

provisions for amendment. It is a balanced system of checks to arbitrary power, whether proceeding from individuals, the mob or the government. It assures control to lawful majorities, but it protects minorities against destructive assaults upon personal and property rights. It is not a theoretical liberty, the outcome of philosophical disquisitions, but the seasoned product of struggles in the harsh school of experience. As a model worthy of study and of imitation, it will aid statesmen in the not distant future in building about a shattered world those ramparts which will stand as sentinels of the rights of an emancipated humanity.

In gazing backward into the gulf of time we see, at first dimly, but with increasing clearness, as the dial runs from the days of Alfred the Great to those of Edward the Confessor, the strong, majestic and ever youthful features of what we term personal rights—the right to one's body, limbs and strength which led in time to freedom of the person, to freedom of locomotion, to choice of occupation, to enjoyment of the products of one's labor whether physical or mental, to the right to think, to speak, to act, to worship without let or hindrance, save only as demanded by an enlightened sense of the general good.

We see, under the most sagacious and liberal of the Norman Kings, Henry II., the consolidation and expansion of the orderly administration of judicial affairs, through a proper shaping of remedial procedure, and the securing to each man the right to be heard, permeated by the sense of fair play, of openness, of vigorous, sensible justice which is the glory of our Courts.

We see, in the reign of John, upon the grassy lawns of Runnymede the signing of the Great Charter, whose 29th chapter has been woven into the text of every American State Constitution and the Constitution of the United States, and which, in the words of the Earl of Chatham, constitute a part of "the Bible of the British Constitution": "No freeman shall be taken, or imprisoned, or be disseised of his freehold or liberties, or free customs, or be outlawed or exiled, or any otherwise destroyed; nor will we pass upon him, nor condemn him, but by lawful judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land. We will sell to no man, we will not deny or delay to any man, either justice or right." These clauses, "the