

to make the student understand the more remote and complex. To study, as he points out, grand generalizations about government before attending to such of its features as come most directly before us, is to run the risk of achieving a result like that attained by the New Hampshire school boy who had studied geology in a text-book, but was not aware that he had ever set eyes upon an igneous rock. And yet there is a popular text-book which says that "to learn the duties of town, city and county officers has nothing whatever to do with the grand and noble subject of civil government," and that "to attempt class drill on petty town and county offices would be simply a burlesque of the whole subject."

A writer who takes such a view of government fails to see the relation of the parts to the whole, and does not recognize the true historical development of government. The township, the unit of local government, and the county existed before there were cities, and townships, counties and cities before there was properly speaking a State. English shires coalesced into small States, and these States, by uniting, formed the English nation. Local government was first a necessity in this country, and then came general government, the colonial government being the first in order. Dr. Fiske's method of studying government is the only method consistent with the facts of social evolution.

There is nothing more needed to-day than popular interest in local government. The city governments in this country are far from what they should be and can be made. The chief American cities are now ruled by organizations and conspiracies of plunderers, gangs of marauders on the tax-payers. Gamblers and rum-sellers are among the most active officials and political workers, and there is a general conviction among the people that official dishonesty is the rule rather than the exception. Whenever an attempt is made to suppress gambling and other evils, in the perpetuation of which unscrupulous men are interested, what should be the strong arm of the law is paralyzed, and it is the boast of thieves and thugs that they are "in" with this or that man whom the party dares not offend.

The substantial citizens are too busy with their own affairs to unite and vigorously apply the remedy to this most scandalous state of things. Can the tax-payers justly exempt themselves from censure for the results of their neglect to fulfil their duties as citizens? What is needed is a revival of interest in local governments, taking them out of the hands of unworthy men, and making them as high in character as the Boston town meetings were in the days of Sam Adams. The self-respecting and self-supporting class of people should unite, break up the old combinations that now control city politics, and select men of known character and those capable of managing municipal affairs.



As all t
commu
depend
persons
Effectiv
the deg
commu
as a tra
fail, eit
illustrat
on the i
increase
we trade
own cou
countrie
check in
depends.
Many
plication
that this
guarante
communi
througho
machiner
The tend
of cultura
which is
Protect
modities,
full benefi
of protect
average r
by an inc
This eff
returns of
Cobden tre
rapid than
the abroga
ective dut
Experien
population