

For years under oppression, held responsible to laws in whose making they had no voice, compelled to give support to institutions which violated conscience, prevented from doing what in their own minds they believed to be right; no people had a more sensitive sacred regard for liberty than our forefathers who landed on the historic soil of Massachusetts.

The consecrated devotion that went up from those reverential souls challenges our admiration. I fancy I see more in it than religious freedom. I cannot but think when that fervent puritanic prayer went up to Heaven, the angel of liberty descended to earth and declared all men equal, in rights and privileges — sovereigns of themselves.

To me it is an interesting picture to look back on the civilized world at the dawning of the fifteenth century. Trade began to grow commerce to develop, till it burst the bonds of feudalism and the lords castle gave way to the merchants store-house, the seas and the oceans blossomed with whitened sails.

Every industry of the civilized world began to thrill and thrash with life's action. The Anglo-Saxon ideal of liberty is beginning to pulsate — what a glorious birth-day was that of our Republic.

In her infancy our country began her onward march with kingdoms and empires that had grown rich and opulent. But with a magnificent aggregation of natural resources, that for their intrinsic value would have dimmed the luster of oriental splendor. The light ^{of her} freedom caught the attention of the liberty-lovers of the world. The merchant unlocked her rich reservoir of supply, "Vastness was her native element". It was so with the farmers fertile acres, it was so with the miners metals. It was so with her running rivers and her rolling prairies — Allied with the illimitable magnitude are the diversified immeasurable resources". All of these has man free of action, free of thought and free in government carried to a wonderful development: to a height where the American stands alone. And when the nations of the earth are assembled at our great Columbian exposition

thus will behold the
 of man's wisdom and might ever rallied to-
 gether. It mounts to a splendor that
 can but dazzle and illuminate - a monu-
 ment to a free people.

This then my classmate and my
 future ruler is our glorious heritage, our
 sacred trust, that each year presses with
 greater dependence upon our shoulders for
 support. The realization of the magnitude
 of this bequest, confided to our care, bids
 the true American to look well to its pre-
 servation. The coming generation is the heir
 apparent to questions in politics complex
 in their nature and dependencies in the
 interest involved.

Our forefathers have bequeathed to us the
 great problem of tariff and commercial restrictions.
 Mono^{metalism} and bi-metalism is a new question that
 is pressing hard on the minds of the people,
 and before we place the civic wreath on the
 honored brow of our next president, the
 clash of majority and minority may have
 settled it. It stands as a new era. In
 politics - it is east against the west.
 Immigration has come before us in a

new light. Now with - standing the assistance the foreigner has given us in speedily settling ^{and denoting} our country: the debt we owe her for some of our best citizens - that thronging mass of ignorance abound- ing in ~~the~~ criminals, secret societies ^{and} anarchism in fountains of wit. Already the first terrible alarm has sounded in New Orleans.

The mighty interest involved between labor ^{and} capital: a question of vital importance to every government is still before us. A half score years of thinking, agitating, legislating ^{and} legalizing - leaves unsettled how far capital can oppress its dependant labor or to what extent a systematic ~~boycotte~~ ^{boycott} may destroy a man's business ^{in waste} his capital.

Monopoly, a giant monster whose power is limited only by its omnivorous greed, operates with out abstraction of law or statute, from ocean to ocean. It stands as a dangerous centralization of power ^{and} when ever it is wielded it is in opposition to the only just law trade has ever had - demand ^{and} apply.

The result of an old evil is now to be seen plainer ^{and} more serious then ever

before. That constant flow of the best of either sex from the country to the city has left a poor class in the farming communities. It is a question of vast importance. It ought not to be distasteful or disgraceful for the graduate of a college to return to ~~the~~ farm^{work} providing he could do it well.

Have we a race question? My friends: along the Mississippi to the Ohio, from there to the Atlantic, a boundary line once traced by fratricidal blood is the marginal line of a cloud that shadows the richest and fairest domain of our country. Two races unlike, unequal, unsatisfied, where the interest of each is not the existence either is involved - bids fair to be the darkest stain on the Anglo-Saxons' splendid victorious march.

Here then just dawning is the prophetic future - the age reason, - the era of intellect. The gladiator and the Coliseum have given place to the intellectual giant of the school-house. The prize-fighter of the future is the man that can grapple with the great problems of government - as a splendid opportunity it is.

A wider field ^{and} a grander work, than ever before tempted the inquisitive intellect of man. It calls for brains, for study, for thought. It is a splendid chance for the young man who is willing to give his country what he owes her. I am honest ballast.

I often hear men railing politics; profoundly sorrowful for the lack of honesty ^{and} justice, and when I hear such a man talk, I want to tell him that the politics of to-day are what the people of this country make them. Our Constitution brought with it the greatest individual freedom ever bestowed on a factor of government. It said "dawn with Knickerbocker" ^{and} gave every man a piece of the royal robe, but with that splendid gift came a corresponding responsibility. It placed man as a moral being responsible for his actions, ^{and} it expected him to be every bit a man.

There are men who spend their time on street corners ^{and} divide their attention between politics ^{and} tobacco: propounding theories of finance to relieve hard times, while their wives at home perform the operative department of labor.

If woman's suffrage is to come. I hope it will come by ^{first} disfranchising this street-corner politician and give the right to vote to these hard working unfortunate women.

Says Geo. W. Curtis Corrupt legislators are but the index to a corrupt public opinion. I honor and applaud the patriotic man, that fearlessly attacks that which he believes to ~~be~~ ~~have~~ ~~to~~ be wrong — there is a moral qualification wanted ~~wanted~~ in the coming man. It was a grand step in advance, when the people made the government, but grandest revolution is yet coming when man puts the crown on his own head. — "the capacity of man to rule himself, is yet to be proven!"

Are there not changes in our laws to be made for the better? are our political officers all that they might and should be? Is the management of prisons and asylums always economical and humane? Are our taxes equally assessed, satisfactorily collected and honestly disbursed? Are our legislators wise and efficient — passing the best laws for the good of people or do they stand divided on the either side of a political fence held in dogged servitude to imaginary

party lines while an opportunity for good legislation is lost.

Are our cities wisely & economically governed? If I be not mistaken, the phenomenal growth of our cities has brought a new question of government. Our last census report shows the startling fact that 83% of New York & 91% of Chicago are foreigners or their direct descendants. A large portion of them ignorant or having lived under despotic foreign powers have grown to hate all government, ~~in~~ midst vice & the vicious, without ambition, education or religion — it is nearly impossible for them to rise to a higher plane, while there is a constant tendency to pull them down to the lowest condition. Now is the beginning of a condition that under financial stress & political excitement, needs but a spark to cause an explosion that will shake the foundations of Society.

Could there not be a change in the administration of justice so that a mob would not be a necessity? The present jury system has already attracted the attention of thinking men. There is a feeling in the minds of many that the man who

who reads the least, sees the least, thinks the least ~~and~~ knows the least, should not be the judge of the law. In my mind, a system that says to the criminal, "Bribe one of these twelve men ~~and~~ the law is powerless". that says the vote of an ignorant man ~~perhaps~~ a rascal, shall rule the righteous judgment of eleven others - is unjust ~~and~~ unamerican.

What I have said I mean in ~~no~~ way as an outcry against the poor man the ignorant man or the common man. I cannot when I see ~~the interesting~~ unselfish work which has freely given. It makes him the martyr of the ages. He plods his way in the narrow furrow of the soil. In the factory he stands by the flaming forge. He takes the mountains by their eternal locks of white ~~and~~ hurds them to the chasms below. It was he who at Vicksburg at Shiloh, at Antietam, at Gettysburg. with the vision of home behind him, with the stars ~~and~~ stripes above him ~~and~~ death before him, went marching on to the very cannon's mouth, shouting the "union forever". I want the laboring man to have

enough to eat, enough to wear, "I want him to see his family respected ^{and} his children educated." I want him to feel that over him standing as a protecting shield is a government, that treats his interest as dear as the rich man.

We Sir! are Americans. ^{And} a mighty inspiration demands that we look well to this priceless heritage. Our forefathers founded this government, but the more sacred duty of preserving it is ours ^{and} the generations yet to come. If we fail the glorious light of liberty goes out, France, ^{and} Brazil are our victories! The uplifting force of the American idea under every throne on earth. Be held the arch dome of Heaven, lit by the eternal radiance of the moon, studded ^{and} adorned by a million stars, they move in their orbits, the mystic fingers of the morning lift the curtain of darkness. The sun as it rises wastes the radiance of the moon ^{and} beats the starlight from the sky - what divine mechanism, what majesty in movement! The sun ~~loses~~ not a ray of his brightness, the moon parts not from

her way, "not a star falls but the universe trembles at its death." - what perfect government. It stands as a model and when man by the light of intelligence, honest effort and moral conscience, shall have made his near so perfect, "surely will he be little lower than the angels".

A. W. Avery

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