Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945
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Pleasant Valley, NY
Humboldt, the great traveler, once said: 'You can tell the character of the people in a house by looking at the outside.' This is even truer of a community — and I think I can truthfully say that of all the villages of Dutchess County I have been in, nearly every one, there are very few that appear as favorably as Pleasant Valley. This lovely building, the splendid trees, the generally neat appearance of the community as a whole all point out that the people inside are made of the right stuff.
Your look here as if you stand for progress.
And it is just this standing for something that I want to say a word about.


There is just the same stuff between the man who stands for something positive and he who stands for something merely negative.

Carlisle calls them constructive man or the stationary man.
And he goes on to prove that the stationary man is more than that—he is a destructive man.
And then he goes on to utter his cry
"Rise, ye people of England, rise up and make something

This country has progressed since its beginnings more than any other probably in the history of the world; and it is due to one thing more than any other, it is a country where every man in the other countries have made things

Not confined to material side of life —
Take the example set by our social service.
the following splendid lines by Abraham Lincoln:

"I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right—stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong."