

**QUESTIONS OF THE
DAY, NO. XLIX. ESSAYS
ON PRACTICAL POLITICS**

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Questions of the day, No. XLIX. Essays on Practical Politics by Theodore Roosevelt

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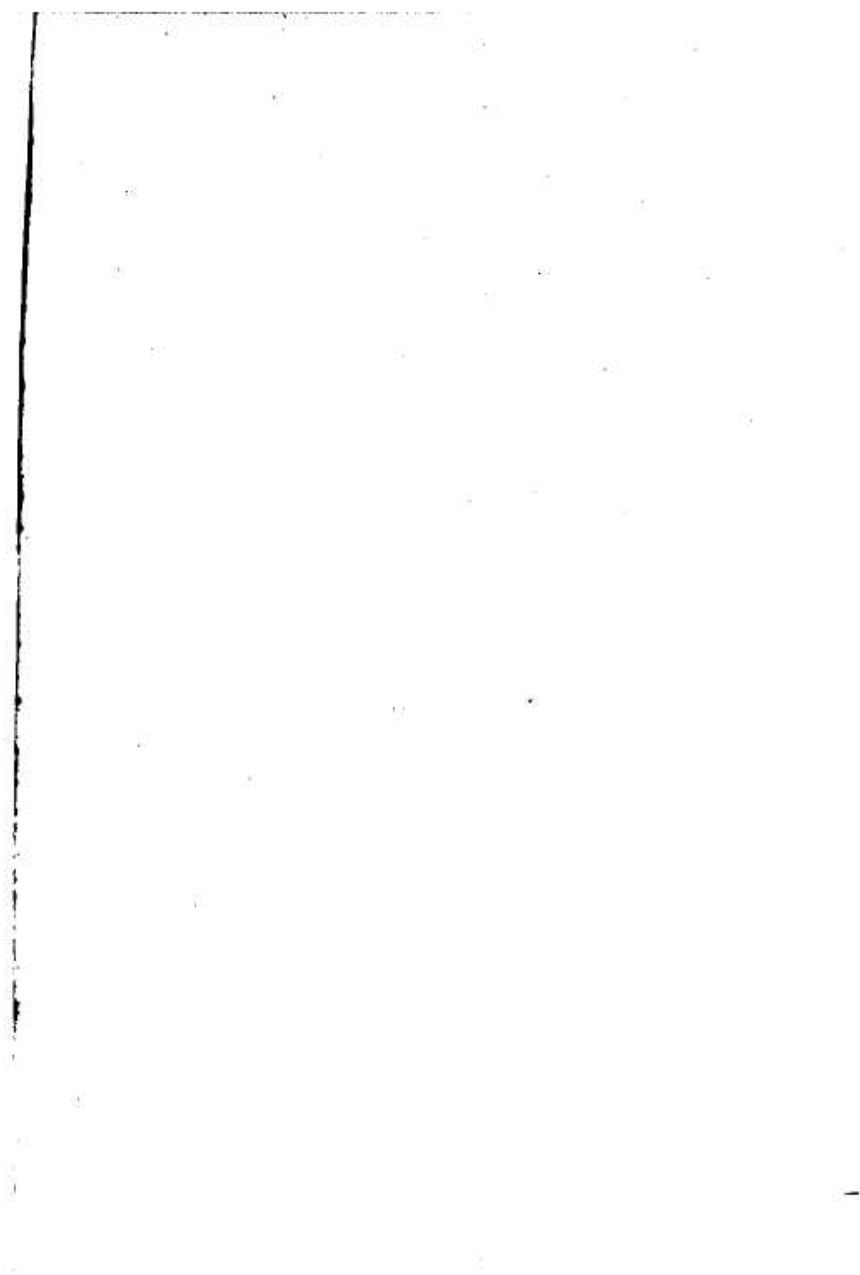
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BY

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

AUTHOR OF "NAVAL WAR OF 1812-14"

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INTRODUCTION.

THESE two essays appeared originally in the *Century*. Both alike were criticised at the time as offering no cure for the evils they portrayed.

Such a criticism shows, in the first place, a curious ignorance of what is meant by the diagnosis of a disease; for my articles pretended to do nothing more than give what has apparently never before been given, an accurate account of certain phases of our political life, with its good and bad impartially set forth. The practical politician, who alone knows how our politics are really managed, is rarely willing to write about them, unless with very large reservations, while the student-reformer whose political experience is limited to the dinner table, the debating club, or an occasional mass-meeting where none but his friends are present, and who yet seeks, in pamphlet or editorial column to make clear the subject, hardly ever knows exactly what he is talking about, and abuses the system in all its parts with such looseness of language as to wholly take away the value even from such of his utterances as are true.

In the second place, such a criticism shows in the mind of the critic the tendency, so common among imperfectly educated people, to clamor for "cure-all" or quack remedies. The same habit of thought that makes a man in one class of life demand a medicine that will

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