

So sacred that we can see injustice in the land and not rebuke it;—so sacred that we can see greed of gain and greed of place leading men to sacrifice the interests of the nation and not denounce them;—so sacred that we are to look on the systematized misrepresentations of party press, and platform, and not expose these monstrous shapes of falsehood and uncharitableness;—so sacred that we can look on the knife pointed at the heart of our civil liberty and make no vigorous effort to strike it away;—so sacred that we are calmly to look upon a power advancing with stealthy yet steady step with the avowed object of fettering the very Gospel of liberty that we preach, and yet we are not to utter the warning cry or urge the marshalling of forces that shall stay the advance of the enemy.

Away with such an idea of the preacher as this. We will not let politics alone. The nation is God's institution. It can flourish only under God's truth, baptized with the righteousness and charity that the Gospel unfolds.

I raise no objection to the reverence and respect paid to the Christian ministry for their office sake. I recognize the truth that is at the bottom of the dislike the people have to see their minister mingle too freely in the common affairs of life. There is something in a consecrated class of men just as there is in consecrated buildings. But the Christian minister is a Christian citizen, a Christian patriot, and in preaching the Gospel, in a way and tone that becomes his calling, he is to support everything that makes for righteousness in a nation, and to boldly strike down all wrong doing and iniquity, and he is not a meddler or intruder if he seek to do this in the region of politics.