

What we need in office to-day is above all things else men who will have the courage to speak as they think. We need men in public life who will have the courage to tell the voters the absolute truth as they see it. And then we need voters who will recognize worth and reward the same irregardless of prejudice and spite. We want men in office who will appeal to the reason of their fellow men, address themselves to the intelligence of the people, men who will have the courage to speak their mind notwithstanding the loss of a few votes.

The design of our government is to afford protection and security to its people. The further design of that government is to have the people by wise selection provide men in public life who will give the best thought and service to the country without thought to their own personal aggrandizement. This government of ours is primarily based upon an intelligent vote. When that vote is not intelligent, does not reflect the result of sober thought and consideration, does not represent sound judgment of the people, then the very design of the government has become debased. The very fabric of our institution has begun to ravel and disintegrate.

When men come before you seeking office because they are in need it is high time to look with suspicion upon their claims. When men put forward their own personal wants instead of the greater benefit to be afforded the people then they are selfish and not worthy of your consideration.

I am not one of those who hold to the belief that the world is growing worse. I consider it far better in every respect today than in any period of history. It must be so because peoples are more enlightened. When one speaks of the good old days, they are just talking, the best days of all time are to-day.

The achievement of the last quarter of a century has eclipsed all other periods of the earth. More conveniences, more things that make for the betterment and happiness of mankind have been designed within the last twenty five years than in all the time that has transpired on this earth. Men are getting away from the belief that a Creator placed us here for his plaything, to restrict us in innocent pleasures in order to insure a place in the hereafter. We are getting away from the belief that one can guarantee himself security in the hereafter by raising hell on earth.

Back in those days that we now look back upon with reverence the days of the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the constitution of the United States men were infinitely more corrupt than they are to-day. When the constitution of the United States was adopted bribery, corruption, perjury and chicanery was practiced by those who had the greater vision of the future to get such adoption. And the greater blame does not lie with those who accomplished their purpose by such means, for the result was for the best interest of the people, but the blame was with those who could be so swayed, purchased and influenced by such means. In Mass. when the convention looking to the adoption of the constitution was in progress men from New York came there with money and purchased delegates like one did slaves in the days of the Arabian Nights. Trickery was practiced by the Great Washington in the constitutional convention in Virginia that the peace and happiness of the United States and its people might be insured. The great difference between that day and this is: that then the men in public life were earnest and sincere in their desire to do the best for their people and their country. Their personal advantage was forgotten in the greater objective. While to-day the welfare or prosperity of the people and of the government is submerged in the desire of the office holder to perpetuate himself in office.