

And—these objects gained—both will flatter themselves that the work of legislation has been successfully accomplished.

But the Statesman possessed at once of liberal principles, pure motives, and enlarged views of the subject and the future welfare of the country as connected with it, will see in this question elements of a nature far transcending that of those which enter into ordinary topics of public interest. Irrespectively altogether of the undeniably great excitement on the question, and the large pecuniary consideration involved, momentous as these may be, he will perceive in it an importance entitling it to no ordinary amount of thought and exertion.

Wherein, then, lies its real and peculiar importance?

In this—that it is a question, the prospective bearings of which on the most vital interests of the community, are, beyond all calculation, greater than those of any other subject with which the Legislature has at this time to deal. The matter in hand is nothing less than the framing of the mould in which are to be cast the minds of our future Statesmen and Legislators, Divines and Instructors of Youth, Lawyers and Physicians—the minds which—*come what may*—will form the intellectual and moral—as well as constituted—power of the land, and exercise over our descendants that irresistible influence which is the inalienable possession of superior knowledge. It is nothing less than this—how are we to place, and into what hands are we to put a lever which will hereafter move, for weal or woe, the whole social mass? Is this mould to be constructed of such capacity as to receive and fashion the ingenuous spirits of our children, to whatever section they may belong, for the common good, or is it to be a costly instrument, provided at the public expense, for the benefit of a few, to shape and harden the rising genius and talent of the country into the rigidity of party? Is this lever to be entrusted to irresponsible hands, or jointly committed to those who are all alike deeply interested in the application of its incalculable power?

This is the question. And what, in comparison of this, are hair-splitting definitions of constitutional law, or regulations re-