

JUSTICE

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Justice by Charles Wagner

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CHARLES WAGNER

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BY

CHARLES WAGNER
Author of The Simple Life

Translated from the French by Mary Louise Hendee



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PREFACE

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PREFACE

OUR time is often called an age of tolerance; alas, what irony in the term! for if there be any one good thing that especially fails us, it is tolerance; although indispensable to the discovery of truth, and to the establishment of good understanding among individuals and between social, religious, and national groups, it seems to have fled the earth. A disposition to unfairness, bad faith, and evil-speaking, is abroad in every field, and a matter over which men do not contend at daggers drawn, is hard to find. My brother, are you among those who rejoice in all this? I dare hope that you are not.

As for myself, I grieve over it as the saddest

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thing in the world; and the farther the impure fires of discord and hatred spread, the more sensible do I become of the strengthening of another ideal within me. In spirit I look out upon the humble path trod by the Son of Man, and listen to His summing up of the human law in the words: Love one another. The spirit of strife which characterizes the present age, is precisely the opposite of His. One day He said to His disciples: "Ye can do nothing without me." We of this age are in the way of furnishing a brilliant and overwhelming proof of the fact, amplified by all the enormity of our vain struggles. Strife is the law of the lower beings, the higher law is fellowship, and whatever fosters life in regions below us, leads man back toward barbarism. If violence is the salvation of the brutes, the salvation of man is Justice.

He who writes these words has lived constantly among conflicting influences, yet God has so led him over the ground of man's social, religious, intellectual, and national life, that he has been

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constrained to see the good on both sides of the dividing lines. This unusual situation has brought him much suffering, but he would ask for only one compensation: that his experience might be in some slight measure profitable to Justice. The following very incomplete pages have no other aim than the fulfilment of this hope. A cry from the heart, may they reach the hearts of others.