

as the question is understood. "Politics" is a word as difficult of definition or description as "Poetry." Scarcely two individuals in ten attach the same meaning to the words. If by Politics we mean Party, or the standing quarrel that always subsists between the party *in* power and the party *out* of power, then we say that in this sense ministers of the gospel have nothing to do with politics. If further, by Politics is meant questions of commercial or industrial expediency, such as a system of taxation, the construction of public works, management of wild lands, or laws of bankruptcy, then, again we say that with Politics in this sense ministers have nothing to do. Laymen are the best judges of these matters. These things certainly belong to politics; but they do not exhaust the meaning of the word or traverse the whole field legitimately comprehended under the term.

Politics, in its true and highest sense, is the Science and Art of government; it contemplates as its chief end, the material, moral, social well-being of society in so far as this can be promoted by wise laws and useful works and institutions. Regarded in this sense politics is to the commonwealth what the science and art of navigation is to the ship that has to meet storms, and thread its way through rocks and quicksands. If this be the true function of the politician, then it is a question of the utmost importance to each citizen that has a stake in the common weal, what kind of men are invested with political power. With Politics, understood in this sense we emphatically say that ministers have *something*—what *exactly* we say not yet—to do. They ought to have some interest and influence in the art, on the successful conduct of which depend the peace and prosperity of the community, because, first, they themselves are citizens of the State, and must prosper or suffer with the general community; because, secondly, many of them have property at stake and families to leave behind them; because, thirdly, Christianity, whose teachers they are, contemplates as its end, to leaven society, its laws and institutions, with the spirit of Christ, which cannot be, as long as the men that make, interpret, and execute the