

to go to work. That will do them no harm. Gold is a sovereign standard for measuring the worth of all adventure, a solid metal for exploding political and financial flamboyancy. Our trouble began when public politics and private finance were allowed to intermingle. We will never have prosperity in business or purity in politics until each is assigned to its own place. We entered upon that course nearly forty years ago, when we adopted the principle that one part of the community should be compelled to support another part, when certain favoured persons were protected at the expense of less favoured persons. Self-reliance was destroyed. Sectional jealousies were created. The country was arrayed against the town. The favours which at first were granted as a matter of principle came to be exacted by bribery or by force.

Up to the present the sole claim to leadership has been riches; but our rich men cannot now help us much. Too many of them have been tried and found wanting; and the corruptest council elected by the people is not so dangerous as a dictator who himself is dictated to by a small group of individuals who have their own secret interests to serve. Nor can we expect much help from the press, since that part of it which is venal and treacherous is not yet sufficiently stigmatized and set apart so that the public may accept as a warning what it tenders as advice; although already the most casual reader is aware in a dull kind of way that the newspaper which is sold openly to-day may be sold secretly to-morrow. In the meantime he regards with sardonic unconcern the opinions which it utters, whether they deal with imperial politics or with the election of an alderman or the bestowal of a franchise.

When a political problem is at its hardest, it is always swallowed up by a greater one and is dissolved. The question of slavery in the United States was lost in the question if there was to be any union at all. Home Rule for Ireland became of minor importance in face of the question whether parliament or the army was to rule the empire. The dissension in Ulster was forgotten the moment men came to see that any kind of government is better than anarchy. Persons who are essen-