

which progress can be made only by a constant, up-hill fight. When there is an election, be it for city council or for parliament, the corrupt element in the community usually takes a more active interest in it than the decent element, for the indifference and apathy of the good provide the opportunity desired by the evil; and, if intelligent and upright citizens find public affairs mismanaged, they are themselves largely to blame. There is a selfishness that seeks, by politics, to promote its own interests at the public cost; and there is another selfishness that is willing to let politics be controlled by the unscrupulous, rather than spend time and energy in fighting for pure and honest government. But is the one kind of selfishness any more, or any less culpable than the other? And if by our activity we could bring to naught the plans and efforts of the baser elements of society, are we not responsible for all the evil that our efforts might prevent?

We have come indeed, as a general rule, to look on politics as if it must be divorced from piety. If the politician appears in the prayer meeting, we think that he must be fishing for the votes of Church members. If the minister were to attend the party caucus, many would think that he had hopelessly fallen from grace. We have known an elder resign his eldership on becoming a member of the House of Commons. But it would cleanse and uplift our politics if there were in it more of the spirit of prayer, while it would give strength to our piety if it lived more in the open air of the world, striving to give higher tone to politics and public morals. Men of clean hands and of a pure heart are as necessary for the service of the state as for the service of the church, for the state as well as the church is ordained of God. The welfare of the state as well as that of the church ought to lie constantly on the heart and conscience of the Christian citizen; and the place where men meet to enact or to administer laws for their fellow-men, whether council chamber, court room or parliament, should be as sacred to righteousness as the place where they meet to worship God.

Now, what is the minister's duty in this connection? Some would wish to exclude him completely from any part in politics. They take offence at his least reference to the subject, and even