

To the Voters of San Francisco:—Seeing in the forming of a new Constitution an opportunity for the recognition of principles which I warmly cherish and have long advocated, and believing that the importance of the occasion justifies the ignoring of previous custom and levels arbitrary political distinctions, I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the support of such voters, or bodies of voters, as may deem that as a delegate I would fitly represent them.

Adhering to the political philosophy which finds its best formulation in the Declaration of Independence, and which was represented by the Republicanism of Jefferson and the Democracy of Jackson, I will, should I be elected, do what is in my power to conform the fundamental law to its principles of simplicity, justice and liberty.

Holding that an aristocracy of wealth is even more pernicious than an aristocracy of birth; that the system which puts the livelihood of one man into the power of another is as truly slavery as that which makes property of the person; that political corruption is more potent than armies for the destruction of liberty; and that justice is the only firm foundation of the State, I shall endeavor, as I have power, to amend the Constitution—

That the weight of taxation may be shifted from those who have little to those who have much, from those who produce wealth to those who merely appropriate it, so that the monopoly of land and water may be destroyed, that wealth may be diffused among the many, instead of stagnating in the hands of a few; and an end be put to the shameful state of things which compels men to beg who are willing to work.

That the vital principle of republicanism—the principle of local self-government—shall be fully recognized, by securing to the people of the smallest subdivisions of the State the right to manage for themselves the affairs which concern themselves alone, so that San Francisco, instead of being governed in two cities by a medley of Legislatures, Boards, Commissions and functionaries, in which distinctive powers are inextricably mixed and responsibility lost, may have a symmetrical and responsible government under the eyes and within the control of her own citizens; and that thus a great cause of corruption and demoralization be removed from the Legislature, and its moral and intellectual standard raised above that which suffices to log-roll local jobs.

That special legislation shall be interdicted, and more deliberation and certainty required in the making even of general laws.

That responsibility may be everywhere joined with power; that the methods by which the people select their servants and express their will, be so adjusted that they may not be at the mercy of packed Conventions and professional wire-pullers; and that corporations may cease to dictate laws and rule the State.

That the legal system be so simplified that justice may be made prompt and cheap, and the advantages now given to wealth and cunning be as far as possible reduced.

Without attempting experimental legislation in the Constitution, I shall, in short, support whatever may aid in making government simpler and purer, bring it closer to the people, and more under their control; whatever shall check the aggressions of corporate power, and whatever may aid in preventing the degradation of labor and the differentiation of the people into millionaires and paupers.

Believing that Chinese immigration is an evil, I believe in the inherent right of the people of California to protect themselves from it, not by mob violence or petty persecution, but by measures consistent with our national traditions and the dignity of a free and sovereign State. In default of Congressional action, I shall therefore support such State action as will notify the rest of the Union that California proposes to assert the right of self-protection, and to maintain it with the whole power of the Commonwealth.

HENRY GEORGE.

San Francisco, May 3, 1878.

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San Francisco