

JUST GOVERNMENT IS OF GOD.

"For forms of government let fools contest;
Whate'er is best administered is best."
—Pope.

Nay, charming Pope, whose strains like
music swell,
Entrance the ear and charm the sense as
well,

Whose genius taught the Muse substantial
speech,

And sped Philosophy on wings to teach—
Nay, Government is not a thing of chance,
A scheme of England, or device of France,
A human scheme, no ordered part to fill,
But formed and functioned howsoever we
will;—

Nay, genial Pope, the Architect of Man
Left not that work an incompleated plan,
But made of human needs the guide and
chart
To common council and the public part.

In savage state let village life attest
The social instinct in the savage breast,
And in the needs of village life, behold
The Public Part, called government, unfold.
When Trade, the civilizer, came to earth,
She called for streets, and Government had
birth;

(For who should make the streets for
which she yearned?

And who the highways build, save All Con-
cerned?)

Council was held at the behest of Trade;
Courts were suggested when decrees were
made.

Thus Government took form; but from
that day,

Greed-blinded knaves have led the world
astray,

And still like vultures on the public prey.

In vain kind Nature hears her children cry;
They spurn her guidance, struggle, starve
and die.

Man's needs are such, and such are Man's
desires,

They lead and prompt as Order's Law re-
quires;

But Self perverts what God through Na-
ture planned—

Nature, whose ways the child can under-
stand.

'Tis Nature's self that leads the child in-
tent

On fullest measure for the penny spent.
In every purchase it is plain to see

God's wisdom guiding human industry.
The greatest bargains catching every eye,

Lead to the source of Nature's best supply.
This is the Law yon statesman, "Labor's
friend,"

Wiser than God, professes to amend!

Those forms of government whose rule de-
crees

Woe, want and misery, are deformities;
The "best administered" cannot be best,
Unless it on Eternal Justice rest;

Best government is surely unattained,
Short of the order which is God-Ordained.

The form evolved with social needs en-
twined—

That form, called government, is God-De-
signed.

This simple truth let Nature wide pro-
claim:

The public realm is everywhere the same.
Each public part, performed aright, 'tis
clear,

Just governments one common form must
bear.

ROBERT CUMMING.

Peoria, Ill.

A CASE IN POINT.

It seems to be assured that if we have
a struggle with the Filipinos the great
power of this country will make it a
trifling affair. It might be well for
those who think so to recall a bit of the
history of Santo Domingo, as told by
Hazard and by Thiers.

In 1793 the English invaded the is-
land. They abandoned it in 1798, after
expending in the invasion \$100,000,000
and 45,000 lives. In February, 1802, 22,-
000 French veteran troops, sent by Na-
poleon, landed there. They met with
a feeble resistance, and were soon in
control of nearly the whole island. They
were conquered by the climate. In
the autumn of 1802 Napoleon sent 10,-
000 more troops, making 32,000 in all.
Three-quarters of the French army per-
ished, and the remnant abandoned the
island in 1803.

When Napoleon contemplated send-
ing these troops, if any person had
suggested to him that it was beyond his
power to subdue Santo Domingo, the
reception which the adviser would have
met with can easily be imagined; and
I will not offend the bumptiousness of
our people by insinuating that they
lack power to do anything in the heav-
ens above or the earth below or the
waters under the earth. But when
we see that the strongest naval power
in the world, and the strongest mili-
tary power in the world, attempted in
turn to subdue Santo Domingo, and
gave it up, after enormous expense and
loss of life, the possibilities of our hav-
ing a similar experience in the Phil-
ippines cannot be denied.

If a collision with the natives, or a
portion of them, should unfortunately
occur, our problem may become a more
difficult one than the Santo Domingo
one. Both climates are tropical and
dangerous to unacclimated troops. But
the Philippines are four times as large
as Santo Domingo in area and popula-
tion; and neither England nor France
had to contend with the jealousy of
powerful nations which could easily
supply the insurgent army with arms,
ammunition and food to keep up a
guerilla warfare for years.

Is it worthy of a sensible and busi-
ness-like people to pursue an enterprise
involving hazy chances of profit, a cer-
tainty of enormous cost, and a possi-
bility of humiliating failure?

I know it would be said that we are
committed to it and cannot let go now,
but this argument is fallacious. Where
there is a will there is a way, and if
our people and our government were
unanimous in the desire to withdraw
from the Philippines a way to do so

would surely be found.—Francis H.
Peabody, in Boston Transcript.

THE ONE PRISON IN ICELAND.

For The Public.

The item which has been going the
rounds of the press, and which ap-
peared in The Public of February 11,
entitled "No Prison in Iceland," does
not state the facts quite correctly.

As the penal code, based upon Roman
law, and the industrial situation in Ice-
land are much as they are in other
Scandinavian and Germanic countries,
the social student will properly con-
clude that human nature there is also
not different. While it is true that
there are some gratifying aspects of
the situation in Iceland, the situation
itself does not differ. It is true that
"such defenses to property as locks,
bolts and bars" are hardly required
anywhere in Iceland. That there are
no police required would not be con-
cluded by one who knows that there
are also people from other countries
there.

The prison is in Reykjavik, the capi-
tal of Iceland. The present, and vir-
tually the first, jail in Iceland, a sub-
stantial, two-story structure of stone,
was built about 25 years ago. It is jail
and penitentiary both. It is also the
town hall of Reykjavik, and was for
many years used for a house of parlia-
ment, that is, for the meeting place
of the national legislature, which has
now erected a separate building.

The management of this Iceland
prison deserves special description.
There is hardly, I think, a penitentiary
in the world where prisoners receive
more humane treatment. With the ex-
ception of being deprived of their free-
dom, many of the prisoners are better
provided for in jail than out of it, to
which some of them have confessed.
Here they get all the food, clothing
and warmth necessary to keep them in
comfort; they are not hard worked,
and receive a premium for anything
they may do over a day's work.

The laws of the country are not so
much to be thanked for this as the good
management of the keeper of the peni-
tentiary, who has had that position
since its establishment. Never has
there been heard a single complaint of
bad treatment of prisoners in the peni-
tentiary of Iceland.

The moral sentiment of the people
may also have something to do with it.
A little insight into that may be
gleaned from the following stanza, by
a favorite clergyman-poet of Iceland,
the English rendering of which is of
course defective:

In erring man 'tis easy finding flaws,
His errors to condemn, but slight their
cause;