home: Model Tenements	68
VI The Setting of the Home	85
VII Vacation Schools	109
VIII Playgrounds for Small Children	123
IX Baths and Gymnasiums	148
X Playgrounds for Big Boys	159
XI Model Playgrounds	170
XII Outings	185
XIII Boys' Clubs	190
XIV Industrial Training	202
XV For Grown People	218
XVI Conclusion	231

INTRODUCTION

QUITE some years ago, when I had written "How the other half lives," I received a letter postmarked "Brookline, Mass.," and signed "Joseph Lee," asking some purely academic question about sweating. Now, sweating is a nuisance at all times, not to be borne, and with an academic discussion of it I never had any patience. A club seems to me to fit it better. And I remember thinking, "Who now is this fellow come to bother me?" and feeling rather ungracious about it. I hope Mr. Lee has forgotten it. First impressions are but poor stuff. I suppose it depends on the man who receives them. The years that have passed have shown me and all of us Mr. Lee as he really is: the practical, common-sense champion of the boy and of his rights, in school and home and in the playground,—particularly in the playground, where the boy grows into the man. To him it has been given to grasp the full meaning of Froebel's warning that through his play the boy gets his first grip on moral relations. That at last we are beginning to heed the

warning is due, here in our country, largely to the clear reasoning and lucid statement of Joseph Lee. Nothing could be less academic, in its accepted meaning, than the campaign he has urged for "the Men of To-morrow."

Hence he comes in his own right to tell us of "Constructive and preventive philanthropy" at the close of the century that is past, and that he should have such a story to tell is by long odds the best testimonial to the century. At the head of it all he puts the preservation of the home, which, he says, is part and parcel of the fight for good government. Yes! and the biggest part of it; for unless we can preserve it, — say, rather, restore it in our cities, — we shall not long enjoy the government or the freedom for which we would all so gladly die — and sometimes, illogically, find it so hard to live. Had not Mr. Lee's book ended with the century, he would have been able to point to the certain signs that we are winning the fight for the people's homes. It was worth living just to be in that fight.

And then the play! "The boy without a playground," says he, "is father to the man without a job, and the boy with a bad playground is apt to be father to a man with a job that had better have been left undone." If he had written nothing else, he would have