

**THE COSMOPOLIS
CITY CLUB**

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The Cosmopolis City Club by Washington Gladden

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WASHINGTON GLADDEN

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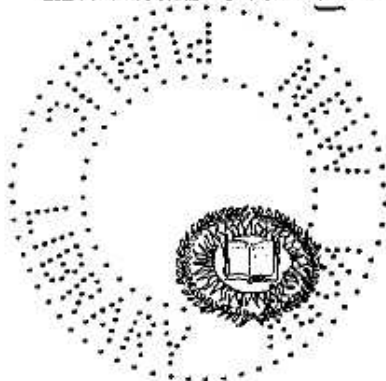


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THE
COSMOPOLIS CITY CLUB

BY

REV. WASHINGTON GLADDEN ✓



NEW YORK

NEW YORK
THE CENTURY CO.

1893

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PREFACE

THE publication in the "Century Magazine," of the following narrative brought me a great many interesting letters from all parts of the country. In several cities, as it appeared from this correspondence, movements not unlike the one here imagined were already in progress. From one of the cities of the Empire State came the report which follows :

In 1890 a small number of the citizens of this city formed a Law and Order Alliance, having for its object the idea expressed in the Cosmopolis City Club; but unfortunately there was no one who could outline a practical plan for accomplishing any good work. There were several members who advocated radical measures, similar to those entertained by Mr. Frambes, but others counseled moderation, deprecating the policy of taking upon themselves the duties of detectives and policemen, and yet unable to suggest any other practical method. The society has drifted along with a small membership, keeping up its organization, and making now and then a spasmodic attempt to influence, if possible, the city

officials to a proper fulfilment of their duties. In July of 1892 I was elected Secretary of the Alliance, and since then I have been struggling to find the right way to go about the work we need to do. I sincerely believe you have given us the right clue.

From one of the chief cities of Pennsylvania came another testimony dated January 10, 1893. It is written by Mr. Robert B. Lea, the secretary of the association described:

The line of thought and the plan suggested in your article, "The Cosmopolis City Club" published in the "Century" of January, 1893, is so much in accord with the objects and work of our Citizens' Reform Association, that I feel constrained to write you and say that, coming at this particular time, your article was not only encouraging, but was an exceedingly good campaign document for us. Our city primary elections were held on January 7, and this association was greatly interested therein, because one of its originators was the Reform candidate for Mayor, and because we had Reform candidates for City Councils throughout the city. As the "Century Magazine" is read, to a great extent, by the people who do not, as a rule, turn out at the primaries, and as many of these called my attention to the article, I think I am warranted in saying that it

had considerable influence with this class of our citizens.

Perhaps a brief history of our association may prove interesting to you. For some time past the city government of Allegheny has been an exceedingly corrupt one. This state of affairs led several gentlemen to hold a meeting, about a year ago, at the residence of one of their members, to talk the situation over, and see if something could not be done to stop the loose and dishonest methods then in force. To show how like to our plan is the one suggested by your article, at that meeting were a physician, a bank president, three attorneys, a merchant, a manufacturer, an insurance agent, and a bookkeeper. After considerable discussion, a temporary organization was effected, which resulted finally in "The Citizens' Reform Association of Allegheny, Pennsylvania," an organization now strong in numbers, and composed of all classes of citizens. The first important work of this association was the introduction into the City Councils of an ordinance calling for the appointment of an auditing committee, and instructing this committee to audit all the city books. After hard work, and with the assistance of councilmen favorable to reform, the measure was finally passed, and a very good auditing committee appointed. Without going into details, the work of this committee resulted in the arrest, conviction, and imprisonment of the City Market Clerk and the Mayor of the city, in a general