

to such an extent as in our own; and let us hope that it shall ever be at our service as the index of the collective will of the people.

But with all these national virtues which have been largely wanting in other republics, we cannot help feeling alarmed at some of the forces working amongst us. Human nature is liable to err, and governments are but the outcome of human natures working in harmony; hence our country is not free from this race weakness any more than other countries have been. As the ship builder who hews the timbers which form the framework of the vessel sees a minute worm or so working in the wood, he scarcely gives it a thought; for who would think that it might be the means of destroying the lives of hundreds of people? The worm is harmless in itself, but after years of working in the bottom of the vessel until it is honey-combed and decay sets in, the ship is but a death-snare for the burden it carries. So it is in our own ship of State. Many dangerous parasites are feeding on our life-blood and are nourished by the springs of our national vitality. We cannot deny the existence of political corruption, the state of unrest among our laboring classes, the great commercial frauds, and unjust taxation. But it is not by these evils alone that we need be alarmed, it is the atmosphere in which they live; it is the poison that permeates the soul of our national morals.

And thus with the rights given to us as individuals to develop a noble manhood and womanhood, the rights of our country to freedom and justice, we have our obligations also. So long as we are conscious of these duties and keep them on a par with the rights as the best part of our people are trying to do, we are secure; but when we shall have lost respect for duty we will suffer, as a government, the same fate that befalls men as individuals.

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