

will be sounder and safer than the judgments of those who follow what is called practical, prudential policy. I have no hesitation in saying that a strong moral sense in a man helps wonderfully to make his insight deeper, truer, more far reaching than that of the man governed by the idea of policy only. If God rules—then righteousness and policy must be identical. A strong moral sense developed by the Gospel said,—“slavery is wrong; it must be abolished.” The money interest fought against its abolition, and policy argued against its abolition. But the moral sense was right in its insight and won the victory. So will it be for us in every case if we but faithfully and fearlessly preach God’s truth.

I will take an illustration from a cause that has recently received, in appearance at least, a strong back-set—the cause of Prohibition. The clear moral judgment says the liquor traffic is wrong, pernicious and ought to be abolished. The practical politician sneers at this as an extreme view. I take pleasure in recording my confidence here that it will come, and that sometime Prohibition will be the cry of policy.

Let ministers, therefore, aim to be thoughtful, firm, decided moral leaders in all those movements that affect the social and spiritual welfare of their fellow men. And if some man nuzzling in the mire of party politics, and absorbed in its low aims and intrigues, forgetful of the light of heaven and the God that rules over all, turns up his earth-attracted eye and says, “What do you know about politics?” Answer, “from my position it is possible for me to know even better than you do what courses of politics tend to righteousness, honour, and the country’s weal.”