

end find our way, if we wish to avoid political ruin. From it in the end we shall be delivered, partly through the teachings of dire experience and the reaction of the better mind of the community against the excesses of dishonesty and corruption; partly through the growth of intelligence, the advance of the scientific spirit, and the increasing strength of commercial interests, which faction always threatens with disaster. The leaders of our commerce already have shown a tendency to stand aloof from a game in which they and the industries represented by them can only be the losers, and on all occasions to cast an independent vote for the country.

For the present, however, the system exists. We must take it as it is, and adjust to it our judgments of public acts, and of public men, making allowance for its exigencies, unhappy as we may think them, yet without ceasing to look upwards to a better rule of action, and forwards to the hope of a national government.

In England, and in old countries in which the questions are the same that they are in England, it is impossible to be at once a Liberal and a Conservative. There, the Conservative is trying to uphold hereditary legislation, religious privilege, territorial primogeniture and clerical education, all of which a Liberal must regard as numbered with the past. But in such a community as ours, so far is there from being an essential contradiction between the two principles, that it is impossible to be a practical Conservative without being a genuine Liberal. If you aim at building up the edifice of a Conservative polity here, you must begin by frankly accepting as its foundation the great organic principles of society in the New World. Recognize Equality; put aside, once for all, the thought of class distinctions which, whatever they may be on their native soil, can only be disturbing and corrupting influences on ours. Educate the people, not only in the school, but through the press, and all the good influences of public life. Thus you may induce them to consent to the foundation of institutions destined to control passion, selfishness, and demagogic violence in the in-