

to guard against its being greater than can be borne.

It will not be necessary to discuss the merits of the development, or to plead its benefits, or to dilate upon its bad effects. It will be quite sufficient to bear in mind the fact, and then consider by what means it can be borne and preserved. At least it should be our object to prevent anything in the nature of a retrograde movement, or permit the present development to cause injury. We should provide for it a staple basis, whence secure as to the present it might advance in the future. In considering this development, there is at least one prominent feature which commands our attention, and that is, to what extent, is our safety and existence imperilled, or to what extent will they be, by the future progress of our age?

Our safety and existence will depend upon our government, and the government upon our ability, our intelligence, our education.

For the purpose of discussion we may divide the question of government into two heads, the one social or political and the other that of the individual. Though the qualities of the latter are included in the former, the general exercise of the two differ slightly; while the illustrations and experience from political government, being more conspicuous, will benefit us in dealing with questions affecting the government of the individual.

In enquiring into the ordinary present political government we must briefly notice its growth and change; a change from people governed by one or a few, to that of a people governed by a representative or chosen body: a change from government by force or arms to that by reason and persuasion.

In early days, one might say, the populace obeyed through fear. The ruler ordered, and his orders were obeyed. He had under his control a body to compel obedience if necessary. Many persons in those days, viewing the character of the subjects or individuals, no doubt thought and believed, that only by such compulsion could order be sustained, and the common safety of all secured.

No doubt they also thought that any change in that order of government implied insecurity and lawlessness,—in other words, that the people could not be governed by themselves, by their own intelligence; that the moment the idea of fear were removed, the people could

not be restrained, and the weaker individuals would be crushed.

Time and the growth of the intelligence of the people has worked a change. The number of the governing body has been increased. They are chosen by the people. The people obey through reason. They have become educated in the principles of social government. These principles have been made a study, and the best of them have been grouped together to form a constitution because they are good. In this all have joined, and all are mutually bound to maintain it. Some of these principles may be found injurious in their working; if so the injury is usually borne, and if necessary a remedy sought by the method which first set the original principle working.

The alarmists of old who thought they saw destruction and annihilation in this change of mode of government, would be perhaps confounded in seeing its realization. It has been realized, but only through the education and intelligence of the people. It has even passed through many crises.

We have lately seen in the United States in this respect as great a crisis as can be imagined. The people of that country were divided into two great, and what is a more important circumstance, evenly divided parties; each struggling for ascendancy and the acquisition of the greatest position, the Presidential seat. They each were imbued with the highest motives that could impel men,—patriotism and the desire to secure what they considered right and good for the government. (I of course in a general view lose sight, as I think ought to be done, of the evil motives attributed to each party.)

We have seen this struggle close and the excitement of the people subside; though easy it might have been to have thrown the country into a civil strife. No violence or force was used, and each party accepted the situation, and the government of the country went on.

In France, too, quite recently we had a similar illustration. There appeared a deadlock in the political machinery of the country. A revolution seemed imminent, but was averted; though in the case of this country we know it would have been a very easy matter to have plunged the country into civil strife.

In both these cases the intelligence, and education of the people in the principles of