

wait for millennium to take our stand on the side of justice and truth in national affairs, but, accepting the world as it is, we should do it now. If we wait for the millennium, we shall wait till our valuable assistance is no longer required. But if we fear that circumstances may now and again be too strong for us, let us consider this saying of a great writer whom I have already quoted, James Russell Lowell: "It is loyalty to great ends, even though forced to combine the small and opposing motives of selfish men in order to accomplish them, that we demand in public men." It seems to me that in these three sayings we have the outlines of a whole scheme of statesmanship. There is no nobler ambition than political ambition if, high above every personal aim, is kept the thought of public service. All cannot hope to occupy a central place in the political arena, but there is useful work to be done by every one who believes in his heart that the public life of the nation should be based on equity and truth, and upon whom the conviction has been forced that every taint of interested motive in the support of a candidate or a party contains the promise and potency of full-blown political corruption. To act steadily upon these views in the humblest private sphere is to render the state most honourable service.

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