

THE FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT. Buckle, in the "History of Civilization in England," declares:

"In the year 1776 Adam Smith published his 'Wealth of Nations' which, looking to its ultimate results, is probably the most important book that has ever been written. Well may it be said of Adam Smith, and said, too, without fear of contradiction, that this solitary Scotchman has, by the publication of one single work, contributed more towards the happiness of man than has been effected by the united abilities of all the statesmen and legislators of whom history has presented an authentic account."

And Doctor Channing in treating of governmental functions remarks:

"We mean not to deny, we steadily affirm, that government is a great good and essential to human happiness; but it does its good chiefly by a negative influence, by repressing injustice and crime, by securing property from invasion, and thus removing obstructions to the free exercise of human powers. It confers little positive benefit. Its office is, not to confer happiness, but to give men opportunity to work out happiness for themselves. Government resembles the wall which surrounds our land—a needful protection, but reaping no harvests, ripening no fruits. It is the individual who must choose whether the inclosure shall be a paradise or a waste. How little positive good can government confer! It does not till our fields, build our houses, weave the ties which bind us to our families, give disinterestedness to the heart or energy to the intellect and will. All our great interests are left to ourselves, and governments, when they have interfered with them, have obstructed, much more than advanced, them. For example, they have taken religion into their keeping, only to disfigure it. In like manner, they have paralyzed trade by their nursing care, and multiplied poverty by expedients for its relief. Government has almost always been a barrier against which intellect has had to struggle, and society has made its chief progress by the minds of private individuals, who have outstripped their rulers and gradually shamed them into true wisdom. The crying sin of all governments is that they intermeddle injuriously with human affairs, and obstruct the processes of nature by excessive regulation. Society is such a complicated concern, its interests are affected by so many unsettled causes, there are so many secret springs at work in its bosom, and such uncertainty hangs over the distant issues of human arrangements, that we are astonished and shocked at the temerity of legislators in interposing their contrivances and control, except where events and experience shed a clear light.

It is the business of government to give each citizen an equal chance, within the limits of the public good, for life, liberty, the accumulation of property, and the pursuit of happiness. After that it depends upon the individual and his intelligent efforts as to how much enjoyment he shall secure in life, liberty and property.

Enlightened selfishness prompts every man to do the very best he can for himself and his family. Every citizen who determines, and properly endeavors, to do the best he can for himself is, therefore, doing the best he can

for the Government and the country. If there be a republic of fertile lands and genial climes anywhere upon this globe where each citizen is doing the best he can for himself, that republic typifies Paradise regained, and to it I would emigrate myself, and take with me all my kindred, friends and acquaintances. In that perfect abode there can be no extortionate taxation, no prisons, no anarchists, no fiat money, and no poverty. As an entity, the Government of the United States is simply 'all of us.' And when each is doing, within the limits of the public good, strenuously and intelligently to the best of his ability, the best he can for himself, the government and the people are at the highest tide of flush prosperity. The farmers of America need individualization and development by personal study and investigation. They do not need to pool their thinking faculties and their energies in vast associations, which are too often turned to political rather than to agricultural and domestic purposes. No man should give a power of attorney to any society, organization, or person to think for him. All the drouths, all the locusts, all the chinch-bugs, all the diseases of domestic animals which have afflicted agriculture are not half such dangerous foes to the farmer as an inconvertible or irredeemable currency; not half so impoverishing as cheap money of violently fluctuating purchasing power; not half so dangerous to his interests as a system of laws which compels him to sell his products in competition with all the world and to buy his manufactured articles in a market whence all competition is excluded; not half so threatening as a blind adherence to the teachings of ignorant leaders and vicious demagogues.

A WESTERN ENTERPRISE. Mr. J. Sterling Morton, President Cleveland's late secretary of agriculture in his cabinet, is to enter into journalism in something like a missionary spirit. He has issued a prospectus for a weekly journal, to be published at Nebraska City, Neb., to be called **THE CONSERVATIVE**, and to treat of questions in social, industrial and political life in the spirit of its title. Of course, it is for the continuance of the single gold standard in the monetary system of the country, and is to combat free silver coinage. Mr. Morton is a vigorous writer, as well as an aggressive man in his independence. He invites subscriptions to his paper from all sections of the country in aid of the work on which he has entered, and starts out with an assured list of patrons numbering between 5,000 and 6,000.—Boston Herald.

Persons desiring to advertise among the best households of the northwestern country are informed that **THE CONSERVATIVE** has such a circulation of nearly 5,000.

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NEBRASKA CITY AND OTOE COUNTY.

The first school of Otoe county was established at Nebraska City by Miss Martin, in 1855. Subsequently she married Andrew Jessen, a most worthy and successful citizen. Paul Jessen, our county attorney (now absent as a soldier, at Chickamauga) is a result of that union.

The second school in the county was established by Miss Lucy N. Bowen, an accomplished teacher, who was educated in Vermont. She was the sister of Dr. Aurelius Bowen.

On January 2, 1860, the public schools of Nebraska City were first opened for pupils. Then male teachers were paid \$75 per month and females \$50 per month. But in 1861 compensation for the teachers was established at 50 cents per month for each pupil.

During the year 1863 the legislative assembly of the territory of Nebraska authorized Nebraska City to issue \$15,000 of 10 per cent bonds, out of the proceeds of which a high school building should be erected. The indebtedness was incurred and the old school building on Sixth street was completed in 1865 at a cost of \$31,000. This was the first high school building in Nebraska City. The public funds were exhausted, however, before the completion of the edifice, and \$1,500 was required to finish it. How to raise that sum of money was a very serious, financial problem. But the good pioneer mothers of Nebraska City and suburbs very soon devised a sort of exposition, and art loan association, a fair and festival combined. The public were invited to this entertainment at 25 cents for admission. Once admitted, the inducements for the purchase of edibles, curios and embroideries made by deft needle women were irresistible. In a single week the \$1,500 had been raised and paid over to the school board. among the energetic frontier women of that day who took leading parts in this educational enterprise, was the mother of Joy, Paul, Mark and Carl Morton and also the mother of Paul Jessen, and likewise the mother of Mrs. Ed Woolsey and many others of courage and energy.

The Fourteenth street schoolhouse was completed in 1869. It cost \$10,000. It was totally destroyed by fire in 1874, and rebuilt at a cost of \$4,259.25.

The Ninth street high school building was erected in 1874. It cost \$5,000.

RIGHT REVEREND TALBOT. The provisional bishop of the Episcopal church for the territory of Nebraska, was a man of wonderful executive ability, beside being a most eloquent and convincing pulpit orator. No one of the pioneer clergymen of Nebraska excelled Bishop Talbot in farsightedness and correct business judgment. He acquired for his church large real estate holdings along the Missouri river at Omaha and all principal towns which,