

idleness. Such a system would, in twenty years, have made France as poor and barbarous as the France of the Carlovingians. Happily the danger was averted; and now there is a despotism, a silent tribune, an enslaved press. Liberty is gone, but civilization has been saved. I have not the smallest doubt that, if we had a purely democratic government here, the effect would be the same. Either the poor would plunder the rich, and civilization would perish, or order and prosperity would be saved by a strong military government and liberty would perish. You may think that your country enjoys an exemption from these evils. I will frankly own to you that I am of a very different opinion. Your fate I believe to be certain though it is deferred by a physical cause.

"There will be, I fear, spoliation. The spoliation will increase the distress. The distress will produce fresh spoliation. There is nothing to stop you. Your Constitution is all sail and no anchor. As I said before, when a society has entered on this downward progress, either civilization or liberty must perish. Either some Caesar or Napoleon will seize the reins of government with a strong hand, or your Republic will be as fearfully plundered and laid waste by barbarians in the twentieth century as the Roman Empire was in the fifth, with this difference, that the Huns and Vandals who ravaged the Roman Empire came from without and that your Huns and Vandals will have been engendered within your own country by your own institutions.' "

[The lecturer then proceeded to controvert some of Macaulay's conclusions and continues as follows:]

"While we enjoy the inestimable blessings of liberty, safeguarded by the 'peaceful reign of organized justice,' as Balfour happily phrased 'The Reign of Law,' it is necessary to guard these blessings, and of late years there have been certain tendencies which at one time threatened to destroy individual liberty, undoubtedly the fundamental basis of free institutions. Men of science tell us that no two human beings ever have been or ever will be exactly alike and it would therefore be the most fatal thing that could happen to the human race to enforce a dull and deadly uniformity.