

desire the *ballot*, that voters may be able to exercise their franchise by their own convictions rather than the coercion of a mortgage or intimidation of a ledger account, if we wish to supplant an irresponsible Senate for an elective one, immediately under our own control; if we think it an outrage to have to pay out of our pockets \$50,000 a year and pickings to our Governor, while the President of the United States only gets half that sum; if we would like to see every householder a voter also; if we desire a homestead law to protect the country against pauperism; if we wish to have the control of our taxes in our own hands; if we desire cheap, economical government; if we desire purity of elections instead of bribery and corruption; if, I say, we desire all or any of these reforms, as well as many others untouched, there is only one mode of action by which we can reasonably expect to see them prevail: and that is by supporting the party who promises to give them effect. It would be foolish in the extreme to expect success by supporting a person avowedly hostile to these measures. Take a familiar illustration. Suppose a farmer wished a certain concession or side-road opened by the council. If two candidates for municipal honours, one favourable and the other opposed to opening this road, solicited his support, if he wished his project to succeed, he could have no difficulty in a choice; would he not richly deserve discomfiture if he voted for him who was opposed to the road? So it is in a wider, in a more extensive sense in the legislature—the township councillor is a member of Parliament in miniature. Hence if our principles are *liberal* and *progressive*, there is but one rational choice for us to make—the liberal party. They are, they must be, our friends, our natural allies.

If politics, as some able writers aver, are all expediency, what then should be our course? Obviously we should seek to discover the side or party most likely to secure us the greatest advantages. I have shown, if anything has been demonstrated by this paper, that for eighteen years we have tried the Conservatives, and find them wanting in every particular. Duty and self-interest alike point out the desirability of giving the other side a trial. We cannot possibly lose by the change, and at the very worst there is a chance of gaining. The consciousness of having appreciated the situation would in itself be a very good guarantee of fair dealing, apart from considerations of natural right, equality and justice.

—"Hereditary bondsmen, know ye not,
Who would be free, themselves must strike the blow."

So that whether we look on the question as a matter of principle or expediency, it is clearly in our common interest to support the Liberal party. It is likewise, I contend, in the interest of those who think only of themselves. Suppose they