

JOSEPH FELS; HIS LIFE-WORK

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Joseph Fels; his life-work by Mary Fels

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MARY FELS

**JOSEPH FELS;
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Joseph Fels - 1912

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MARY FELS

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1916

JOSEPH FELS

Engine and wheel and chain that clank and groan
 In ceaseless factory-din thundering apace,
 Ear-stunning clamor of the market-place,
And yet, amid it all, he heard the moan.
When Riches made its golden bribe his own,
 And Power trumpet-called him from the throng,
 And soft, luxurious Ease, with drowsy song,
He was as one not hearing — save the moan.
Half the vast world he traversed in his quests,
 As Galahad for the Grail, heedless of self,
 Unresting, squandering time and strength and
 pelf,
Followed and sought and fought — and now he rests.

— FRANK STEPHENS.

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JOSEPH FELS HIS LIFE-WORK

I

The Making of a Business Man

THE parents of Joseph Fels were German Jews who emigrated to America in the troublous days of 1848. The father had not been concerned with the revolution of that year, but he was uprooted by the conditions of the time, and felt urged to remove his family from the disturbed atmosphere; the future seemed to promise more in the new world than in the old.

Lazarus Fels, the father, was an energetic man of good judgment and a fair measure of business ability. Although alert, he did not possess the rapid foresight which later distinguished his son. His general background of ideas was that of the time, and his conservative instincts militated against any habit of examining fundamental beliefs, which was to