

much to the rest of mankind, depends on our legal enactments. Such being the case, we at once see the position of tremendous responsibility in which we are placed, and how necessary it is, that in order to do justice, in order to establish righteousness in the division of the wealth of the world, we must understand very thoroughly the question of property and the rights of humanity. We are now blessed with the power to govern ourselves. Our laws, however, can never rise above the intelligence of the people. Without an understanding of the forces involved in the distribution of the wealth, we must egregiously fail. We now are entrusted with a power whereby we may by our laws, despoil the producer, condemning him to degrading poverty, while we may grant the wealth produced, to those who have done little or nothing to aid in the production. We may thus split society in twain, carrying one part to superabundant luxury, while we condemn the other part to impoverished toil. Or by wiser ordinances, we may organize society so that it will develop harmoniously and symmetrically, because founded on principles of justice.

Turn your memory back for a couple of centuries to the history of France. At that time she was foremost amongst the nations. With her compact territory in the Western portion of Europe with her hand grasping Holland to the North and claiming Spain to the South, in possession of the largest portion of this Continent, and also holding England in vassalage, she shines out in her most glorious splendor. Let us step within the precincts of that glorious residence, Versailles with its palaces, its long stretches of avenues and canals, its well kept lawns and gorgeous gardens. It may be at eventime, when the overhanging trees are bedecked with lanterns, the courtiers in gay dresses are either lolling in carriages, rolling easily along the avenues, or in equally easy luxuriance in the boats on the canals. Step within the palace, there seated at the table is the King, surrounded with princes, marquises and dukes. Here is an assemblage of the most brilliant, who stand foremost in arms, in art, in oratory, or in literature; on the table are piles of gold, for they are gambling, and everything around the scene betokens the luxuries of superabundant wealth. It is a veritable fairyland, as though riches dropped like manna from heaven. But alas, when we step outside the precincts of this enchanting ground, what a contrast! There we see the reverse, a populace steeped in the most degrading poverty. Bearing the burden of an extravagant monarchy, an idle aristocracy and a costly church, the peasants' life is one continuous round of toil and want.

Born to be men, they are reduced by their circumstances to the conditions of beings, whose one desire for existence develops more that is wolfish, than what is manly. Thus oppressed, degraded, rendered unfit for government by being deprived of the exercise of governing, at last they turn upon their oppressors in that whirlwind of delirious revolution that so sadly stained the close of the 18th