

The first of these principles makes every thing give way to the securing of the liberty of the whole body politic ; and considers the wellbeing of the individual to be bound up in that. The other directs every thing to the securing of personal independence, and the liberty of the individual ; assuming that that, if well established will surely maintain the independence and liberty of the nation.

At some periods, and amongst some peoples, one of these principles has been predominant ; At other times, and amongst other peoples, the other has prevailed. Both are necessary for the well being of a nation. But it is not, I think too much to say that an over-weening devotion in the present day, to the liberty of the individual encroaches upon, and enfeebles the public spirit.

No doubt there is an element of good in this sentiment of self respect ; which is, in fact, an offshoot of the christian idea of the worth, and sacredness, of the individual soul. But there are only too many signs that this, which is one at least, of the spirits of the age, is inflating itself into the lawlessness of self-assertion, under which society loses its coherence

In the older civilizations the public, patriotic, spirit, which subordinated, absolutely, the individual to the state, was the ideal of morality, and the animating principle of civil society. This it was that held together, and maintained in existence, the smaller free communities, living in close proximity to, and perpetual hostility with, each other.

And this it was that created, and consolidated the vast proportions of the world ruling Roman powers. The two principles ;—(1.) of patriotism which over-rided individual convenience for the good of all ; and (2) of self-respect upholding personal right, are not incompatible. They are both essential. But if a people is to be a great, and a united, people, it is equally essential that the one should not swamp the other ; but that between them an equipoise, and due temperament, should be maintained.