

held the institution. They did as we are doing, so let things remain as they are." On the other hand we should not be too ready to accept every theory that is broached, but, before accepting or rejecting, be absolutely assured of its truth or its fallacy. Our minds should not continue to fluctuate with public opinion, which so often covers, not the sea of reason and truth, but the shallow waters of inconsistent and unpractical theories. The idea of maintaining existing institutions is surely a good one and conservatism has sometimes been the only support of a nation in its hour of peril.

But, if an institution now exists, which, though at one time an honor to its supporters, is now in its decline, the time when it was a means of culture and improvement now being passed, it is wise to consider its existence unnecessary. But here the spirit of conservatism shows itself in some, who maintain that it will ere long revive its former excellence, and strive with all their feeble might to resist the building up of new institutions, more appropriate to the times. Though a person with too much chivalry and exaltation who moves from place to place and insists on tearing down old institutions and building new ones, or if he be of imperial authority and spreads his domain from country to country, issuing edict over land and sea, soon plays his game and disappears from the field of action. Conservatism has been a great hindrance in the advancement and civilization of nations and in founding institutions of learning because in the rapid advancement of mankind during the last few centuries great changes have necessarily taken place in the minds, in the habits and customs of men, and as it is of the utmost importance to any nation or institution that the people should be of one mind, and more, as one mass. The conservatism of the church, insisting on maintaining the old religion and laws, thus divided the opinion of the people; the factions thus raised made the time one of strife and

turmoil. So long as there was one religion, and the people believed in an infallible pope and his doctrine, the people moved in the light of the dim taper comparatively smoothly. Wars of church and state were unknown. But when the depravity and injustice of the times became apparent to a few, who spread their doctrine both by example and precept, which raised the indignation of the intolerable conservatives to its height, church and state, they said, could not be separated; one could not exist without the other, and the idea of two religions was an absurdity, an impossibility. To be tolerable they must be intolerable, and the wars that devastated the European continent were the result of the conservatism of the church.

It was this that led Charles the Fifth to abdicate his throne. This that made the reign of Charles the First, of England, one of confusion, that caused the revolution, and the death of the monarch. This that led to the licentious murder of the puritans, and forced them to seek an asylum in America.

A conservative bears about him the styles and customs of the past, and conducts himself not according to the views of public opinion. Throughout the land, in religion, and society, and education, there is visible a great mark of improvement, and in these there is found a vestige of the old stamp, who intrudes himself upon one class of people and protests an adherence against their plans and operations—such as in the management of the schools. In the United States, where we have the great free school system, and in almost every school an opportunity is given for obtaining a foundation for an education, which is affecting great results, equal opportunities are given to all for educating, thinking, acting, and searching. The inquiries naturally made by an educated man lead to various conclusions concerning the best method of religion. And some, either from too much knowledge, or not enough, come to the conclu-