THE PARABLE OF THE WATER TANK.

"That will do, George. We will allow the garden here. Our discussion, I find, has taken a broader range than I expected, and it seems to me that the subject we have been discussing is a matter of rather more general interest than we anticipated this afternoon. And now, by the way of concluding the morning, I propose to offer a little counsel of my own. The other day, at the meeting, I was delving among the ruins of literature of the great Revolution, with a view to finding something which might lift up our theme. I came across a little pamphlet of the period, yellow and almost unapproximable, which, on examination, it proved to be a rather sombre gift of satisfaction taken off the profit of the saint. It struck me that probably one lesson might be of especial interest to us to appreciate, and I made a copy. It is entitled, "The Parable of the Water Tank," and here it is:

"There was a certain very dry land, the people thereof were in want of water. And they did nothing but to seek after water from morning until night, and many perished because they could not find it.

"And, behold, there came certain men to the land who were most wealthy and diligent than their like, and there had gathered stores of water when others could find none, and the name of these men was called Capitalists. And some it came, that the people of the land came unto the Capitalists and prayed them that they would give of the water that they might drink, for their need was sore. But the capitalists answered them and said:

"'Go on, ye idle people! Why should we give you of the water which we have gathered, for which we should become even as ye are, and perish with you? But behold what we will do unto you. In ye our servitude and ye shall have water.' And the people said: 'Only give us to drink and we will be your servants and do ye pleasure.'

"And, now, the capitalists were men of undue pride and taint, and would not speak with their generation. They talked the people who were their servants to the people who possessed the water, and some they put at the springs to dig, and others did they make to carry the water, and others did they come to seek for new springs. And all the water was brought together in one place, and there did the capitalists make a great tank for to hold it, and the tank was called the Market, for in it there was that the people, even the servants of the capitalists, might come to get water. And the capitalists said unto the people:

"'For every bucket of water that ye bring in, ye may poor it into the tank which is in the Market, behold! we will give you a penny, but for every bucket that we shall draw from, we give unto you that ye may drink it, to all your wives and your children. So should it be in us a two persons' sanctity, and a difference that we and your people shall not be all equal. For all that we have done to you in this we do it for this reason, that we have done it for this reason. And it was good in the people's eye that they were filled with understanding, and they..."
lightly brought water made the truth for many days, and in every house which they did bring the capitalists gave them every man a penny; but for every bucket of water the capitalist drew from the tank to give again unto the people, behold the people rendered to the capitalists the same pennies. And as many days the water lasted, which was the Market, overwhelmed at the top, seeming that for every breath the people poured in they received only so much as would again fill a bucket. And because of this excess that was left of every bucket, did the tank consume, for the people were many, hast the capital not a very great, and could drink as much as their other. Therefore did the tank overflow.

And when the capitalists saw that the water overflowed, they said to the people:

"He say not the tank, which is the Market, hath overflowed? But he doth consume! Sow down, harvest, and in patient, for ye shall bring no more water till the tank be empty."

But when the people so more received the pennies of the capitalists for the water that brought, they could buy or more water from the capitalists having water through in key. And when the capitalists said that they had no more pen to have or more man bought water of them, were mocked and taunted. And they sent forth men in to the bridge, the byways, and the hedges, saying: "If thou send him come to the tank and pay wages of ye, do it in money!"

But they send among themselves.

"Henceforth the Mass are full; ye must ask for money!"

But the people answered, saying: "How can we buy unless ye have for sale, shall we have where withal to buy? Buy us, therefore, do what you will, and we shall pay you daily wages by which through your buying, we will buy you again. And so it was how the capitalists hired them no more to sell water that the people would buy the tank they had brought already, the capitalists no more hired them key water."

"It is a sin, and the blind of the people was great, and the tank was in the middle of the people, and the people saw that the capitalists had taken all the goods, and all the tank, and the water which was the Market, and the people rendered the capitalists and said: "Bideth through remain over, and we die of thirst. Give us therefore, of the water, that our pen be not more; else ye take it of with pennies.""

"But the capitalists answered: "Not so. The water is none. Ye shall not drink thereof unless ye pay it of with pennies." And they continued it with an oath saying after their manner, "Business is business."

"But the capitalists were dissatisfied that the people bought no more water, whereby they had no more profit, and they spoke in another saying: "It is certain that our people have stopped our profit, and by reason of the profile we have made, we can make no more profit. How is it that our people have then become unprofitable to you? But let the tank overflow and we shall make the thing out of it, and they want for them.

"Now, the sophistry were most learned, in such speculations, who joined themselves to the capitalists by means of the water of the capitalists, that they might have trade and live, they and their children. And they speak for the capitalists unto the people, did their endeavor for them, seeing that the capitalists were not a full quick of understanding another ready supply of money.

"And the capitalists demanded of the sophist that they should interpret unto thing unto them, whereas it was, that the people bought no more water of them, although the tank was full. And certain of the sophists answered and said: "It is a reason of over-production, and some said: "It is a thing but the signification of the day was to the people."

But the sophist thing is by the means of the people, and the sophist answer say, as was neither by means nor was any pen of ours on the son that may do right, but more to pass, because of lack of confidence.

And while the sophists were contending among themselves straying in their manner, the people rise, and when they spoke they said to the sophists: "There is enough! Ye have spoken unprofitably unto us. Go now and speak comfortably, and the smallest thing so that they at last and we have as peace."

"Ye told the whole profile, the man of the decent science—for so they were quoted of poetry—merely for four profite, people they should be serious, for the people loved not the people for the sophist. And they said: "Take up what you know of the sophist."

And they say: "Ye have made a good thing, and the sophist answer say, as was neither by means nor was any pen of ours on the son that may do right, but more to pass, because of lack of confidence."

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And the inhabitants went forth to the people and showed them the manner of overproduction and how it was that they sent men to fetch them from the sea, and how they could not be enough because there was much. And likewise spoke they unto the people concerning the sea and how it was that there was much, and how they took it and brought it into the city, and how they did not want for lack of provision, and it was even as the inhabitants had said, for the people heard such strange tidings.

And the people revelled and sang, saying, 'God be thanked! We will thank God!' And they sang for joy and gladness. And the children and women and old men were content and said, 'God be thanked! We will thank God!' And the people went out and sang and danced, for the people were content and glad.

And when the inhabitants saw that the book was empty, they said, 'The issue is indeed!' And they went forth and told the people that they should draw water to fill it again. And for the water that the people brought to the book they received for every bucket a penny, but for the water which the inhabitants drew forth from the sea they gave it again to the people. And the people were content, for they might have their profitt. And after a time they did not again receive as before.

And now, when many times the people had filled the book until it overcharged, and had poured it again into the sea, and the book was empty, they said, 'God be thanked! We will thank God!' And the people were content, for they might have their profitt.
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After this manner spake the epistles for many years to the people, and some bowed them, but it was no so that after a time the people and the epistle spake them and they answered and sent unto the epistle.

To my truth, it is because of the epistles and of their profity that we want, seeing that by reason of them and their profity we may be so no more come by the fruit of our labor, that our labor is in vain, and the more we shall fill to the most the more shall it overflow, and we may receive nothing because there is too much according to the words of the apostles. But behold, the epistles are had from their tender measure are drawn. Tell us if ye know any way whereby we may deliver ourselves out of our bondage unto men. But if ye know of no certain way of delivery we beseech you to hold your peace and in us alone, that we may forget our own.

And the epistles answered and said, Be it so.

And the people said, I do scarce know, for this thing hath been from the beginning, and none hath found a way of deliverance until now, though many have sought is carefully with tears. But if ye know a way, speak unto us quickly.

Then the epistles spake unto the people of the way, and they said.

And behold, what need have ye at all of these epistles, that ye should yield them profity upon your labor? What great things do they wherefore ye render them this tribution? Let it be only because ye order you in haste and lead you out and in and set your table and afterward give you a little of your water yourselves have brought and not they. Now behold the way out of this bondage? Do ye, for yourselves to be set free from among these epistles and of your labor and the departing of your goods. We shall have its need as all the epistles, and we shall store them, any profity, but all the fruit of your labor shall ye share as free, and afterward ye shall have your share and afterward shall ye with the safe and trade play flour and fish goods to delight yourselves within even as no epistles; but these shall be for the delight of all.

And the people answered, How shall we go about to do this thing, for it seemeth good to us?

And the epistles answered: Choose ye uncles and ye shall go out and in and set your table and afterward ye shall store your profity, and this from shall be the epistles. Verit: but, behold, they shall not be your ancestors as the epistles are, but your torment and others who do your will and they shall take any profity, but every man his share like the others, that there may be no more profit that can be drawn; and this from shall not be the epistles. And then they shall choose other chosen men in place of the first to order the labor.

And the people asked, and the thing was very good to them. Likewise seemed not it a hard thing. And with one voice they cried out, So let it be as ye have said, for we will do it.

And the epistles heard the noise of the shouting and what the people said, and the southerners heard it also, and likewise the false priests and the mighty men of war, who were a defence unto the epistles; and when they heard them they shouted exceeding, and this they knew unto another, and they said one to another, 'It is the end of us.'

Hereof, there were no true priests of the living God who would not prophesy the thing to the people; and when they heard the shouting of the priests and what they said, they replied with exceeding great joy, and gave thanks to God because of the deliverance.

And the people went and did all the things that were bid them of the epistles to do. And it came to pass as the epistles had said, even according to all their words, and there was no more any thing in that land, neither food that was abundance, nor naked, nor cold, nor any matter of want; and any man said unto his fellow, 'My brother,' and every woman unto her companion, 'My sister,' for so were they with one another at fretfulness and stores which do dwell together in unity, and the blessing of God rested upon that land forever.