

We want the most perfect and responsible government in order to bring in the highest type of manhood and womanhood.

The improvement of government is a necessary thing, and we must strive for the continual reformation of government, not as the goal of all effort, but as a means to reach our goal.

Government, or our organized social action, is to be improved that organized society may do its duty to the members of society.

But it is evident that the improvement of society that would tend to the benefit of the individuals is itself dependent upon the advancement of those who create and constitute the government. It is a case of reciprocal action: the people act on the government, and the government reacts on the people.

If improvement is to take place, one or the other must advance, and we see that, from the nature of the case, the advance must start from the side of the individuals.

There must be a certain advance before a law or regulation can be made. Such law expresses the higher view of the majority of the most enlightened; it thus becomes a means of educating or bringing up the rear portion of the army to the standard of the advance part. If advance goes much beyond the law, it may have the opposite effect of deteriorating in its influence; it then requires to be advanced.

But individuals may advance in apprehension without doing anything to advance the social organization. They have higher conceptions of what ought to be, but do nothing to make this act upon the social organization. They become indolent and self-righteous; they abandon society to its fate, and enjoy their pharisaical self-complacency. But there must be a different line of action if the world is to grow better.

We need the best individuals to react upon the organization of society, to purify it, remodel it, make it a true expression of what they see it ought to be. Instead, then, of standing apart from the regulation of society, instead of aping the mediæval retreat from the world and its prosaic duties, to enjoy contemplations, there is need that every good man and true come out of his hermit cell and manfully perform the noble duties of citizenship.

Some very good people, though they might be much better, say, "Government is so bad, we wash our hands of such a dirty