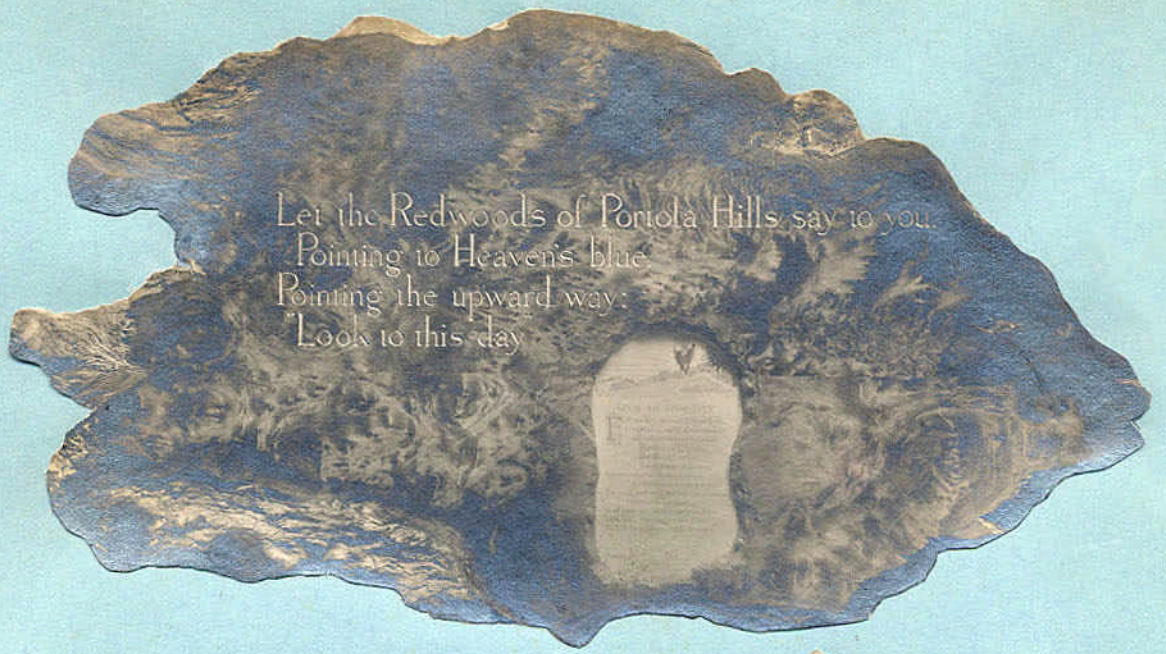


# PORTOLA HALL

*A description of the  
country estate of  
August Schilling  
situated on the  
wooded slopes of the  
Portola Hills  
San Mateo County  
California*





*Portola Hall* was to have been sold—that was the motive of this book. At the last moment Mr. Schilling decided upon an effort to make it serve a higher purpose than is conceivably associated with private residence property.

This engraved redwood slab with its quotation from the Sanskrit was prepared to reflect the spirit of that purpose.

An outline of the thought is given on the other half of this insert.



#### LOOK TO THIS DAY

**F**OR it is Life, the very Life of Life.  
In its brief course lie all the varieties  
and realities of your existence.

The bliss of Growth,  
The glory of Action,  
The splendor of Beauty;

For yesterday is already a dream,  
and tomorrow is only a vision;  
But today, well-lived, makes every yesterday  
a dream of happiness,

And every tomorrow a vision of hope.  
Look well, therefore, to this Day.  
Such is the salutation of the Dawn.

*From the Sanskrit*



## WHENCE THE NAME?

(Portola Hills, Portola Woods, Portola Valley, Portola Hall)

From the book printed under the auspices of the California Promotion Committee, describing the March of Portola and the discovery of San Francisco Bay, we take this passage:

On the 6th, [November 1769] they reached the end of the cañada, which suddenly turned to the east, and saw that the estero\* was finished in a spacious valley. To the cañada they gave the name of San Francisco.† Traveling a short distance towards the east, they camped on a deep arroyo, whose waters came down from the sierra and flowed precipitately into the estero. They were on San Francisquito creek, near the site of Stanford University.‡

\*The Bay of San Francisco continued to be called the "Estero," until some time after General Anza established the presidio and mission of San Francisco in 1776.

†The present name, Cañada de San Andreas, was given by Rivera, November 30, 1774.

‡In November, 1774, Rivera came up the peninsula on an exploring expedition and on the spot where he had camped with the first expedition in 1769, he placed a cross to mark the place for a mission. In March, 1776, Col. Juan Bautista de Anza, coming to select sites for the Presidio and Mission of San Francisco, notes this cross on the bank of the Arroyo de San Francisco (now San Francisquito Creek), about one hundred paces above the great redwood tree, and says the plan for a mission there was abandoned because the woods were dry in summer. I note this explanation because an excellent authority has located Portola's camp on Redwood creek.

Recent careful review of available data warrants the conclusion that Portola had his first view of San Francisco Bay from some point on what are now known as Portola Hills.

Hence the name.

The exact place no one knows, of course. But we know what a seasoned traveler he was: just ending a pathfinder's journey over five hundred miles of rocky and mountainous coast. With due regard to the contour of the country, fancy may reasonably take the license to pick out the spot. At a point so chosen, it is now contemplated to erect a modest monument.

It needs no flight of imagination to assume that the very next attraction for his eyes was Arden Hills, across the Bay, freakishly thrown up out of a wide expanse of marsh lands, a strangely detached formation, like a playful afterthought of Nature.

Arden Hills landscaped and beautified, a crown for the wonderful industrial development at their feet (inherent in the matchless advantages of the location) are part of the vision embodied in "Portola Hall."

# PORTOLA HALL

*The country estate of  
Mr. August Schilling, in California,  
now offered at private sale*





PORTOLA HALL FROM THE MAIN DRIVE

# PORTOLA HALL

*A description of the country estate of  
August Schilling, situated on the wooded slopes  
of the Portola Hills in  
San Mateo County, California*

IT is quite rare, in California, to find purchasable such a country home as Portola Hall. Most houses now available here—those at all suitable for any establishment of size—are new; their whole atmosphere is of newness. Owners of developed estates only occasionally dispose of their properties. Portola Hall is not new, except in its furnishings and conveniences.

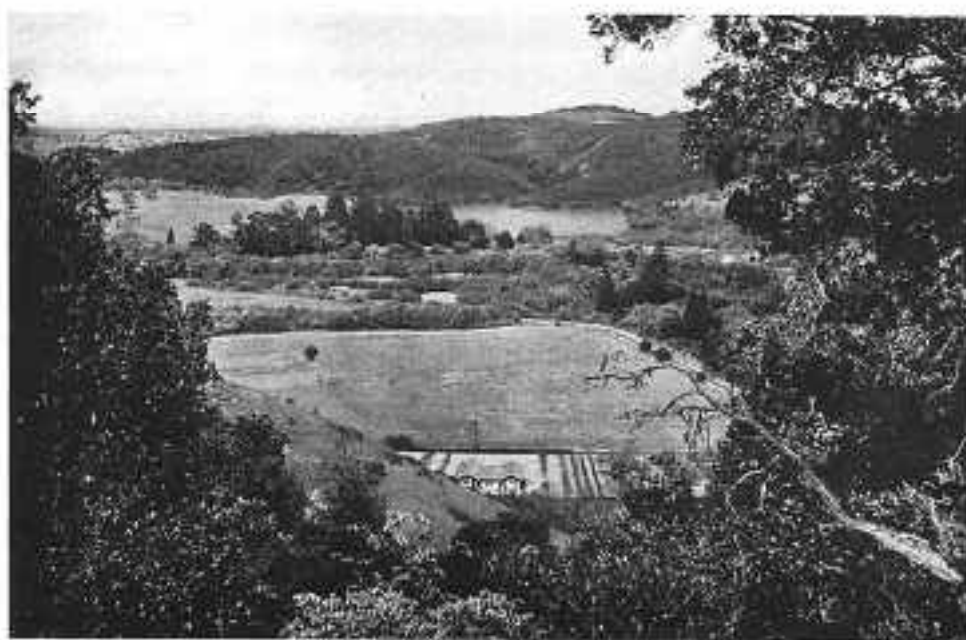
Portola Hall was selected ten years ago by its present owner because of its charm. The dwelling has been augmented and refurnished, the grounds have been further developed under his personal care. Some two hundred thousand dollars have been invested in the improvements on this estate.

So there is nothing uncertain as to Portola Hall. The house has sheltered its generation; its comfort is assured and the attractiveness of the landscaping is plainly to be seen.

But the family it has sheltered is now scattered, and Portola Hall is to be sold.



Portola Hall's own hills rise to command a view far over the rolling San Mateo Peninsula.



There is a small lake not far from Portola Hall; it is seen here from one of the bridle paths.



Though selected for environment, climate, and intrinsic charm, Portola Hall fortunately has available the so-called modern conveniences; with also a large city easily accessible.



## Portola Hall is Situated

in the heart of the San Mateo Peninsula of California. It is surrounded by the estates of many prominent Californians who wish to be near the business and social activities of San Francisco, yet desire the almost perpetual sunniness of the Peninsula.

Portola Hall is thirty miles from San Francisco by paved road—mostly State Highway. It is eight miles from the Southern Pacific railway at Redwood City.

Such service as daily deliveries of foods and mail from the neighboring village, telephone and electricity, is of course available. The Burlingame and Menlo Country Clubs—a short way up the Peninsula—afford golf courses, polo, other usual diversions.

Portola Hall is a neighbor to these—from its setting against the hills which form the backbone of the Peninsula. Rolling, wooded country, substantial estates, fertile fields—the gaze may sweep over these to shining San Francisco Bay far beyond.

Photographs give poor ideas of such a prospect. Elbert Hubbard succeeded better in picturing it with his glowing words in "*A Little Journey to San Mateo County.*"



"... the 'Broad Oak' which stands guardian just in front of Portola Hall",



—compared with this view at back of the Hall:—the fringe of the wilderness.

In its hundred acres, Portola Hall runs the gamut from wild hillside to gentle swale, from redwood to the tender plants of highest modern cultivation.



## The Estate of Portola Hall

covers over one hundred acres. Some of this is still wilderness, with native bush and liveoaks among towering California Redwoods. This part of the property is accessible by the bridle-paths and roads which lead to principal scenic points.

There is a bathing pool—of course!—with a sparkling cascade at one end, where a pump keeps the water fresh-flowing at all times of the year.

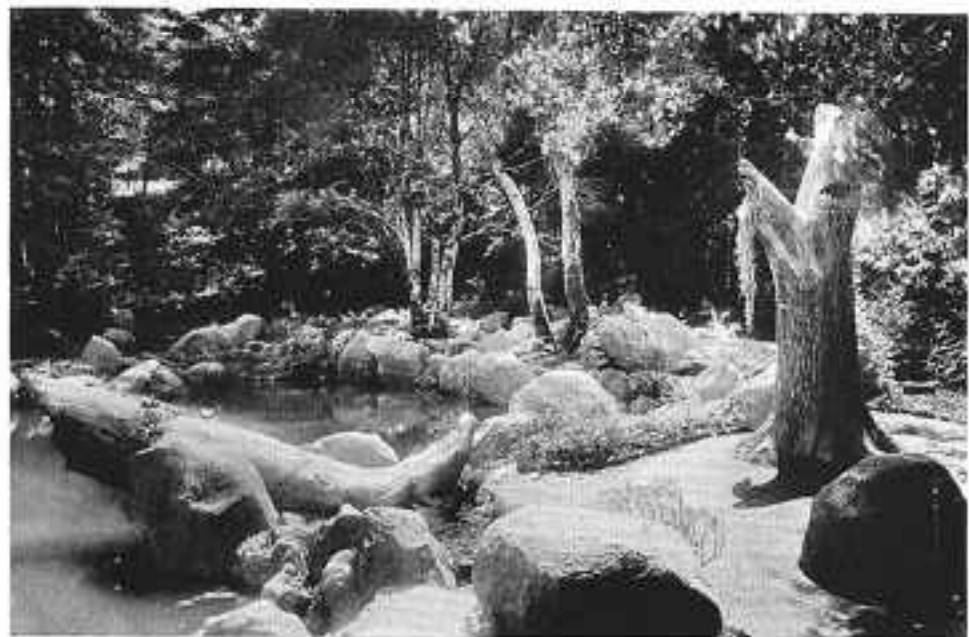
The rest of the property is landscaped and under high cultivation. Around the main dwelling are trees and shrubs of many rare species; there were transplanted, for instance, five hundred of the hydrangeas exhibited at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition at San Francisco in 1915.

Farther from the house are orchards of all the standard fruits, now at the age of full bearing; as well as berries and vines. On a far hillside are poultry runs and the apiary.

And finally—the live oaks dotted throughout the property; dominated by the "Broad Oak" which stands guardian just in front of Portola Hall.



There are trees of many kinds and sizes; but here the Redwoods tower over all.



A stream as large as this is by no means common among California estates.



The stream as it wanders across the glen, seems eternally undecided as to its proper direction.





Soil and climate seem kind to the cultivated plants—as well as the wild.



Even semi-tropical trees and palms are permitted by the sunniness here.



The buildings of Portola Hall are all of a substantial character, including the great house with all its modern conveniences, "Sunny Run" lodge, with thirty-five rooms and the many farm service buildings.



## The Buildings of Portola Hall

include the principal dwelling, a lodge known as "Sunny Run," and the many necessary service buildings.

Portola Hall is a substantial building of twenty-eight rooms, designed essentially for the comfort of its occupants. It affords all conveniences such as thorough modern plumbing and furnace heat.

The first floor contains reception and living rooms—dining room, library and billiard room. Opening from the music room is a large glass enclosed porch, used as a conservatory and sun room.

On the second floor are seven bed chambers with four well appointed baths. These all open from a balcony overhanging and completely encircling the reception hall below, and reached by a broad staircase. Servants' rooms and emergency guest rooms are on the third floor.

The Lodge deserves special notice. It was evolved from a picturesque winery standing across the glen from the Hall. It contains complete living quarters roughly finished, including thirty-five sleeping rooms; and, as may be supposed, has sheltered large house parties.

The garage is on the highway at the entrance to the grounds. There is space for several automobiles, with drivers' quarters above.

The chief gardener is provided with a modern cottage, set in the midst of orchards.



Entering Portola Hall from the highway one crosses a bridge over the glen, then passes this gateway.



Portola Hall, framed with trees, as seen from across the broad lawns which front it.

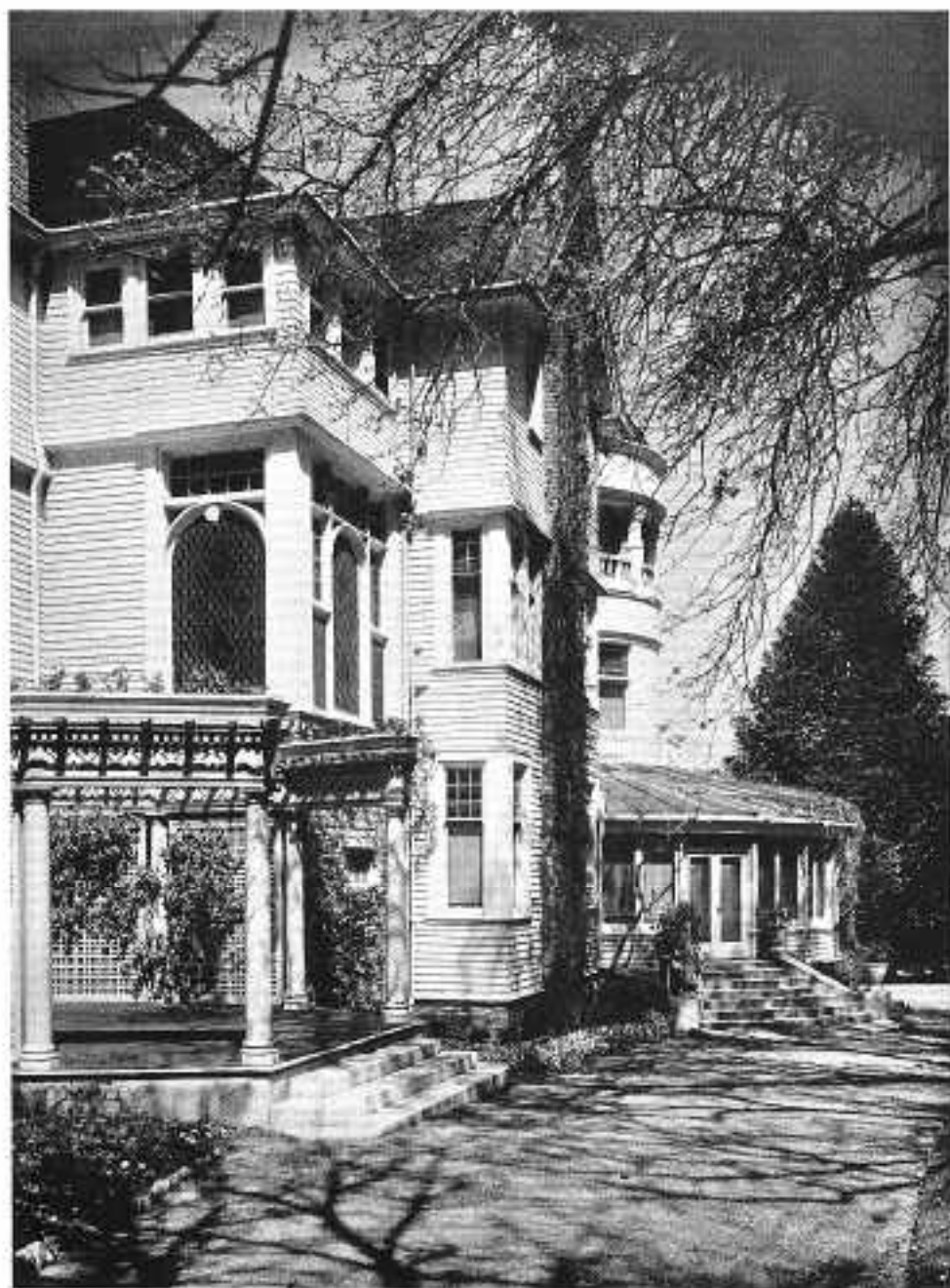




The lodge is set apart, among gnarled trees and brush well in harmony with it.



In approaching Portola Hall along the highway, the garage first comes into view.



Surrounded, yet not shadowed, by its protecting trees, Portola Hall invites the sunlight.

The furnishings and decorations were done by competent decorators. The result is a feeling of pleasing harmony—as well as elegance—in Portola Hall interiors.

## The Interior of Portola Hall

THE LIVING ROOMS are finished entirely in oak, with inlaid floors and solid beams. Of the bedrooms many are executed in old ivory, others as the fancy of their owner has dictated.

The present furnishings and interior decorations were installed—at one time, and in their entirety—by the house of D. N. & E. Walter of New York and San Francisco. As might be expected, the result is a harmonious ensemble. The accompanying photographs of Portola Hall interiors are from a volume compiled by the above house, in which these are presented as specimens of their most satisfactory work.

Altogether, the furnishings of Portola Hall give a feeling of substantial elegance; but here again—as in the construction of the Hall itself—the result most desired has been livableness: the comfort of those beneath its roof.





The comfort of Portola Hall furnishings is well suggested in the Reception Hall.



The furniture throughout is quite in taste. This is the dining room.



Cool shadows and airy rattan make this corner comfortable for the warmer days.



A bedroom must above all be cheerful. Here the spirit is suggested by Old Ivory finish.

Portola Hall today affords facilities ample to insure the comfort of its occupants. Yet it presents as well, tempting possibilities for development.

## Possibilities

It has been attempted to present Portola Hall just as it now is: an estate, but in addition, a home—a home of proved comfort, complete in every essential.

Frankly, however, we hardly believe that a new occupant will continue to regard it as complete. The soil is too fertile and the climate too fine not to invite constant dabbling with the growing things. The grounds are large and varied, offering many suggestive sites to tempt further development.

## The Price

What should the price be?

Mr. Schilling knows what he has invested.

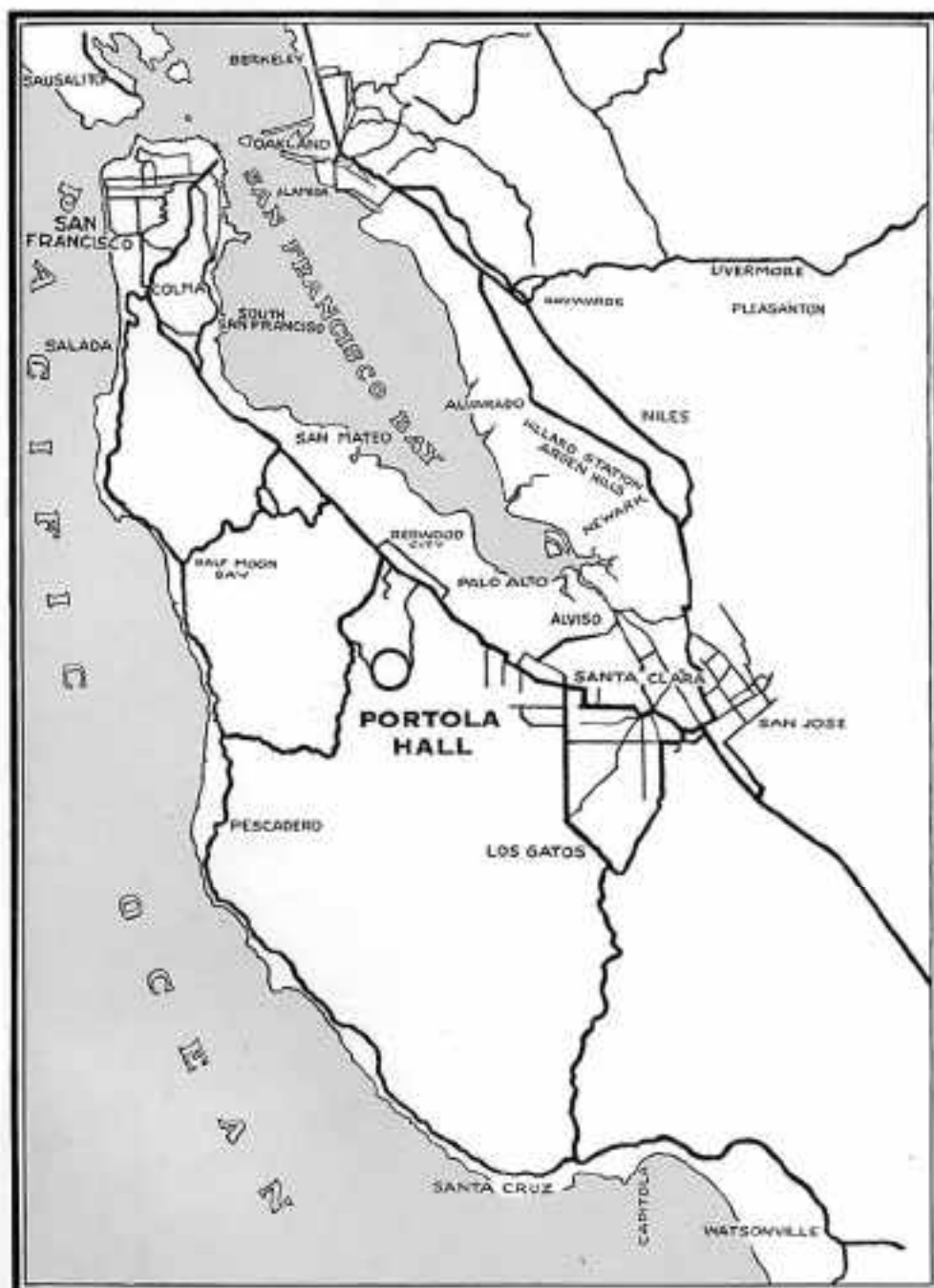
But what can he obtain for it?

Hence, it is suggested that negotiations should be preceded by personal inspection which can be arranged by letter addressed to

M. M. HOWE

*Second and Folsom Streets, San Francisco, California*





Map showing location of Portola Hall on the peninsula thirty miles south of San Francisco.



## THE DESIRED OBJECT OF PORTOLA HALL

There are but few so content as not to desire world betterment.

Some think it must come through religion; some, through business.

I believe it must come through a business religion. To the development and promotion of that idea I should like to dedicate Portola Hall: *if I can arouse the needed co-operation.*

What if those green-wooded Portola hills, named to commemorate the birth of a New Era for "Alta California," should become the birthplace and nursery of a Business Religion, bringing about a better way of doing the world's work and through that a new and better age for the world?

Yes—these are big words; bombastic if baseless, momentous if well founded.

To my mind the true interests of this world lie not in quantity, but in quality of human beings.

And the criterion of quality is service.

Is cooperation or competition the key to better quality—to better service?

Said Elbert Hubbard:

*"Cooperation and not competition is the life of trade."*

Of course he refers to competition that contends, fights, demoralizes, destroys. The sort of competition that finally breeds riots and wars.

Only a few years ago men spoke of wars as being of the past. They were partly right: religious and real political wars are gone; but we shall never abolish bloody economic wars until the Economic Question, the bread-and-butter question, the Business Problem, is settled—and settled right.

It can be "settled right." Of course it can, if we get together to find the way, and go that way together. It's just a matter of *knowledge* and *cooperation*. Had we not better try? And is not this the time—the best of all times, past or future?

The Economic Question, I believe, is safest in the hands of competent, practical, thoughtful business men.

Business men who would help must fit that description, or make themselves fit: if they can't or won't, they don't belong.

Even so they should not attack the problem unaided. They need the help of "free-lance" thinkers; but these, to help, must draw close to business and business men.



Discussion — clear thought, the soul of useful discussion — requires a helpful environment.

Requires leisure; quietude; complete letting-go of the daily routine, shedding the habits of thought and action that engross and obsess the mind.

A place—surroundings—that make this easy and natural.

Where business men, with apparently conflicting interests, may rub elbows, exchange ideas, see through one another; nail down the points they can agree on and let further time and thought deal with the rest.

Where conditions enable each one to give forth the best that is in him.

Wanted: a clearing-house for thought on business betterment.

Away from the rush and the roar, the dust and distraction of traffic—of business as it is: to discuss business as it should and might be.

Even so we may hope to attain only the first few steps of the rough-hewn stairs to the hilltop—but that is something.

In the end the hilltop may prove a dream. But even though we should be able to get only half-way up: isn't that worth striving for?

And yet—and yet—why even mention “dream”?

Isn't the idea sound? Is it dreamy or idealistic to build on the only universal trait of human nature: the urge to live and enjoy; hence the desire for the means, the “desire for gain”? The basic perpetual force of self-interest; but self-interest intelligently directed, leading by Nature's law to *Cooperation* and an even exchange of service.

Does Portola Hall supply the needed conditions?

Just one little thought: we need a little *humility* to approach big subjects. Those lofty, massive hills, those stately trees . . . . . they make one shrink a little . . . . . reduce the swelling of the ego . . . . .

So: “Let the Redwoods say to you . . . . .”

Look to this day comes first; it's the first and essential step towards Look to To-morrow

*T. Schilling.*