

the independence of Ireland ; partitioned Poland ; assassinated the liberty of France; and made Cromwell the master, not the servant of the people? It is true that war delivered Greece from Persian invaders, restored the Bruce to his throne, and redeemed the pledge of our American colonies when they plighted to each other their lives, their fortunes, and their honor. And yet, what would that pledge have availed if the spirit of our American institutions had not been both the birthright and the blessing of those who risked their lives for the preservation of liberty? The patriotism of war may either break or bind fetters of slavery, but it is the patriotism of peace alone, that places the laurel crown of progress on the brow of liberty. Hence we do not link the names of Washington with the scanty benefactors of the race as a soldier alone, for the splendor of his military achievements finds many parallels in history. But Washington, the statesman, soothing into harmony the spirit of discord among his countrymen, guiding the ship of state safely amid dangerous rocks, hideous shoals, and shifting sands, is the noblest specimen of real patriotism America presents. Washington as a soldier deserves our applause ; Washington as a statesman commands our veneration. Patriotism such as his constitutes one of the realities of the age ; and if more of this and less of that which is founded on prospects of public office were common, ours would be a happy land indeed.

In the realms of science, the influence of realism has been most potent. Erroneous ideas, which had long been unchangeable, have been supplanted ; old axioms have been discarded, and ancient stereotypes broken up. To-day everything is tested by the crucible. All things are summoned to the trial, and on the result of that trial the base and spurious are rejected while the value of the true and real is enhanced by the ordeal. The world has entered upon the scientific epoch and great are the triumphs it is destined to achieve. Already has science advanced to some glorious conquests ; and the music of her majestic

steppings can be heard along the corridors of time.

Look abroad and see the infinite power of steam, reflect on the railroad as a destroyer of distance. Pause to estimate the wonders of telegraphy. The livid flash that limited to the mind of Franklin the possibilities of electricity has been *isolated* from the heavens, and man has made it his messenger and postman. Cast a glance over the whole field of scientific improvement and its applications to human wants, and think what a world it has made. It is all a great astounding marvel which it oppresses the mind to contemplate. And yet, we have only begun, we have just crossed the threshold of this epoch.

A great celebration is now midway in its history. People of all nations and tongues are gathered in magnificent palaces in Chicago to illustrate and distinguish the achievements of art and science as well as to dignify and exalt the men who have filled those palaces with wonders.

This great celebration is the signet of the centuries that stamps the seal of approval on this age of realities ; an index showing that man has risen, and to-day occupies a higher place than ever before ; a proclamation confirming honor to the men who fill this world with beauty, comfort and power ; honor embalmed in history, perpetuated on monuments, stamped on the hearts of this and succeeding posterity.

In the realm of religion also the realities of the age have manifested themselves. The church is no longer afraid of the discoveries of science ; on the contrary, she welcomes them with delight. To-day the circle of christianity of which Christ is the centre, and which has thrown its radiance over the world of learning, is in turn gathering new lustre from the reflection of its own halo. Truth has emerged from the mine, the laboratory, and the observatory, giving testimony to the truth of the Bible, the great text book of christianity which still sways its sceptre of law, history and morals over the world.

Christianity has given to the world all the origi-