

building railways with borrowed money, calling upon aliens to be fruitful and multiply, and possess the land—which exalts a nation. The prophet who utters the banality meets a sudden fate. They say: "Why should the man tell truth just now, when graceful lying meets such ready shrift?"

But, somehow, men's eyes do get opened when matters are strained up to the height, whether to hold or break. Then Democracy, like the blind giant in the story, begins to ask who constrains it to the temple of the unclean to abuse its consecrated gift of strength by prostituting holy things to idols. In the United States there is such a moment of awakening. The public conscience was not dead but sleeping. Democracy, which for a generation laboured in the public mill, a drudge for insolent masters, is beginning "to feel rousing motions disposing its thoughts to something extraordinary." At least it appears extraordinary to us; and our public conduct appears extraordinary to the people of the United States. Their public newspapers contain reading bitter to our taste.

Forgetting the days when their own legislators were bought and sold, and rejoicing in their new freedom, it seems to them the most natural thing in the world that corporations shall instantly and automatically obey the law, that wealth is entitled to no special privilege, that tariffs shall not be drawn by the men who are to profit by them, that public thieves shall go to the public prison, that international agreements shall be respected, that a professor is more likely than a politician to know about politics and to make a better president. They look with amazement upon our cynical unconcern, our half-concealed amusement, our indifferent toleration, our helpless acceptance of the performance which is going on in our municipal, provincial, Dominion, and Imperial assemblages.

It is not the intention in the present note to sketch, even in outline, the modern political and economic history of Canada—the theme is well understood—but rather to indicate tendencies, and apply general principles to a special case. We have received a check; we have not yet come to a real