

**REFORMS: THEIR
DIFFICULTIES
AND POSSIBILITIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649238408

Reforms: their difficulties and possibilities by John Stahl Patterson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN STAHL PATTERSON

**REFORMS: THEIR
DIFFICULTIES
AND POSSIBILITIES**

REFORMS:

THEIR DIFFICULTIES AND POSSIBILITIES.

NOTE.

THE present volume on the limitations of reforms is supplementary to a book entitled "Conflict in Nature and Life: a Study of Antagonism in the Constitution of Things." For a description of the latter work, see the end of this volume.



NEW YORK:
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY,
1, 3, AND 5 BOND STREET.
1884.

HN 64
P25

COPYRIGHT, 1894,
BY D. APPLETON AND COMPANY.



PREFACE.

Perhaps something like an apology is due for attacking so many of the "Reforms." Any one reform, it may be thought, is quite enough for one mind to master; but there is no attempt made here at mastery. The object has been to present the subjects from a new point of view, — that of conflict in the constitution of things, — a point of view from which it is not the habit now, and has never been, consciously to contemplate the perplexing problems of life. The statement is made for the freshness and suggestion there may be in it; and the author hopes that herein may be found some justification of the attempt.

The particular statements of chapters and sections do not all speak from the same time but it is believed that there is nothing in this that will at all seriously embarrass the reader.

It may be thought that more should have been said of the possibilities of Reform. I could not say more on this point than has here been said, without pretending to wisdom which I am perfectly conscious I do not possess. I believe that there is need of some such presentation of the subjects, as an incentive mainly to a careful and judicious treatment of the great practical questions of the day.

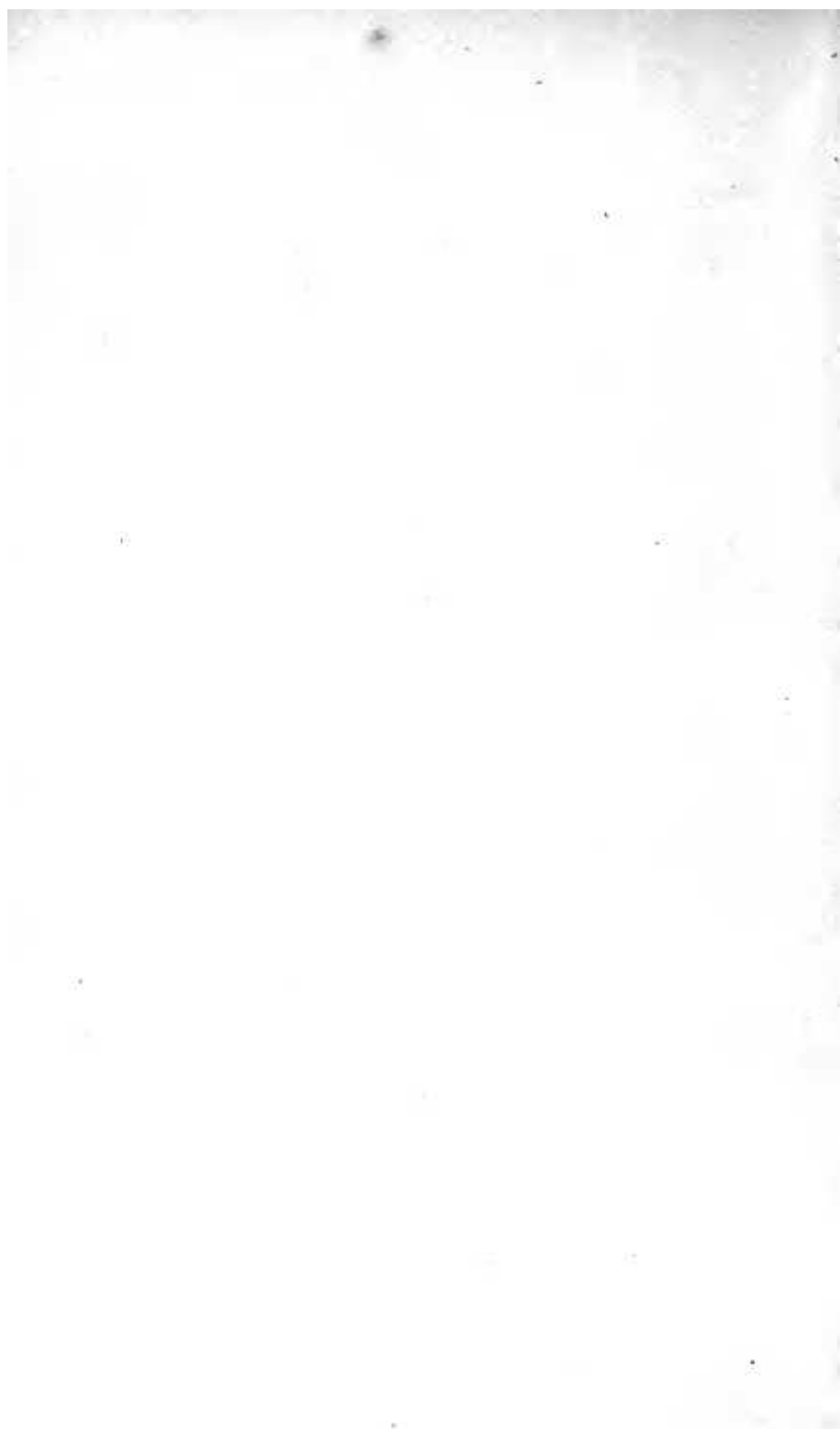
Not to sympathize with the struggling masses rather than with the powerful and aggressive classes, would be hardly human, and certainly not humane. To flatter the strong and slight the weak would be to play the toady and snob, than which one can play no more contemptible part in life. I sympathize with the laboring masses, not because they labor, but because they are more liable than others to suffer injustice and wrong, and because, whatever may have determined their lot, it is at best a hard one. But while such are my feelings toward the workingman, I regard it a duty, which I am not at liberty to shun, to tell some plain truths, which his professed friends are not in the habit of telling him. He needs above all things to get a clear view of the economic situation as it relates to himself; and no true friend of his will quibble or flatter when he should testify as a faithful witness. Hence, the directness with which I have endeavored to speak on practical questions. I believe that I have said not one word that should give offence to workingmen, and not a word that is just cause of offence to the capitalist classes. Nevertheless, if both were sufficiently blinded with feelings of mutual hostility, to think only of their own differences, my little book might fall unheeded between them. Still, I entertain the cheerful hope, that, notwithstanding its plainness of speech, it will receive a friendly hearing.

I should wish the non-capitalist laborer not to condemn Part First without reading Part Second, and the capitalist employer not to condemn Part Second without reading Part First. I do not here forget the great middle class, especially the self-employed workingmen. I should above all things desire the candid attention of the younger men of this class. It is important that they appreciate the value of their position in

society; for, upon their conceptions of duty and their faithfulness in carrying them out, must largely depend the fate of this Republic as well as of civilization itself. They may ape the follies of the rich and perish, or, steadily pursuing the Middle Way, they may clear away obstructions and build securely, and thus save not only themselves but others from the fatalities which blight the middle ranks and sunder the rich and poor as with a rift of desolation.

In treating of practical questions in political and social life, one meets with this difficulty, that measures to be taken immediately for the general good are very different from what they would be, but for abuses of long standing and the prejudices of habit growing out of those same abuses. The case is also complicated by the conflicting policies of States, in some instances rendering the choice of expedients difficult to determine. In so brief a statement as this, one cannot be constantly qualifying and defining, and much must be left to the discernment and fairness of the reader. Doubtless I have now and then fallen into errors — slight however I hope — which I shall be glad to correct as soon as I find them out.

NEW YORK, March, 1884.



CONTENTS.

<i>Introductory</i>	PAGE.
	1

PART FIRST.

THE LABOR QUESTION.

CHAPTER I.

WAGES.

SECTION.		
1. <i>The Contestants: Antagonism between labor and capital</i>	4	
2. <i>Increasing Wages: The drawbacks</i>	5	
3. <i>The Economical Function of the Rich Man: Capital indispensable to industry and civilization—the many use capital to less advantage than the few—the rich man conserves capital, and its benefits must flow over to others</i>	9	
4. <i>Shadows of Wealth: The idle and worthless rich—arbitrary privileges—necessary evils of wealth</i>	13	

CHAPTER II.

SAVING AND MANAGEMENT.

5. <i>Illustrating the Necessity of Saving: Money for new mills—Roscher on saving—securing the necessary capital—the self-denial of saving the basis of interest on capital</i>	15	
6. <i>The Claims of Enterprise and Management: Labor not entitled to all that is produced—value of management to labor</i>	18	
7. <i>Freedom and Equality: Rising from poverty to wealth—incompatibility of freedom and equality—starting people even in Sparta and the Argentine Republic</i>	19	
8. <i>Possibility of Saving by the Poor: Two leading causes of inequality—waste rather than low wages keeps the laborer down</i>	22	

CHAPTER III.

MONOPOLY.

9. <i>Land Monopoly: Spencer, Woolsey, and Roscher on nationalization of the land—small farms—expensive farm machinery in relation to large and small farms</i>	24	
10. <i>Exaggerating Land Monopoly: Henry George's view—State management of whatever may become monopoly</i>	27	