

treme sense, their prevalence is a cause for apprehension and should arouse us from indifference. It is undoubtedly true that while we have attained the summit of material greatness in a shortness of time unparalleled in history, the signs of disintegration and ruin which have preceded the downfall of other nations have developed in us with corresponding rapidity. Men high in influence and otherwise of acknowledged integrity do not hesitate to employ the basest means to attain their partisan ends. The fanning of the flames of sectional hate, the charges of wholesale attempts to purchase elections, willful misrepresentation of public utterances and party platforms, the studied manipulation of statistics to deceive the people, the malignant slander of those occupying or seeking to hold positions of public trust, the clamorous demands of this or that class that the government shall be administered in its own interest without regarding the welfare of the others, resulting in an estrangement which seems ever to be growing wider; all these are influences which so far as they enter into and control the government can not fail to weaken the loyalty of the people, and our government being a government of the people, when the popular respect for it shall cease, the ruin of the government itself can not long be delayed. If we may judge from the history of the past we are far along on the road to national destruction. The outlook is all the more threatening for us because our population is largely made up of diverse national elements united together by no very strong bond.

But our hope on the other hand lies in the superior intelligence of our people and the comparatively literal advantages which the great mass of them enjoy. But this will not save us unless our men of large ideas and lofty principles will come forward and take the lead. If by their apathy and neglect they leave the road open and the prize within the reach of bigotry, venality and cupidity, they can not expect the government to remain upright and pure.

We wish to say another word about that much-complained-of evil, commercial voting. We cannot shut our eyes to its existence, the worst that is alleged concerning it is very nearly true. But the commercial voter is not in all cases the man we are accustomed to regard him, devoid of principle and self-respect. He is very often the man who thinks it makes no difference how he votes or which party succeeds, that the money has been raised for the purpose, is offered to him, and that he can use it as well as