
GOVERNMENT

A prominent and intelligent Englishman recently wrote to a friend in America: "The more I see of the governance of human affairs, the less the governors attract me." Many intelligent people on this side of the Atlantic express a like opinion. Government is not only a necessary institution, but it should be a noble institution. To protect the weak, to restrain the vicious, to see that justice is done, to perform economic and industrial functions for the benefit of all, to labor for the elevation of all,—these are the duties incumbent upon anyone undertaking to fill the place of governor, whether in a large or small field. Could there be a nobler calling?

A good government official is indeed a servant, and he is good only in proportion to his conception of the nobility of serving others. The good government official is never puffed up. He recognizes the humblest citizen as

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being his equal. An official that embodies the above requirements is one of God's noblest creatures. He has true greatness of intellect and soul, and wins the love and admiration of mankind. Such men become beacon-lights in the long upward march of the human race, and the world canonizes their memory. Their contemporaries may be slow to recognize their worth, but at least they will have posthumous fame.

Alas! this ideal official is the exception. The majority of the governments of the world are born of force and maintained by parasitic and intolerable self-conceit—a self-conceit always indicative of intellectual weakness and narrowness of soul. Offices, boards, and jobs of every kind, are created at the instance, not of the people who must support them, but of the men who want to profit by them,—men who want to gain an advantage, who are striving to get something for nothing.