

# **AMERICA; A FAMILY MATTER**

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America; a family matter by Charles W. Gould

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**CHARLES W. GOULD**

**AMERICA; A  
FAMILY MATTER**



AMERICA  
A FAMILY MATTER

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS  
NEW YORK  
1920

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United States, August 11, 1920

TO THE BRETHREN

G. H. G.

F. S. G.

GENTLEMEN:—

The writer plans to print privately this paper and to send it to a few men of acknowledged ability and learning.

The rule of selection is simple, for these men have selected themselves. Were not their capacity greater than their position, they would not hold their position. The writer makes no apology for thrusting himself into such a company, for he well knows that no matter what the condition in life, no matter how unimportant the effort, any earnest seeker will be received by such men with courtesy.

No claim, of course, is made to original thought. No, all the facts stated are old and time-worn facts, all the phrases are old and time-worn phrases, all the dates are old and time-worn dates, and the simple method has been followed of putting two and two together.

CHARLES W. GOULD.

New York, 1920.



*"A mongrel people never attain  
real prosperity."*

**M**AN controls his own career, but in common with the rest of the universe is subject to law. The greater his obedience to the Divine law, the greater his freedom. The Divine law is not only moral—it is also physical.<sup>1</sup>

Man, so far as his physical nature is concerned, is an animal pure and simple. He must conform to the general animal law—he must eat—he must sleep—he must fulfill in all things the needs of the body. Never for one instant during the course of his existence can man escape from the operation of law.<sup>2</sup> The more thoroughly he understands the law both moral and physical—the more thoroughly he obeys it, the more splendid will be his intellectual and spiritual elevation. He is gifted with intelligence that he may learn the law in order better to obey it. The greater his intelligence the easier it will be for him to ascertain the law.<sup>3</sup>

The close connection between intelligence and the "grey matter" of the brain has been demonstrated.<sup>4</sup> This "grey matter" is the physical basis and seat of intellectual life. Education may improve the action

<sup>1</sup> Note 1.

<sup>2</sup> Note 2.

<sup>3</sup> Note 3.

<sup>4</sup> Note 4 and Intellectual Development of Europe, Draper, Chapter XXIV (the whole chapter).

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of the "grey matter," but education cannot create it. A pint cannot by any known system be educated to contain more than a pint. Men differ in mental capacity just as they differ in physical capacity. In no respect are men created equal.<sup>1</sup>

The researches of scientists instruct us that all advancement comes through struggle and effort. It makes no difference whether science looks backwards a few hundreds or millions of years. Not without unrest and upheaval was the earth's crust formed, and though the varieties of life upon its surface to-day are countless in number they are but the few survivals of untold myriads of forms which were their predecessors and from which they sprang.<sup>2</sup>

Struggle and stress are at the foundation of all advancement. Lethargy and stagnation not only mean arrested development, but threaten existence itself.

The physical frame of man depends for its best development upon proper exercise. The athlete is the exponent of the truth of this statement. The Holy Man of India who has held his arm above his head until he can no longer lower it is proof that even the muscles if idle become useless. Saint Simeon Stylites did not adopt the best method to develop his body, and he knew it. In animals even the brain itself shrinks in size from disuse, and it would seem that exercise is just as important for the proper development of the "grey matter" and the mental operations dependent upon it as it is for the mere muscular frame. Even in such a transitory thing as a fit of illness wise physicians often prescribe massage, thus counteract-

<sup>1</sup> Folkways, Sumner, p. 43.

<sup>2</sup> Leff, Evolution of the Earth, p. 2.

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SCIENTISTS

ing the evil effects of protracted repose upon the human system.

In a wild state the mind of animals is exercised and educated by the struggle for food and the struggle to escape enemies. It is their education. Education is to the mind what exercise is to the body. So far as man is concerned, his whole life is his education.<sup>1</sup> There is an absurd idea prevalent to-day that what is learned from books forms the greater part of man's education. This is pressed to the same extreme as were the brutal methods of training college boys for a boat race which were followed fifty years ago. Fortunately for the college boys, more scientific methods have been adopted in preparing them to endure the ordeal of the contest, but "book learning" is more and more thrust upon the world. It is supposed to be the makeall and the cureall, and great amounts of time and capital are wasted in the attempt to compel incapable minds to do impossible things. The doctrine that all men are created equal is doing its deadly work, and no proper allowance is made for individual differences in mental capacity.

While the mental and the physical are so interwoven and so interdependent that it is impossible to separate them, let us begin by concentrating our attention so far as possible on the method of physical improvement in animals.<sup>2</sup>

With animals physical capacity can be improved by care in breeding. Man is no exception to this gen-

<sup>1</sup> Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams*, *Folkways*, p. 710.   <sup>2</sup> Note