

applies to ideas, and to the difficulties of securing their existence and developement. If the relations shrunk from the mission, from the task which is incumbent on them, because this mission, this task is painful and full of sacrifice,—where would humanity be? If nations had no men of large views, to prepare the paths of the future, and to point them out, where, if not in dreams, would be public welfare and prosperity?

We like to consider great social and political questions from a high point of view, for it is thus that their good or evil side can be discovered. Disputes and bitter polemics, in which passion plays the chief part, are thoroughly repugnant to us. When the destinies of the country become matter of discussion, and great measures have become accomplished facts, either by the tacit consent, or by the expressed will of the majority, we like to see supporters and opponents exchange their flashes of light, to illuminate the political atmosphere, that by proper reasoning on both sides, public opinion may be formed.

An opposition is a sting which often wounds an administration, even when the latter has done its best to secure the general good. If it is sometimes right for it to blame administrators for certain more or less serious errors, that belongs to some extent to the position which it occupies.

There is an axiom common to both town and country,—“Get up that I may sit down.” It is a joke more annoying than injurious, for the oppositions that have succeeded for a long time in this country of “simple folks,” as we have often been described by foreign authors, have been generally animated by a good spirit.

It is the duty of every opposition, under every circumstance, to control by its active power the affairs of the country. The benefit of those for whom they are administered demands this, and the good of the administrators also requires it.

He who wishes the good of his country, ought logically to desire a strong opposition.

We truly believe that the administrators of the present day would hail, with joyful heart, the unhopd for advent of an opposition worthy of the name. The statesman who is not inured to war by struggles, becomes enervated, and loses, in great part, the necessary qualifications for his mission. Would the people have the full right to find fault with its ministers, if it shows itself unintelligent and careless?

The great measures which, for the last fifteen years, have drawn the country from its almost nonentity, are due in great part to the initiative taken by a few men. The greatest amount of material prosperity and of external reputation, supervened since that period, did not proceed from inspiration springing from the people.