

A PLEA FOR PROGRESS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649352944

A Plea for Progress by Hiram Howard

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

HIRAM HOWARD

**A PLEA
FOR PROGRESS**

9

A PLEA FOR PROGRESS

ENFORCED AND ILLUSTRATED

BY A

SHORT DISSERTATION ON THE HABITS
AND CHARACTERISTICS

OF THE

RHODE ISLAND CLAM

BY

HIRAM HOWARD

PROVIDENCE

R. I. PRINTING COMPANY

1890

TO MY FELLOW-CITIZENS,
IRRESPECTIVE OF PARTY, WHO ARE IN FAVOR OF
PROGRESS AND REFORM.

THIS PAMPHLET IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

PROVIDENCE, FEB. 7, 1890.

H. H.

CONTENTS.

I.	INTRODUCTORY	7
II.	THE SEWERAGE PROBLEM	10
III.	RAILROAD TERMINAL FACILITIES	11
IV.	PROVIDENCE AND SPRINGFIELD R. R.	14
V.	BOULEVARDS AND STREET IMPROVEMENTS	16
	1. WIDENING OF GREENWICH STREET	16
	2. WESTERN OR PAWTUCKET BOULEVARD	17
	3. NARRAGANSETT PARK-WAY	19
	4. THE MONSTROSITY ON DORRANCE STREET	19
	5. THE OLD MUNICIPAL BUILDING	21
	6. EASTERN BOULEVARD	22
	7. BUTLER AVENUE	25
	8. NORTH SIDE STREETS	25
VI.	A SYSTEM OF PUBLIC PARKS	26
	1. OUR PRESENT SITUATION	27
	2. TOCKWOTTON PARK	29
	3. BLACKSTONE PARK	30
	4. THE DAVIS ESTATE	32
VII.	PUBLIC BUILDINGS	32
	1. THE STATE HOUSE	33
	2. CENTRAL MARKET	34
VIII.	A NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITY	36
IX.	COMPARISONS, MORE OR LESS ODIUS	38
	X. PRIVATE ENTERPRISE VS. PUBLIC INERTIA	40
	XI. PROGRESS OR DETERIORATION	42
	XII. PUBLIC SPIRIT IN PROVIDENCE	43
	XIII. WAYS AND MEANS	47
	XIV. CONCLUSION	48
	XV. RECAPITULATION	51

APPENDIX.

A.	CONCERNING THE CLAM	52
B.	OLD STATE PRISON SITE,	60

A PLEA FOR PROGRESS.

OUR goodly City of Providence is possessed of natural advantages second to those of no other city in the United States. Picturesquely located at the head of our most beautiful inland bay, with sufficient diversification of hill and valley to give a pleasing variety to the landscape, circumstanced most favorably as to water supply and opportunities for good drainage, situated in the midst of a large variety of important manufacturing interests with the accompanying tendencies to the production of a teeming population and constantly augmenting wealth, Providence should be advancing in material prosperity more rapidly than most of her urban rivals and neighbors. Land values should be increasing; the *pro rata* wealth of the inhabitants should be steadily growing, and our city should at least maintain her relative position in these respects, as compared with other cities in our country, similarly or less favorably circumstanced.

What are the actual facts of the case? Every intelligent citizen knows that Providence is falling behind in the competitive contest for wealth and population — the two factors which make up a city's prosperity. Unless one has given special attention to the statistics, he can hardly realize the actual condition of affairs. Our citizens are not wanting in civic pride and patriotic feeling, but it is too frequently of the self-complaisant sort manifested by a young lady from a neighboring city, in the midst of the wonders and beauties of the Paris exposition, who "did hope she would get back to Ta'nton in time for the cattle show!"

It is no part of a genuine public spirit to be blind to the defects of the community in which one lives, or to superior excellencies in other communities, due to a wiser and more far-sighted municipal policy. A true civic patriotism demands that we should recognize a good thing wherever we see it, and wisely apply suggestions obtained from abroad to the development of our own abundant resources.

There are three very important factors that, more than anything else, are calculated to increase the population and wealth of a city.

First and foremost I place the element of *health*, for without that blessing we have nothing. The chief factors, subject to human control that make a city healthy, are pure water, clean streets, and a good sewerage system. Of pure water we now have an abundant supply, though we were slow enough in getting it. Our streets, as far as I am able to judge, are kept reasonably clean. We certainly have an obvious advantage over some other cities in this respect. Hence, the only thing needed, in my judgment, to make Providence the healthiest city in this country, is to complete our sewerage system. Of this I shall have something to say later on.

The second important element in a city's prosperity is *utility*; and I mean to comprehend in this term all the necessary conveniences for the rapid transaction of a large and increasing business.

The third element of importance is that of *beauty*; and the relation of this element to health and utility is much closer and more vital than superficial thinkers are willing to admit. It is a matter of regret that so little attention should have been paid to this factor which contributes so largely to the growth and wealth of a city. It seems to have been forgotten by a large number of the citizens of Providence, that beauty and comfort are elements of prosperity; that if