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by it" a doctrine or a force ; constitutional parchment or a glorious evangel ; perfected machinery for the wire-puller, the party-tactician, the spoilsman and the boss, or the high and stern ideals of a Mazzini or a Tolstoi." It may, indeed, be reasonably held that worse has befallen it than Lord Morley's fears. We have evidence how frequently democracy has in practice become the tool of strong and unscrupulous men and gangs of such men seeking selfish and corrupt ends ; and how, for Lincoln's famous formula, we have had government of the people by a well-to-do oligarchy in the interest of the privileged classes.

Not have we any guarantee against this kind of degradation and degeneracy except in the perpetual reaffirmation and revitalising of the spiritual and moral grounds of democracy. It may indeed be possible to create political safeguards against the exploitation of the people and their government in the interest of individuals and classes ; but there is no such safeguard against democracy, as it were, exploiting itself for undemocratic ends or sinking into undemocratic practices except in its continued education in the purposes for which it exists, in its extension into every region of life, and in its repeated solemn submission of itself to its principles and ideals. Until democracy becomes and is felt to be a personal and collective vocation, it is forever liable to corruption and apostasy. Democracy can only live and thrive while men remain sincerely and consciously