

where the American language is taught, reading and writing.

America demands a higher standard in citizenship. It is entitled to it. No one but illiterate aliens, holding citizenship rights, granted them at an earlier period of time when Americans were criminally indifferent, are likely to register a protest against such a statute, except, possibly, those group leaders and politicians who have been in the habit of turning political "tricks," through their power over the voters who do not read the American language and whose understanding of our language is limited to but a few words.

#### A PROPHECY NOT YET FULFILLED

**V**ISUALIZING a day when the world could boast a more advanced civilization that would settle international disputes, not by the sword, but by peaceful arrangements, Victor Hugo made this prophecy at the peace congress of 1849:

A day will come when you, France—you, Russia—you, Italy—you, England—you, Germany—all of you, nations of the continent—shall, without losing your distinctive qualities and your glorious individuality, blend in a higher unity and form a European fraternity, even as Normandy, Brittany, Burgundy, Lorraine, Alsace, all the French provinces have blended into France.

A day will come when war shall seem as absurd and impossible between Paris and London, between St. Petersburg and Berlin, as between Rouen and Amiens, between Boston and Philadelphia. A day will come when bullets and bombs shall be replaced by ballots, by the universal suffrage of the people, by the sacred arbitrament of a great sovereign senate, which shall be to Europe what the parliament is to England, what the diet is to Germany, what the legislative assembly is to France.

A day will come when a cannon ball shall be exhibited in the museums as an instrument of torture is now, and men shall marvel that such things could be. A day will come when shall be seen these two immense groups, the United States of America and the United States of Europe.

The fulfillment of this dream, the coming of that glorious day, as Hugo so beautifully has fancied it, may be in the offing, but somehow Europe doesn't seem overly anxious to make Victor Hugo's dream come true, which would be tantamount to patterning our scheme.

#### PROGRESS OF DEMOCRACY

**L**OOKING BACKWARD a century and a half, a period so brief that it may be bridged by old people recalling the stories of other people they knew when they were young, we are impressed by the tremendous change that has taken place.

The patrician was then at the height of his glory and good fortune in the old world as well as in the new. Society recognized his superiority, and he, himself, freely admitted it. He inherited estates, and used his power and rank for ignoble purposes without shame.

With the lower classes wretchedness reigned. So deplorable was their condition that eminent writers insisted that a war which killed off, say, 50,000, of the poor was a blessing in disguise to those who survived. Such a thing as improving the condition of the common people was regarded as the vagary of dreamers. The simple purpose of the poor in life was to be born, work for their betters, and die off when and how it pleased his lordship. With all its brilliance of romance, gold lace, brave men, fair wo-

men, fashion and gallantry, it was an agreeable world to the upper crust but a cruel and crusty one for the hungry, helpless, down-trodden, broken-spirited mass, seething and suffering below.

Since then democracy has made wonderful strides forward, but reforms have been granted, not because they were acknowledged to be right but because they have been wrung from the unwilling hand of privilege. We understand more about human rights today than the world ever knew before, yet injustice is still with us in such strength in certain positions that even now few have the courage to raise their voices in protest. We consider with impatience the rate of progress, for it seems the world should rise and sweep away these relics of the dark ages, and yet when we stop to consider we see that democracy has moved with amazing swiftness during the period mentioned. At the same rate of progress what mind can conceive the reforms that the next century will usher in?

#### NON-PROGRESSIVENESS IN POLITICS

**T**RUTH remains constant but conditions are ever changing. It is one of the peculiarities of statesmen and politicians that they are seldom able to grasp this fact and keep pace with the progress of events. It is to be deplored that among venerable legislators in point of service we find a pronounced proneness to hold to the issues of yesterday; to consider problems of state in the light of the past decade and to talk of things which are as dead as the first Rameses as though they were living questions of the hour, all unmindful of the fact that they have failed to keep pace with the movements of Old Father Time, and that they present a figure at once pathetic and ridiculous. They continue to cling to precedent and drag forth the past as a guide to present action affecting the future, forgetting that Progress is the law of life in politics as in other things.

#### THE ENOBLING INFLUENCE OF MUSIC

**T**WO YEARS ago, fifty thousand singing children formed a human wheel on the spacious lawns of the White House at Washington, where they had gathered to serenade the president of our country. The spokes represented open aisles, while the spaces between consisted of a solid mass of children. The president greeted the children from the hub of the wheel.

As the voices welled forth from the throats of the participants in this huge chorus of young America, the people of the city of Washington were aroused and the idea of a Singing America was born.

Realizing the force and the influence of music, suggestions were pouring forth to make music, educational music, a definite part of our program of national advancement.

Ere the echos of that mighty chorus, that great festal throng of a coming American generation, had died away in the corridors of America's executive mansion, President Harding sent out his appeal to every city in America to set aside one week each year for "a musical bath," during which time not only the musicians of each city but the masses, which generally represent a "listening group," should give their heart and soul to music.

Many cities responded at once and for two years have followed the President's suggestion.

Last year more than two hundred cities observed