

"Is Hull House All?" *The New World* (October 24, 1903): 17.

For several months the Record-Herald of this city has been presenting studies of our foreign-born population—Germans, Irish, Poles, Bohemians, Jews, Austrians, Italians, Greeks, French Canadians and various other nationalities have received exhaustive treatment. In the main the series has been excellent, yet we maintain that the conclusion is remarkably impotent.

Why? Because the writer deliberately asserts that the great factor in training all those people in citizenship is Hull House—an institution that is boldly charged with being socialistic, anarchistic, free-lovistic [*sic*] and we know not what else, in the columns of one of the great dailies of the city. How true these charges are we do not know. They have not been denied, and it is certain that socialists and anarchists are allowed to lecture there pretty freely. Of this more hereafter, perhaps.

But really, is Hull House the chief agency for diffusing culture and teaching civilization in Chicago? We do not so believe. When we reflect upon the tremendous number of German Catholic churches and schools, Irish Catholic churches and schools, French Catholic churches and schools, and Catholic churches and schools for Poles, Bohemians, Italians, Austrians and even Syrians, we feel obliged to enter a protest for the sake of truth. It is a fact most easily proved that nearly three-fourths of our foreign-born population are directly under the rule of the Catholic Church. It is building civilization here after a manner which Hull House does not understand and cannot appreciate. It is a fact visible to God that the Catholic Church in Chicago is doing more to create a snow-white dawn among all the races surging into this great, restless, terrible city than fifty

Hull Houses could do, and if one but stop and reflect impartially it will be equally visible to man.

Can we, indeed, believe that the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, whose hands are reached down into the black, desolate slums, drawing hundreds of young women from thence to lives of penitence and morality, are not building civilization out of rottenness itself? Can we believe that the Little Sisters of the Poor are not uplifting thousands? And the Visitation Society, the members of which go from home to home, nursing the poor, strengthening the unfortunate, teaching the weak and vicious—is not a strong force for holier living? No one can go down among the poor and ignorant and see the work the Vincentians are doing without finding his eyes fill with tears. And all this labor of priest and nun and layman is not performed in order that men may praise, but in order that God may be served and humanity bettered. Nay; Hull House, whatever it may be, is not all. It is not the one-fiftieth part of all. The Catholic masses are advancing here as in no other city in the world and the great, dawn-building Catholic Church is the cause. There is no uplifting influence like it on all the earth, and at least some part of the good it does ought to be recognized by secularism.