A few Loose Thoughts for Friends who do not Vote.

One vote elected Marcus Morton Governor of Massachusetts, after having twice a candidate nineteen times. Four votes in the city of New York made Thomas Jefferson President of the United States. One vote gave us the Tariff of '42, under which the Country prospered. One vote made the Tariff of '46, under which our iron and coal mines have been closed and thousands of workmen have been out of employment. One vote gave us Texas, and put us in a war with Mexico, in which thousands of human beings were bereaved.

Seeing thus the importance of one vote—the great influence one may have, for either good or evil, does it not become a solemn question, to make sure, so far as one vote may go, that we have properly discharged our duty? We cannot, consistently with our Christian duty, or our duty as good members of our society, carelessly or unwatchfully neglect the importance of our political position, influence, or duty.

We hold it to be the duty of every Christian who enjoys the right of suffrage, to take an active interest in politics. We regard politics as a part of secular religion, upon which the salvation of society depends.—Politics form the basis of law, the science of government, the very essence of civilization. Politics are to all institutions, what the life blood is to the human system; keeping all things in order, and healthy checks and balances of opposing forces preserving the vital harmony of the multitude. We look upon the man, who boasts of his indifference to political affairs, with but little less respect than upon one, who declares himself an atheist or an infidel. The one is regardless of the well being of society, and the other of the glory of his welfare of the soul; and neither can be considered a good citizen, or worthy of the name and privileges of a freeman.

The laws of nations have always been regarded as an index of the wisdom and intelligence of the people who framed them. But this is only true in Republics, where the legislators are elected by the people, and where the laws may be considered as the expressed will of the people in mind. In our own enlightened and happy land, where every man is a sovereign, and has an equal share in the machinery of Government, there is no excuse for political apathy, or shirking of duty on members upon each individual to examine the merits of candidates, to the general benefit of the community. Despotism is such as any one on the demagogues who make religion a trade, and fully sympathizing with the more moral class of citizens who shrink from the vortex of politics, which too often perverts, corrupts, obscures and degrades the ballot-box, yet we maintain there is no duty which man owes himself and his fellow man, more imperative and more sacred, than the duty of every voter for all his best to study and execute the laws. He who stays away from the polls when important questions are at stake, is guilty of a wrong to himself, to society and to the Government that protects his property and his life. The man who votes for the best of men to make and execute the laws, is guilty of sinning for the benefit of men to make