



ETCHING BY H. NELSON POOLE

### HE SLEEPS AT LAST

IN THE GARDEN where he worked, beneath the tree he planted and that he loved . . . for he himself said, once: "I should like to feel that my strength is going into the strength of a tree."

# MY BELIEFS

BY  
LUTHER BURBANK

FIRST  
*and*  
MEMORIAL EDITION  
*Limited*  
to  
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P.O. Box 926  
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NEW YORK

# NOTICE

Both  
**SCIENCE AND CIVILIZATION**  
And  
**IN TUNE WITH THE  
INFINITE**

In this Book, are Published, by the  
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The purpose of the Bank of Wisdom  
is to again make the United States the  
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**American Founding Fathers**  
originally meant this Nation to be.

Emmett F. Fields

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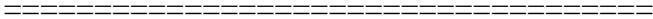
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**BURBANK AND BONITA**  
(One of the last good photographs)

## **LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS**

**FRONTISPIECE**

**("HE SLEEPS AT LAST")**

**BURBANK AND BONITA**

**(ONE OF THE LATEST GOOD PHOTO-  
GRAPHS)**

**ONE OF MR. BURBANK'S  
LAST SIGNATURES**

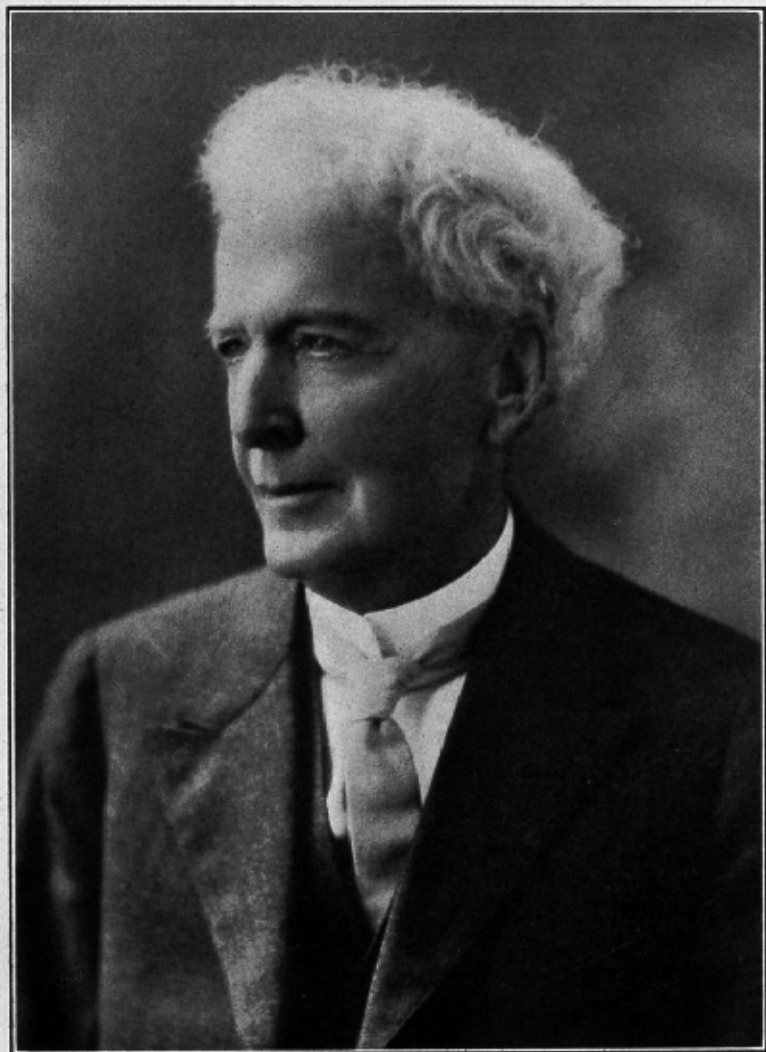
**A COPY OF A NATURAL AND  
REALISTIC PHOTOGRAPH  
OF MR. BURBANK**

A cursive signature in black ink that reads "Luther Burbank". The signature is highly stylized, with large loops and flourishes, particularly around the 'L' and 'B'.

**THE ABOVE IS ONE OF MR.  
BURBANK'S LATEST  
SIGNATURES**



## AN APPRECIATION



A COPY OF A NATURAL AND REALISTIC PHOTOGRAPH  
OF MR. BURBANK

## AN APPRECIATION

**WHENCE** we come" and "Whither we go" are as transcendently inscrutable to-day, as ever. Through the countless ages, which scientists claim this Universe has already passed, they still remain the vast unsolved problems, and the eternal fascinations that they always have been.

Infidel, or no Infidel, under whatever designation he may be relegated to, by light thinkers, or tiresome theologians, there can be no doubt whatsoever, as to Luther Burbank being a thorough Christian, both in heart and spirit, as well as being a devoted follower of that Great Teacher, who, in Redeeming

the world, moulded the minds of Humanity by rightly directing its chaotic thoughts.

Luther Burbank's own spotless life refutes even the idea that he was anything but a rigidly religious man, a firm believer, when he could find that which he could believe in.

His splendid and tireless challenging of what he considered and believed to be right, marked him as a distinctly spiritually minded man, strong enough to withstand any onslaught made upon him as a true disciple of work and thoroughness, and one whose life and thoughts were fully as fragrant as the flowers and fruits he so fondly cultivated and cherished.

To question a Ritual is surely not an offense, and to want to know what is a Deity, is surely not a crime.

The broader-minded man of today, is wont to assert himself. He is now beginning to ask WHY? and HOW? and WHAT FOR? utterly regardless as to what may have already been proscribed for him.

And here let me emphasize the fact that among those who really knew Luther Burbank, the "Infidel" in him was largely a whimsical creation of his own, which every now and again, in that wistful manner, and that far away look of his, he so loved to ply his questioners with. I never met a man with a deeper, stronger, or more abiding, reverent faith than his. Its depth, and strength and reverence, however, were of, and for, a Power that existed, and that which he knew and felt, existed as a Power, as tested by himself, during his own lengthy and in-

defatigable labours, with the il-  
limitable forces of Nature he  
continually contended.

He always wanted to know, to  
learn, and to analyze, whatever  
appealingly was brought to his  
attention. He was ever the  
keen, intelligent, enquirer. The  
same thoughtful boy, at seventy-  
seven, as he was at seventeen.

Because of the beautiful  
sweetness of his nature, the  
bounteous simplicity of his life,  
the sterling character of his  
work, and the magnificence of  
his accomplishments, how do we  
know but that Luther Burbank  
may have proved himself, to be  
the arbiter of his own hereafter?

From an occasional corres-  
pondence—not nearly as full  
as it should have been—and  
that chiefly of a fugitive kind,  
here and there, and as the  
spirit moved him; a few lines

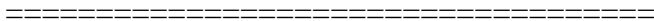
hurriedly jotted down, with fewer vagrant thoughts in them, but never without their points, or what they should be, but all with the utmost courtesy, and patience, and from several personal contacts, at uncertain times, and far too seldom, is how I knew Luther Burbank, the kindest and most unselfish character that it has ever been my life's lot to meet, out of the many celebrities that the Fates have enabled me to remember, during a somewhat colourful, but fairly interesting career, of not a few years duration.

CHARLES F. RIDEAL

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The Bank of Wisdom publishes all works of human interest, we scorn no ideas of serious thought. Ideas and beliefs some may think “dangerous” and would hide, we seek to reproduce and distribute for the consideration and intellectual development of every human mind. When peace and understanding is established throughout the world it might be said that humanity has achieved an acceptable degree of civilization, but until that longed for time we must never cease to search for greater truth and a higher morality for humanity.

The wealth of thought hidden in obscure books of bygone ages makes fascinating reading, and as much of this great original thought was suppressed by the sheer power of the established systems of the time, these ideas may well be the ones needed to bring peace and human progress to our world. One thing is certain, the belief systems we have are not the ones we need.

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# SCIENCE AND CIVILIZATION

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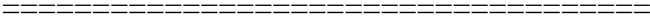
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If every American does his or her best for America and for Humanity we shall become, and remain, the Grandest of Nations – admired by all and feared by none, our strength being our Wisdom and kindness.

Knowledge knows no race, sex, boundary or nationality; what mankind knows has been gathered from every field plowed by the thoughts of man. There is no reason to envy a learned person or a scholarly institution, learning is available to all who seek it in earnest, and it is to be had cheaply enough for all.

To study and plow deeper the rut one is in does not lead to an elevation of intelligence, quite the contrary! To read widely, savor the thoughts, and blind beliefs, of others will make it impossible to return again to that narrowness that did dominate the view of the uninformed.

To prove a thing wrong that had been believed will elevate the mind more than a new fact learned.

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## SCIENCE AND CIVILIZATION

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Science is knowledge arranged and classified according to truth, facts and the general laws of Nature.

Our Dr. Jordan defines it more briefly as “organized human knowledge” or “human experience tested and set in order.”

There are always at

## MY BELIEFS

least two sides of every question which may be suggested to the human mind. Sometimes both views are correct, but far more often one is right, and according to facts and truth, the other wrong. All personal, social, moral, and national success depends upon the judicious wisdom of our choices made by the aid of science. Narrow personal prejudices and feelings quite too

## MY BELIEFS

often becloud the issue and ultimate defeat is the inevitable result.

Life as we see it around us on this planet is usually thought to be confined to man, animals and plants, those organisms which grow and reproduce their kind with more or less precision. Why should we omit crystals which grow as truly as plants and reproduce themselves quite as precisely to

## MY BELIEFS

type or the more primitive forms of life which are reproduced by division? Science is proving that the world is not half head, but that every atom is all life and motion.

Life is self-expression, intricate organized polarity. The lure of happiness and the fear of pain are fundamental qualities possessed by all living beings and are the two forces which have

## MY BELIEFS

through untold millenniums kept what we usually call life from destruction by the ever-encroaching outside forces of destruction. Life is heredity plus environment. At birth of a plant, animal or man, heredity has already been fixed. Environment may now call into action only those tendencies which have been experienced in the age long past, yet

## MY BELIEFS

may recombine and intensify them in a most surprising way, but is limited generally to the individual, but by slow increments generation after generation, these by repetition continued in the lives of the individuals at last become fixed and available in the species.

Assimilation and reproduction are, and of course, must be fundamental and universal.



## MY BELIEFS

The power of adaptation to various conditions which beset all life may also be considered as fundamental for the continuation of any species. All these various powers of adaptation have to be acquired individually and repeated indefinitely until so fixed in the life stream that they are reproduced. Repetition is the means of impressing any quality or

## MY BELIEFS

character in animal life or in man and by just the same means plants are impressed, and their qualities and habits changed as we upon a series of selections and repetitions. All life depends upon a series of selections and repetitions.

The first faint glimmerings of choice may be seen in the polarity of the magnet; next we see it perhaps in plants and the more primitive forms of life; and as we mount higher and

## MY BELIEFS

higher in the scale of life there is more and more freedom of choice and less dependence upon heredity.

Ancient tribes and nations had many gods, often one for almost every phenomenon of Nature. The Hebrews have the credit of inventing the conception of our monotheistic Jewish-Christian God, who, however, is represented as jealous, cruel, vindic-

## MY BELIEFS

tive and having most of the weaknesses and bad habits of primitive man; this was a step in the path of evolution towards man's present conception of God; the God within us is the only available God we know, and the clear light of Science teaches us that we must be our own Saviours, if we are to be found worth saving; in other words, to depend upon the "kingdom within."

## MY BELIEFS

The manhood and womanhood which would make the most of life in Service to others is a Sublimated form of the best of self which leads the way to a long lifetime of usefulness, happiness, health, and peace.

There are without doubt some human beings in every nation, who, according to our present standards of civilization are truly civilized, but grave

## MY BELIEFS

doubts may be entertained as to any community or any nation who could in any way measure up even to this standard scale of life, where we find more and more Freedom, but even man to-day is far from free. Slaves yet to war, crime, bigotry, and ignorance — the only “unpardonable sin.” Slaves to unnumbered ancient “taboos,” superstitions, prejudices,

## MY BELIEFS

and fallacies, which one by one are slowly but surely weakening under the clear light of the morning of science, the Saviour of mankind. Science which has opened our eyes to the vastness of the universe and given us light, truth, and freedom from fear where once was darkness, ignorance, bigotry, and superstition. There is no personal salvation, there is no national sal-

## MY BELIEFS

vation, except through Science. There are too few who exploit the inexhaustible forces of Nature and far too many who exploit their fellow beings. Useless waste and unnecessary parasitism takes at least nine-tenths of the productive capacity of the United States.

Will the growing intelligence of man (Science) forever tolerate the wholesale production of the ever-



## MY BELIEFS

increasing proportion of idiots, morons, mongoloids, insane, criminal, weak, destitute, nervous, diseased half men and women who infest the earth to their own sorrow and disgrace and perhaps the ultimate destruction of our present state of civilization? A knowledge of fundamental laws of Nature, not inefficient palliatives, is the First Step. Is there a problem equal to the

## MY BELIEFS

building of a better humanity? Our lives as we live them are passed on to others, whether in physical or mental forms tingeing all future lives forever. This should be enough for one who lives for truth and service to his fellow passengers on the way. No avenging Jewish God, no satanic devil, no fiery hell is of any interest to him. Science and religion have no differences.

## MY BELIEFS

Every human being is more or less religious. The scientist is a lover of truth for the very love of truth itself, wherever it may lead. Every normal human being has ideals, one or many to look up to, to reach up to, to grow up to. Religion refers to the sentiments and feelings; Science refers to the demonstrated every-day laws of Nature. Feelings are all right if one does not get

## MY BELIEFS

drunk on them. Prayer may be elevating if combined with works, and they who labor with head, hands, or feet have faith and are generally quite sure of an immediate and favorable reply.

Religion is as natural to man and as important to each human being and to the welfare of society as breathing, but, like love, cannot be fully described by any single fact. It is justice,

## MY BELIEFS

love, truth, peace, and harmony, a serene unity with Science and the laws of the universe. The religion of Science, ethics, service, and of love and good will are not necessarily connected with obsolete misleading theologies which bear the same relation to the essence of true religion that scarlet fever, mumps, and measles do to education.

Religion is not cere-

## MY BELIEFS

monies, though ceremonies may suggest religion. The very word ceremony is derived from "cerements" or grave clothes.

Religion rejoices in the happiness of others and helps to make them happy. Religion has charity and sees beauties in other religions. It takes good care of this wonderful body and mind and rejoices in all the beau-

## MY BELIEFS

ties of Nature, and, unlike theology, never leads to insanity. Children are said to be of the "kingdom of heaven"; they are religious if they are healthy, but seldom cry for theology, and they are not pre-natally damned as some of the older theologians would have us believe, yet they are the greatest sufferers from outgrown theologies.

Those who take re-

## MY BELIEFS

fuge behind theological barbed wire fences, quite often wish they could have more freedom of thought, but fear the change to the great ocean of scientific truth as they would a cold bath plunge, the cleansing crystal waves of which are exhilarating, tonic, healthful, and life giving, removing the debasing sin of Ignorance, the mother of misery, crime, ineffici-



## MY BELIEFS

ency, superstition, bigotry, disease, and death.

Mr. Bryan is an honored personal friend of mine, yet this need not prevent the observation that the skull with which Nature endowed him visibly approaches the Neanderthal type. Feelings and the use of gesticulations and words are more according to the nature of this type than

## MY BELIEFS

investigation and reflection.

Those who would legislate against the teaching of evolution should also legislate against gravity, electricity, and the unreasonable velocity of light, and also should introduce a clause to prevent the use of the telescope, the microscope, and the spectroscope or any other instrument of precision which may in the fu-

## MY BELIEFS

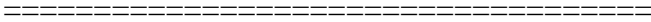
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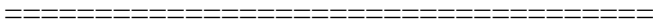
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IN TUNE WITH THE  
INFINITE

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I love everybody. I love everything. Some seem to make mistakes, but everything and everybody has something of value, or they would not be here.

I love Humanity; it has been a constant delight during all my seventy-seven years of life; and I love Flowers,

## MY BELIEFS

Trees, Animals, and all the works of Nature, as they pass before us in Time and Space. What a joy it is, when you have made a close working copartnership with Nature, helping her to produce, for the benefit of mankind, new forms, colors and new perfumes in Flowers which were never known before, and Fruits in form, size, color, and flavor never before seen on this



## MY BELIEFS

Globe, with grains of enormously increased productiveness, whose fat kernels are stored with more and better nourishment,—a veritable storehouse of Perfect Food: new Food for all the World's untold Millions for all time to come.

All Plants, Animals, and Man are already in Eternity, traveling across the Face of Time, whence we know not, whither who

## MY BELIEFS

is able to say? Let us have one World at a time and let us make the journey one of joy to our fellow passengers and just as convenient and happy for them as we can, and trust the rest as we trust Life.

Let us read the Bible without the ill-fitting colored spectacles of Theology, just as we read other books, using our own judgment and reason, lis-

## MY BELIEFS

tening to the voice within, not to the noisy babble without. Most of us possess discriminating reasoning powers. Can we use them or must we be fed by others like babes?

I love especially to look into the deep, worshipful, liquid eyes of Bonita, my dog, whose devotion is as profound and lasting as life itself. But better yet, I love to look into the fearless, honest,

## MY BELIEFS

trusting eyes of a child, who so long has been by theologians conceived and born in sin and pre-damned at birth. Do you believe all our teachers without question? I cannot. We must "PROVE all things and hold fast to that which is 'Good.'"

What does the Bible mean when it distinctly says, "By their WORKS ye shall know them"? Works count

## MY BELIEFS

far more than Words with those who think clearly.

Euripides long ago said, "Who dares not speak his free thought is a slave." I nominate myself as an "infidel" as a challenge to thought for those who are asleep. The word is harmless if properly used. Its stigma has been heaped upon it by unthinking people who associate it with the bogie devil and his

## MY BELIEFS

malicious works. The devil has never concerned me, as I have always used my own conscience, not the dictum of any cult.

If my words have awakened thought in narrow bigots and petrified hypocrites they will have done their appointed work. The Universal voice of Science tells us that if we misuse this wonderful body, mind, or the all-pervading spirit of

## MY BELIEFS

good, that the consequences fall upon ourselves here and now. Why not accept these plain facts and guide our lives accordingly? We must not be deceived by blind leaders of the blind, calmly expecting to be "saved" by anyone, except by the Kingdom within ourselves. The truly honest and brave ones know that if saved it must be by their own efforts. The truth

## MY BELIEFS

hurts for a while, as when an old, useless tooth is removed, but health and happiness may be restored by the painful removal of the disturbing member.

My mother, who lived to the ripe old age of ninety-seven years, used to very often in my boyhood and youthful days to say, "Luther, I wish you to make this world a better place to live in than it was before you



## MY BELIEFS

lived." I have unfailingly tried all of my own long life to live up to this Standard. I was not told to believe this or that or be damned.

I reiterate: The Religion of most people is what they would like to believe, not what they do believe, and very few stop to examine its foundation. The idea that a good God would send people to a Burning Hell is utterly damnable to me. The

## MY BELIEFS

ravings of insanity!: superstition gone to seed! I don't want to have anything to do with such a God. I am a lover of man and Christ, as a man and his work, and all things that help humanity; but nevertheless, just as he was an Infidel then, I am an Infidel today. I prefer and claim the right to worship the Infinite, Everlasting, Almighty God of His Vast Uni-

## MY BELIEFS

verse as revealed to us gradually step by step by the demonstrable truths of our Saviour Science.

Do you think Christ or Mohammed, Confucius, Baal, or even the Gods of ancient mythology are dead? Not so. Do you think Pericles, Marcus Aurelius, Moses, Shakespeare, Spinoza, Aristotle, Tolstoi, Franklin, Emerson, are dead? No. Their very personality

## MY BELIEFS

lives and will live forever in our lives and all of those who follow us. All of them are with us today. No one lives who is not influenced, more or less, by these great ones, according to the capacity of the cup of knowledge which they bring to these ever-flowing fountains to be filled.

Olive Schreiner says:  
“Holiness is an infinite compassion for others;

## MY BELIEFS

greatness is to take the common things of life, and walk truly among them.”

“All things on earth have their price; and for truth we pay the dearest. We barter it for love and sympathy. The road to honor is paved with thorns; but on the path to truth, at every step, you set your foot down on your own heart.”

“For the little Soul that cries aloud for

## MY BELIEFS

continued personal existence for itself and its beloved, there is no help. For the Soul which knows itself no more as a Unit, but as a part of the Universal Unity of which the beloved also is a part, which feels within itself the throb of the Universal Life — for that Soul there is no death.”

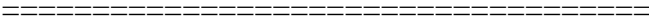
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To prove a thing wrong that had been believed will elevate the mind more than a new fact learned.

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## BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Luther Burbank was born in Lancaster, Massachusetts, on March the 7th, 1849.

His Parents were Samuel Walton and Olive Ross.

He spent his Boyhood on a Farm.

Received his Education at Lancaster Academy, and took the Degree of Doctor of Science, at Tufts College, 1905.

Moved to Santa Rosa, California, in 1875, when he was 26 years of age.

Married Elizabeth J. Water, of Hastings, Michigan, on December the 21st, 1916.

From his Boyhood he had interested himself by Originating and Improving Fruits, Flowers,

etc. in a number of varieties, sizes and Qualities.

Among others, the following:

Burbank Potato, Rapid-growing edible Thornless Opuntias (Cactus), Gold, Wickson, Apple, October, Chalco, America, Santa Rosa, Famosa, Beauty, Eldorado, and Climax Plums; Giant, Splendor, Sugar, Standard and Stoneless Prunes, a new Fruit, the Plumcot; Burbank and Abundance Cherries; Peachblow, Burbank and Santa Rosa Roses; Gigantic Forms of Amaryllis, Tigridias, the Shasta Daisy, Giant and Fragrance Callas; and various new Apples, Peaches, Nuts, Berries, and other valuable Trees, Fruits, Flowers, Grasses, Grains, and Vegetables.

He is credited with having in hand, at the time of his Death,

nearly 4000 experiments of various kinds undergoing tests, besides possessing over 6000 distinct Botanical Specimens, which he had obtained from all parts of the World. More than One Million Plants were raised for testing on his Experimental Farms.

The Degrees and Offices held by him, included the following:

Special Lecturer on Evolution, Leland Stanford, Jr., University; Member American Pomology Society; Honorary Member Royal Botanical Society of Sweden, California State Board of Trade, California State Floral Society, California Academy Sciences, Italian Royal Agricultural Society, Pacific Coast Nurseryman's Association, American Social Science Society, American Genetic Association; Life Member

Red Cross; Honorary President Chamber of Commerce, Santa Rosa, California; Honorary President Sonoma County (California) Boy Scouts; Honorary Member American Playground Society, Fellows of the Royal Horticulture Society (London) Clubs, Rotary Lions, Knights of the Round Table, Woodmen, Elks, Shriners, Moose, Canadian Camp (New York), Campfire Girls, Bohemian, University, Sigma Xi, etc.

He died at Santa Rosa, California, on April the 11th 1926.

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