

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY NUMBER

Ford Hall Folks

Vol. I. No. 10.

March 2, 1913.

Price Ten Cents

FIVE YEARS OF A NEW WORLD.

We do not realize it, but there is no precedent for what happens every Sunday evening at Ford Hall. I know of nothing that matches it, and never heard of anything just like it. The Cooper Union meeting is entirely without the definite, though all-inclusive, religious note. The Chicago Orchestra Club is frankly and exclusively Christian. The Rochester "People's Sunday Evening" is more nearly like unto our work, but the Ford Hall Meetings are entirely unique in that they make the most unlimited and universal appeal and yet are founded on the limited base of an orthodox, Protestant church,—the Baptist.

For five years the Ford Hall folks have seen Protestant, Catholic, Jewish and Agnostic leaders give their messages to an audience made up of the same varied elements, and the audience in turn has been privileged to catechise these speakers without let or hindrance. The most vital issues of religion, economics and civics have been freely discussed. Great crowds have thronged the place of assembly. Never once in all these five years has there been any violence or serious disturbance, and as chairman of the meetings I have never once had occasion to use even a gavel to preserve order.

At the beginning it was promised by the Boston Baptist Social Union, through me as the chairman of its Committee on Christian Work, that these meetings should not be used as a propaganda by any one, not even by itself, but should be conducted without prejudice to race, class or creed. That pledge has been kept both in the spirit and in the letter, and the meetings have thus become a blessing to a multitude who could be helped in no other way. They have been carried on with the sole purpose of serving the community and with no thought of benefitting exclusively any particular organization, be it religious, social or political.

I want to take advantage of this opportunity to express my pride and delight in the patience, forbearance, broad-mindedness and independence of

my own brethren of the Baptist Social Union who have so nobly upheld my hands during all the difficulties and trials necessarily incident to this pioneer work. I often wonder whether the men of some other sect would have stood the test so well. At all events, it makes me glad again for the thousandth time that I am a Baptist.

And as for the part played by the lamented Daniel Sharp Ford in making all this possible, I am quite certain it must rejoice his soul if he can know but a tenth part of the pure joy and unalloyed delight which his benefaction has already brought to thousands who until now have had but little chance to understand or appreciate the kind of Christianity he stood for.

As for myself, although the obligations have been onerous, and the strain and stress very exhausting, I count it the greatest privilege and joy of my life to have served in this cause. Some of my dearest friends are among the Ford Hall folks and my heart goes out to every last one of them, and generally the more to those who sometimes make it rather strenuous for me. There isn't one toward whom I do not have the utmost good will—even Urbansky, whom I was fast learning to love when the law made him its victim for unpermitted street-preaching.

Looking into the future, I cannot tell what lies in store for us, any more than I could have foretold in the beginning that we would last even five years. But I feel fairly certain; nevertheless, that at our tenth anniversary we shall see some remarkable developments beyond our present lines of activity. I have been looking for it from the beginning. It seems very much nearer now than ever before. Most of us believe in prayer—let us pray hard. Let the others wish hard. God will understand the one as well as the other. And any psychologist will tell you that wishing hard for a thing is the best possible beginning for bringing it to pass.

George W. Coleman



MRS. MARKS

It was eminently fitting that, immediately following the musical numbers, with which the exercises of our Fifth Anniversary program opened, we should listen to Mrs. Marks' "Singing Man," that wonderfully beautiful ode to a time when conditions of labor were such that men could sing at their work. The poem was read by Mrs. Marks herself (whom most of us know better as Josephine Preston Peabody), and was given with rare taste and feeling—the author making, as she faced that upturned sea of earnest faces, a very beautiful picture—as a poet certainly should.

THE BIRTHDAY PRAYER.

Almighty God, blessed Father of us all, we rejoice with joy unspeakable that it is our privilege to come to Thee as the children of one household, notwithstanding our fathers before us have never been able to realize their common inheritance and could not sit together at the great Father's table to enjoy the wonderful feasts in spiritual things which he has provided for all his children.

We acknowledge our unworthiness, our short-sightedness, our weakness, but we love Thee and all thy works,—justice, truth and mercy. Even when we lose sight of thy face and cannot hear thy voice and doubt if Thou livest, still we cling to Thee in everything that is beautiful and sweet and strong.

Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for the way in which Thou hast gathered together and shepherded this peculiar flock. Often we have not known which way to turn, and frequently we have feared that we would be scattered. But a power greater than our own has preserved us, guided us, and brought us safely and happily



MR. ROBERTS

Then came the following appreciative tribute to Mr. Roberts and to the two corps of ushers:

It is with great pleasure that on this occasion of the fifth birthday of Ford Hall meetings we take this opportunity of expressing our true admiration of your work, and the noble elements of character which have directed and inspired it. Your services in the cause of education have taught us to rely on that voluntary principle which has inspired the best life in all ages of the world. We congratulate you upon the splendid work you have done, to help to make these meetings a success, and may you long continue to help on this noble cause, with which we all feel proud to be associated.

to this fifth milestone in the life of our fellowship. We give thanks, with all our strength, with all our minds, with all our hearts.

Help us as we go forward enjoying the great boon of free speech on all subjects, in the presence of all men, to realize that its price is an eternal vigilance over ourselves and a constant recognition of the rights and feelings of others. Do Thou grant to us through this wonderful privilege of looking deeply into the minds and hearts of all sorts and conditions of our fellowmen, a continually widening vision of the truth, an ever-increasing tenderness of sympathy, a constantly broadening tolerance of understanding a deepening sense of brotherly obligation, and an ever-growing firmness of determination to see justice done in this world here and now.

We commit our way unto Thee. We pray for strength and grace. We rejoice in what has been given us. We go forward trustfully, humbly, expectantly. Amen.



MR. GUTT

Nor was the Music Meetings overlooked bears witness.

TESTIMONY

To John Harris Gutt, Director of Music, sings.

We desire to express of your earnestness our lives with the joy.

We feel that in you is also a great desire of better living of true brotherhood.

As a teacher and work of inducing habits through the glory in your ability and power and trust you will accept as one of the rewards service.

Committee of 1

All this portion of should be said, was the manship of George I who with Miss H. V. Pennington, Miss Minnie John J. Sullivan, has 1 weeks to see that all Birthday celebration smoothly. What task this whole committee how splendid an examination! Each member has a duty to perform on, and all did their Pennington, Secretary Hall Folks, quite content with glory, as he made a speech to the ushers it with a story about when the head usher Hall had to be called settle a fracas between and an Elephant!



MR. GUTTERSON

Nor was the Musical Director of the Meetings overlooked—as this tribute bears witness.

TESTIMONIAL.

To John Harris Guttererson,
Director of Music, Ford Hall Meetings.

We desire to express our appreciation of your earnest efforts to color our lives with the joy of good music.

We feel that in your service there is also a great desire to promote the gospel of better living and the aims of true brotherhood.

As a teacher and leader in the work of inducing harmonious conditions through the gift of divine harmony in music, we express our belief in your ability and professional skill, and trust you will accept our thanks as one of the rewards of your devoted service.

Committee of Ford Hall Folks.

All this portion of the program, it should be said, was under the chairmanship of George Brewster Gallup, who with Miss H. V. Hathaway, J. T. Pennington, Miss Minnie A. Noyes and John J. Sullivan, has been working for weeks to see that all details of the Birthday celebration should go off smoothly. What tact and judgment this whole committee displayed and how splendid an example of co-operation! Each member had some particular duty to perform on the festal evening, and all did their parts well, Mr. Pennington, Secretary of the Ford Hall Folks, quite covering himself with glory, as he made his presentation speech to the ushers and capped it with a story about one occasion when the head usher at Noah's Ark Hall had to be called to the roof to settle a fracas between a Bull Moose and an Elephant!



MISS CRAWFORD

As Miss Hathaway arose to read her share of the committee's formal Appreciations, a huge florist's box was borne in from the dressing room by two of the ushers. When opened this revealed an enormous bouquet of exquisite pink and white roses, tied with streamers of pink and white chiffon ribbon. This, with appropriate sentiments, was presented to the surprised and delighted Secretary of the Meetings, to whom also Miss Hathaway read the following:

TESTIMONIAL.

To Miss Mary Caroline Crawford,
Secretary of Ford Hall Meetings.

In attempting to express our appreciation of the work you have done for Ford Hall we are forced to admit that we realize only in faint degree the task involved in arranging programs year after year which offer variety and worth.

But we are, nevertheless, filled with a deep sense of gratitude for the part you have played in the attainment of the eminently satisfactory results which the Ford Hall fifth anniversary shows us. Nor could we fail to be delighted, instructed, inspired by the speakers who have come to us from year to year! Indeed, they have fired us with a burning desire to live grandly for God and humanity. Thus your efforts are not lost if not quite fully measured, and like the child who never feels the full force of the mother love and care until he is grown and faces his own life problems, so by and by, perchance, some Ford Hall members leaving the home nest and attempting to launch elsewhere another Ford Hall, may come to know somewhat of your labors and will then emulate with gratitude the work so well done by our esteemed Secretary.

Mr. John J. Sullivan's part of the program brought out one of the delightful surprises of the evening. For in response to it President Bentley, of the Social Union, eloquently pledged his organization to continued service in the field which George W. Coleman has so successfully developed.

TESTIMONIAL.

To The Boston Baptist Social Union.

This is a significant occasion, the fifth anniversary of the inception, by Mr. George W. Coleman, under the auspices of the Boston Baptist Social Union, of these Ford Hall meetings. It is indeed a happy occasion for the promoters and participants alike, as it marks another milestone in the progress and development of this institution, which during its brief existence, has taken a high rank among the many social and moral endeavors that have marked the progress of this city.

These meetings have been developed under the direction of the members of Boston Baptist Social Union in the true spirit of Daniel Sharp Ford, the founder, with marked liberality and enterprise. Through and by them, we have been given a splendid exposition of a true religious spirit, that transcends all sectarian bias and affiliations, a radiant exemplification of inclusiveness that ignores all racial lines, caste and class divisions and distinctions.

These prominent features have caused these meetings to be fraught with blessings to all who have been privileged to participate in them, and they have been fruitful by inspiring us with courage and zeal, to grapple with those social and economic problems that challenge public attention and are pressing for solution.

We extend our sincere congratulations and felicitations to the Boston Baptist Social Union upon the arrival of this happy occasion, and we are glad to embrace the opportunity which it affords, to acknowledge our indebtedness to them and to that wonderful man, Daniel Sharp Ford whose gift they administer, for the benefits conferred, and to assure them of our sincere appreciation of the many opportunities they have afforded us for mental improvement and moral instruction.

We respectfully urge upon the members of the Boston Baptist Social Union the propriety and expediency of a continuance and possible extension of these meetings, as each successive year is making them more and more of a factor for good, not only in the in-

dividual lives of those who attend the meetings, but also in the communal and civic life of those communities of which Boston is the common center, and lastly, because these meetings are a visible expression on the part of the Social Union of its good-will, sympathy and co-operation with all those moral and social forces that are working to promote the general welfare, and of all who are longing for a realization of the greatest of all religious ideals. "Peace on earth, good-will to all men."

Committee of Ford Hall Folks.

Prof. Zueblin appropriately headed the list in the letters from friends and admirers of the Ford Hall Meetings, which Miss Noyes now read.

To Mr. Coleman,
Dear Father Superior:

"On the fifth anniversary of the birth of your child, for which I am one of the innumerable Godfathers, I want to congratulate you and rejoice with you in the gratifying progress of the infant.

"If we are to get free speech on the one hand and an expression of our national faith on the other, it will be largely by multiplying big, reasonable catholic and spiritual forums, like the Ford Hall meetings. They prove that we can voice our common faith without fearing or being demoralized by our differences.

"May you get your compensation in their perpetuation and extension."

Then came the "prize letter," the one selected by the committee from the scores of letters sent in to be printed on the Birthday Souvenir Program as particularly typical of the Ford Hall sentiment. There is a lot to be read between the lines in this letter from a Jew to the Movement he so dearly loves. A lesson is here for us all if we have but the eyes and heart for it.

December 24, 1912.

Ford Hall,

Cradle of Fraternity.
Greetings:—

Ford Hall: what magic in its name; what a charmed atmosphere surrounds it! 'Tis Christmas Eve; I am penning these lines while the Christmas carols are being chanted in the adjoining streets: "Peace on earth, good will to men." Ah, the dream of the millennium! I arise sore at heart, open the window of my rear room; there stands Ford Hall: how silent, how mute, but hold,—how eloquent and majestic it is, even in its mute-

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ness, for it seems to cry out in the
night,—“Why can Jew and Gentile,
rich or poor, meet here on common
ground as brothers all, and not every-
where!” “’Tis Sunday, come Stranger,
from whatever clime, professing what
faith, and enter with me, within its
portals, dedicated to the brotherhood
of man.” Note how joyous everyone
appears to be! There is the Jew, the
negro, the Irish, the Italian, the Yan-
kee, aye, even the Turk; never a dis-
turbance, never even an ill-spoken
word, my honor for it, though they
have been standing in the cold with-
out for two hours full. And this, for
five seasons past! Ah, the Sunday
nights; how I long for them! Kind
and genial Coleman in the chair;
sweet and sisterly Miss Crawford at
her faithful post; while there is Bro.
Gutterson at the piano. Observe his
contented smile, for his soul is in the
song. A song of dogmatic creed?
Happily, no; for you are in Ford Hall
now and ’tis the brotherhood song.
The fatherhood of God is in the very
air. And to think that Sunday even-
ing theatre concerts once held charms
for me; oh, the horror of it. The
speaker has rendered his discourse;
many have disagreed with him, but
mark you, not one discourteous act
has been noted. I am a Jew, you
know, and some of the dearest friends
I possess were formerly rabid Jew-
haters. But such animosity cannot
exist in Ford Hall atmosphere; it
melts. And you may rest assured
that I in return have learned to love
my Christian neighbors, God bless
them. Such is Christianity, Stranger,
as Ford Hall expounds it.

Members of the Baptist Social Union:

A parting word as regards your
Chairman at Ford Hall. Speaking as
a Jew on behalf of the Jews, I can
truthfully state with all sincerity,
that the name of George W. Coleman
is held with the tenderest affection;
while his loftiness of purpose, com-
bined with such genial personality,
has attained for him a popularity
among them, that cannot be likened
unto another in our midst.

IN MEMORIAM.

Daniel Sharp Ford: may his name
forever be linked with posterity, and
his life's work an inspiration for oth-
ers to go and do likewise.

Peace to his memory!

Samuel Sackmary,
45 Joy street, Boston.

THE BROAD, FREE VIEW.

(Written for The Birthday)

The broad, free view of earth and sky,
Our human natures truly seek,
Is gained along the path of life
That leads to some great mountain
peak.

For as we make the upward climb,
The earth expands in larger plan,
And all the circling worlds evolve
The grander thought of God and
man.

Set free from narrow, crooked ways,
Old party walls and creedal bars,
With joy, we take the open road,
At night, we see the glorious stars.

And he who gains the clear, calm
height,
Where heaven's blue banner is un-
furled,
May kindle with the torch of truth
A beacon light for all the world.

WILLIAM W. LOCKE,
(Civic Service House, Boston.)

Rabbi Maurice H. Harris, D. D.,
Temple Israel,
Harlem, New York,

"Five years is a short period in the
life of an individual, still shorter in
the life of an institution; yet within
that brief span Ford Hall as an uplift-
ing centre has come to be known and
felt not only in Boston, the city of its
immediate location, but in localities
far and wide. This people's forum,
among other things, has become an
unsectarian church, its platform broad
enough to hospitably accommodate all
religions. Its eclectic creed includes
the self-denial of Buddha, the con-
tagious enthusiasm of Mohammed, the
ethics of Confucius, the compassion of
Jesus, the decalogue of Moses.

"It has also fed the artistic side of
the vast throngs it welcomed and con-
tributed to their elevating pleasure.
It would be impossible to measure its
protective service, the sordid indul-
gence from which it may have drawn
many of its attendants by its inviting
and instructive program. In this re-
spect it has offered a model of what
almost every church might be. . . .
It is the new work needed for this new
age. The fittest survives. Ford Hall
will live because it deserves to live."

Rev. John Haynes Holmes,
Minister, Church of the Messiah,
New York.

"I am indeed proud and happy to be included in the great army of your friends and admirers who are banding themselves together on this occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Ford Hall movement to testify to you their affection for you personally and their unbounded enthusiasm for the wonderful work which you have done, and are still doing for the cause of political democracy, industrial freedom and socialized religion. I salute you, sir, as one of the wisest, bravest and most comradely leaders of this age of far-visioned prophets and heroic crusaders."

Henry Abrahams,
Secretary, Cigarmakers' International Union, No. 97.

"A trade unionist, pure and simple, who believes in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, I desire to express my appreciation of what Ford Hall is doing for the masses. There, on every Sunday evening, one has the opportunity to listen to some master mind, hear fine singing, beautiful music, and all without any cost of any kind. Here Jew and Christian, white and black, men and women from all walks of life mingle. Truly the Christian is beginning to understand Christianity. And it was left to the Baptist Church to solve the problem of why men do not go to church. May God speed you and your able secretary in your noble mission!"

Rev. Charles Stelzle,
The Board of Home Missions of the
Presbyterian Church of America.
Bureau of Social Service Superintendent.

"Whether it knows it or not, the Protestant Church, to say nothing about the Jewish Church and the Catholic Church, is under a distinct obligation to you and those associated with you for the splendid work that you have done at Ford Hall during the past five years. The men and women of labor are indebted to you, for you have given inspiration to their highest hopes and aspirations through the speakers invited to address the audiences at Ford Hall. There has come out of these open Forum discussions a better understanding of the problems of the people. Most of all, the men and women who have never had a touch on the life of the workers are

indebted to you for they have had their own lives enlarged as they caught the vision which has already come to their humbler brothers and sisters. I am personally indebted to you, for it was at Ford Hall that I learned more of the spirit so much needed in my own work."

Rev. Lyman Abbott, D. D.,
The Outlook.

"You have proved in Boston as the Sunday Club has proved in Chicago, and as other lesser enterprises have proved in other parts of the country, that whenever the Church forgets itself and thinks only of the service which it can render, it finds that the people are interested in problems of the religious life more profoundly than in any other problem, and will flock in great numbers to hear these problems discussed in a vital way by vital men."

Rev. Harold Marshall,
Melrose.

"For a hundred years we Universalists have been proclaiming a belief that religion is a human attribute; but here in the cradle of liberal Christianity we left it to you to conduct the first serious laboratory experiment to test the theory. Some day Ford Hall will be recognized as a spiritual Plymouth Rock."

Livy S. Richard,
Editor The Boston Common.

"As I am about to leave Boston after a study of the people and institutions covering nearly three years, I want to put on record a brief estimate of one of the most exhilarating personalities I have met, and one of the most stimulating of the institutions."

"To find in one person a well-balanced combination of physical virility, mental power, spiritual insight and fine human sympathy is to locate what I conceive to be the best asset that exists. Boston is mighty lucky to have such an asset in George W. Coleman."

"I put the person first because he explains the institution."

"In the Ford Hall meetings you have answered the question—What is to be the salvation of our American Democracy—Only by its members coming to know each other as brothers will that democracy survive."

Louis A. Chandler,
Boston.

These meetings stand for the highest type of moral and educational influences.

Rev. Edmund F. Mer
Of the Watchman,
Boston, Mass.

"The old cry that not take any interest in meetings. Mr. G. Col
Ford Hall meetings by
refutation of that cry"

J. J. Fraser.

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Freda Rogolsky,
115 Chambers street

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Rev. Edmund F. Merriam, D.D.,
 Of the Watchman,
 Boston, Mass.

"The old cry that the churches do
 not take any interest in the working
 people is seldom heard now since the
 Ford Hall meetings became a standing
 refutation of that charge."

J. J. Fraser.

I am an agnostic, and the Baptist
 Social Union deserves great praise for
 its liberal spirit in continuing the
 meetings. Mr. G. Coleman is the live
 wire and the man behind the gun.

Freda Rogolsky,
 115 Chambers street, Boston.

"Ford Hall is like our harbor, get-
 ting too small to hold all the people
 who come from all parts and are
 turned away.

"Ford Hall could be compared to
 the 'melting pot,' where we all come
 together, forgetting all prejudices, and
 are brothers listening to how we may
 better the conditions and make this
 world a better place to live in for our
 next generations.

"There are many places now where
 the doors are being opened to all the
 people, but they have no Mr. Coleman.
 Mr. Coleman, like a compass, guided
 us in the hour of need when every-
 thing seemed dark."

"To think that we can hear from
 the same platform a woman interest-
 ed in schools, a Jewish Rabbi, a Chris-
 tian minister, a Socialist, a Chinese
 woman and a Jewish philanthropist, is
 more than I can understand. I feel
 that the time is coming when we shall
 recognize that we all have to live for
 each other, and that we are all
 brothers in spite of the fact that we
 are of different religions."

Miss Mary Mason.

"One of the most pleasing results in
 connection with the Ford Hall move-
 ment is the melting away of racial
 prejudice, more especially between
 Jew and Gentile.

"The Gentile in the main suffers
 badly for an eye-opener with regard
 to his brother Jew. But when he has
 heard Harris, Wise, Schulman and
 Fleischer from the Ford Hall platform
 light begins to dawn upon him.

"And those professors from the the-
 ological seminaries, what kind of
 young preachers are they going to
 send out? Not stand-patters, surely.
 Ford Hall will have to look to her
 laurels soon. Churches under this
 leadership may overtake and pass her.
 Meanwhile, just wait and see. Within
 five years the haven of Ford Hall's

progressive thought will have leav-
 ened the whole lump of orthodox re-
 ligious thinking in Boston town and
 far beyond."

Pres. David Starr Jordan,
 Stanford University, California.

"As one interested in the work at
 Ford Hall and as one who has had the
 exciting pleasure of addressing the
 people there, I send a word of congrat-
 ulation and good will. I am deeply
 impressed with good which can be
 done in institutions like this in which
 men who have a mission of some kind
 are brought in contact with the peo-
 ple, and peop'e have opportunity
 freely to talk back."

Prof. Charles P. Fagnani, D. D.,
 Union Theological Seminary, New
 York.

"Like father like child. How could
 Ford Hall be anything but fine, demo-
 cratic, inspiring and Christian (in the
 true sense of that much abused word)
 when it has George W. Coleman for its
almus pater! The greatest life work
 conceivable, a privilege reserved only
 for a few, is that of being the founder
 of a great institution, of incarnating
 one's highest ideals and aspirations
 and endeavors in the enduring organ-
 ism of a social structure which will go
 on flourishing when the heart and
 brain that gave it birth have graduat-
 ed into spheres of higher service still."

Russell B. Kingman,
 New York City.

"In the Ford Hall meetings you have
 brought me my religion, for up to the
 time I had the good fortune to know
 this movement, I must frankly confess
 a backsliding tendency, and now that
 I am launched in a new field, I so miss
 Ford Hall that I am prompted to plant
 similar seed in this community. Be-
 fore a year expires I believe you will
 hear of a similar movement in New-
 ark, New Jersey. Moreover if I have
 my way I am going to call the move-
 ment Ford Hall meetings.

"I never believed it possible to love
 in such a personal sense every mem-
 ber of an aggregation of people."

Rev. Charles C. Earle, D.D.,
 Ruggles Street Baptist Church.

"Like John, the Baptist, of the first
 century and Martin Luther of the six-
 teenth, you have been in the vanguard
 of the great awakening which is of
 chief importance in modern times.
 . . . Your task is comparable to
 that of Moses or Lincoln, leading the
 way to the Promised Land of Emanci-
 pation from Social Bondage."

you have accomplished this seeming miracle full testimony is borne in this multitude of astonishing letters. What may be the future influence of this movement, which you have inaugurated, upon society at large no one can know. It might be well if the great captains of material resources of our times could emulate your example and establish 10,000 such groups tomorrow throughout the world.

We, however, are chiefly concerned tonight to turn over to you this record of what you have accomplished for us and with us here in these five years. We believe in you and your leadership; we make you the exponent of our choicest and highest hopes; we even believe that should you be called upon to make the supreme sacrifice for the success of this work and the spiritual evolution of humanity, you would gladly make it. So we bring here and present to you tonight, Mr. Coleman, this carefully prepared volume which contains the best we have to give,—our purest thoughts, in a truest sense, a gift of ourselves, and we ask you to accept and cherish it as an historical monument of the work which you have begun and a memorial of our highest esteem and affection. It is a pledge of the blood brotherhood which you have inspired us to feel in our hearts and to manifest in our lives.

In the name of Daniel Sharp Ford, and for the Ford Hall Folks, and all sympathizers with the Ford Hall movement, I give you this book. (Applause.)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY MR. COLEMAN.

Before I speak a word for myself I am going to say a few words for the speaker of the evening. I was prepared not to say anything, in order to give him an opportunity, but Miss Crawford has provided a very happy way out of it, and that is that we ask Dr. Gifford to be our special speaker, on the subject that he had selected for this evening, on our last Sunday night in the season—the second week in April. I know he has a splendid message for you.

Mr. Gallup and friends: If I could escape this moment I think I would be willing to go with Sheriff Quinn over to Charles Street Jail. (Laughter.) The hour is so late that I will not attempt to tell you anything like what is in my heart. I would simply say this: If that book were not so

big, I would clasp it to my heart as an expression of my appreciation of what you have brought to me in these beautiful sentiments.

I do want to say this much: that in addition to thanking so many in the Social Union and out of the Social Union for the help they have given, and for what they have contributed in making these meetings possible, I thank God from the bottom of my heart, when I stop to think of how many hundreds of times, on hundreds of occasions, our work might have all gone for naught because of obstructions and difficulties and hindrances, over which no one of us could possibly have had any control whatever. Working as hard as we might, with all the patience and skill that we could command, with all the love and sympathy in our hearts, we might still have blundered so fearfully as to have made it impossible for us to continue this unique work. So I say from my heart, and I know from many of your hearts that we thank God that we have been permitted during these five years to carry on this work.

This has been a place, literally, where the lion and the lamb could lie down together without danger of being eaten up. (Applause.) The Jew and the Gentile, the Catholic and the Protestant, the believer and the unbeliever, the rich and the poor, the conservative and the radical, men and women all representing our entire community life, have been privileged to come together here every Sunday night and discuss the most vital things that concern the human mind and the human heart. And yet, as you all know, in all these five years, with the hall crowded full, with sometimes the most intense interest prevailing, never once, as the Chairman of these meetings, have I been obliged to use even as much as a gavel to maintain order. (Applause.)

There is a great deal in my heart that I would like to say to you but I will not detain you in order to do so. You know me well enough (laughter and applause) to know that I do not take all that has been said about me literally (laughter), but you know me well enough to know, also that I do take it, full measure and running over, as an expression of the love and good will of your hearts. (Applause.)

No gift that you could have made to me of silver or gold, done with the best workmanship; nothing studded with the most precious gems, could have stood in comparison at all with what is in these letters and in the

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beautiful book. I have almost been
wishing that I might be sick for a
short time in order that I could go
away and have a chance to read them.
(Laughter and applause.) But I am
going to read them, inch by inch, and
minute by minute, and then re-read
them for the blessing that they will
bring to my own heart, and the
strength that they will bring to me as
we go on with this work. And as I
have read them, one by one, I have
said, Well, I wish you all could read
these letters; but that may not be
possible; you have heard splendid
samples of them here tonight. I think
you would like to get an opportunity
to get a little closer inspection of the
book than you will have time and op-
portunity for tonight, and I hope, with
Mrs. Coleman's permission, to invite
you all up to the house (laughter and
applause), and have the book on ex-
hibition, and we will keep open house
that night and the Ford Hall Folks
will come and go, according to their
other engagements for the evening.
Then will be given an opportunity to
you to examine the book more closely
than you have been able or will be
able to do this evening. (Applause.)

I must say one word in a way of ap-
preciation of the help that has come
to me in all this work from the very
beginning, after the first series, in the
splendid assistance which Miss Craw-
ford has rendered. (Applause.) As a
busy business man, with many things
besides this outside of my business to
engage my attention, it would have
been absolutely impossible for me to
have done the work that Miss Craw-
ford has done. I never could have
done some of the work half as well if
I had all the time in the world! Her
ingenuity, energy and faithfulness has
meant, as the resolutions said, more
than any of us can know.

It always happens, and it must
necessarily be so, I suppose, that in
any work, some one particular person
has to be rather, more than the rest,
in the lime light, and that has fallen
to me, but there are others just as
useful, and when I think of the ushers,
Mr. Roberts, Mr. Gutterson and the
newspaper men—it is literally true
that, had it not been for the work
that the newspaper men did, especial-
ly Mr. Philpott of the Globe—I am go-
ing to mention him and single him
out (applause)—in the very beginning,
and also the work done by the re-
ligious papers in this city, this move-
ment could not have lived. It was the
public opinion created in the city by
the daily press, and the good opinion

created among church people by two
or three friendly religious papers that
saved the day when, as you know,
many a time this work hung in the
balance.

I must say one more word
(laughter), and that is this: Al-
though, perhaps, my chief struggles
in the beginning were with my own
brethren of the Baptist Social Union,
nevertheless, I want to say to them,
and I want to say it in your presence,
that I am more than ever proud and
happy to be a Baptist because of what
they have done during these five years
and in standing by these meetings.
You must remember that it was en-
tirely a unique work—never heard of
before—a denominational church with
its limitations, supporting, cherishing,
extending a great work, universal in
its appeal. The church literally spend-
ing itself, its money, its time, its
energy, its love in service of the com-
munity and never once thinking of it-
self. It has never been done before,
that I know of. (Prolonged applause.)
And when you remember that these
men in the Social Union, all of them
laymen, business men, most of them
deacons and superintendents in the
Church a majority of them of middle
age, or past middle age; when you
think that they had the patience and
gentleness and trust and confidence
and good will to let me go ahead with
this thing when I could not promise
them at all what it was going to be,
for I did not know myself, you will
understand that they really deserve a
very great deal of the credit on this,
our Fifth Anniversary. (Applause.)

And just let me say in closing; yes,
I do not wonder you laugh.
(Laughter.) But this is really and
truly the closing. (Laughter.)

[It was 10 o'clock by this time and
we had not even got to the speaker
of the evening.]

I have had a good many lessons in
my life to the effect that "It is more
blessed to give than to receive." Well,
you may say I am not in a position to
preach that gospel tonight. (Laugh-
ter.) But if there had been no such
expression as this superb book repre-
sents, and these beautiful testimonials
represent; if nothing of that sort had
come to me this evening; if I only had
the support of the work that has been
done in the last five years, as I have
looked into your faces Sunday night
after Sunday night, I would say to
you frankly, that in all my life, in all
the church work that I have been
through (and I worked from one
branch to another, all the way up),

nothing that I have ever done, or tried to do, that was altruistic in its principle, or was brotherly in its motives, has brought me so much satisfaction and joy and contentment as has what I have tried to do here in connection with these meetings. And I want to recommend, from my own experience, that no matter how busy you are, no matter how driven you are, no matter

what other responsibilities you have, it PAYS, it PAYS, it PAYS, every time, money aside, even the good will and respect and regard of those whom you have been accustomed to associate with aside, and who do not at all understand what you are struggling for. The satisfaction of such service as this is like unto nothing else on the face of the earth.



MR. COLEMAN

DEDICATORY.

This book is the unique tribute of a multitude to one man, as well as an historical monument to a marvelous work. Even those who have contributed to this extraordinary record, while prophesying of the future of the Ford Hall meetings and of their leader, George William Coleman, are not wholly competent to predict how great will be the influence of this work and this man on the social evolution that is taking place. The study of the letters which make up this collection will reveal to keen critics, historians and philosophers at some future period how great a contribution has been made to the future political state, and a purer, better social fabric, by this institution under the inspiration and direction of a great leader.

To us who assist in this work and help to shape this record, nothing appears more clear than that the Ford Hall meetings typify the long her-

alded dream of a true brotherhood of man, and that our beloved leader was chosen as the prophets of old, to bring this work to pass. We believe its inspiration will endure and extend in some form to all lands and to all people. Herein will be discovered, in this unexampled collection of letters, the fervent hope, the irresistible aspiration of men and women of every race and creed, yearning towards that success in living and that unity of belief and action which, like a sacred beacon, have flamed in the heart and guided the will of our friend, brother and devoted way-shower, George William Coleman.

The letters from a multitude of friends and the printed tributes from the periodical press best tell the story of all time of the work and the man.

We give and dedicate this record to the good of all humanity, with deep affection for the recipient, in whose possession we desire it shall always remain as a monument to his fidelity and a perpetual testimonial to our good will and faith in the future.