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Very Respectfully,  
Chordal

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P 42  
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# EXTRACTS

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FROM

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# CHORDAL'S LETTERS.

COMPRISING THE CHOICEST SELECTIONS FROM THE SERIES OF ARTICLES ENTITLED  
"EXTRACTS FROM CHORDAL'S LETTERS," WHICH HAVE BEEN APPEARING  
FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS IN THE COLUMNS OF  
THE AMERICAN MACHINIST.

*WITH STEEL PORTRAIT OF THE AUTHOR; ALSO, ORIGINAL  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHAS. F. TAYLOR.*

PREFACE BY THE AUTHOR.

NEW AND ENLARGED EDITION, WITH ADDITIONAL PLATES.

NINTH EDITION.

SECOND THOUSAND.



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## P R E F A C E .

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The letters to the Editor of the AMERICAN MACHINIST. from which he has made so many extracts under the title of "Extracts from Chordal's Letters," were written with pleasure to the author. They were without any continued thought on any one subject, being intended as the presentation of the topic, rather than the thought.

With such intentions, it made little difference which side of a question was taken, or that an opposite side was taken in a succeeding letter.

There is but little need of consistency, where there is no tenacity of view.

A pleasure has also followed the writing of these letters. It has often come to the author's knowledge, that they were read by people who, as a rule, never read anything. It is not known that this proves merit in the letters, but there is a pleasure in knowing that one has in the smallest way, or in any way, been instrumental in getting anybody into the habit of reading anything.

There is plenty of shop in these letters; good shop and bad shop; in fact, they are shop letters, written for shop men, by a shop man, who has as much interest in the people who go into the shops, as in the marvelous products which come out of the shops.

As if there were not enough of the mechanic in these letters, it seems a pity to miss the chance, in a preface, to express the view that we live in a peculiar land, under a peculiar form of government, surrounded by peculiar social conditions.

In other lands, the well-being of all depends on the wisdom of the few who rule. In our land, the well-being of all depends on the wisdom of the mass, who select their rulers. In other lands, the ignorance of the mass will insure the stability of the existing civic form.

In our land, the ignorance of the mass will insure the total destruction of the existing civic form.

The shop men form a large proportion of our civic mass. They must be more than workmen; they must be citizens. They must have more than skill; they must have education.

Education and wise citizenship cost money. The mechanic of the Republic must be better paid than the mechanic of the Monarchy.

Our mechanics are wiser citizens than are the mechanics of any other land, and they are better paid than in other lands.

The Republic owes it to its mechanics, that it pay the hire of good citizens; and the mechanic owes it to the Republic, that he make himself worthy of a citizen's hire, as well as the workman's hire.

JAMES W. SEE.

HAMILTON, OHIO.