

citizen are not first agitated by the citizen himself, but by certain leaders or agitators, whom we shall for convenience call statesmen. It is not as a rule the artizan who first calls the attention of the Legislature to the fact that some mal-adjustment of the tariff is working against his interests; nor the farmer who first notices that some international change might effect to improve his markets. It is not from the masses that the cry comes for an improvement in the general educational system; nor is it from the rustic settler that we hear the appeal to know which side of his farm shall be bounded by the provincial limit. These questions are almost invariably mooted at headquarters. It is the sphere of the statesman to anticipate the wants of the citizen, and so to calculate from his carefully collected data the intricate relations of causes and effects as to arrive at the best means of supplying these wants. It is his duty, moreover, so to present the result of his researches and the outline of his plans to the voting citizen as to secure his approval and sanction. The sphere of the true and honest statesman is therefore one of great honor to himself and of incalculable value to the citizen. But as among other classes, so among statesmen, are to be found individuals whose principles are not strictly true, and whose actions are not always free from selfish or impure motives. As a result, questions are sometimes brought before the people which are of greatly exaggerated, or at times of altogether imaginary, importance; and the statesman who can best succeed in persuading the voters of his clear insight, sound judgment, and honest intentions, is, or ought to be, the successful candidate for their suffrages.

It is evident that, under a Legislature based upon these principles, a heavy responsibility rests upon the voter, for he is the real arbiter of all state questions. Therefore, the progress of the nation, as well as the purity of her morals, demands the most deliberate and unbiassed action on the part of the elector. But instead of this we have to a painful extent the most curious burlesque on moral and independent action. We might safely say that the decisions of the voter, upon which so much de-