

villages the Michigan Central, half a century ago, and who later was the chief agent in building up the great Chicago, Burlington and Quincy system in the still further West. He made money in making railroads, but he would have taken no satisfaction in being a "railroad man" of the far too common type, whose only interest in railroads is as a means of profitable stock speculation. He enjoyed the construction of great lines of communication in new regions because he felt that he was thus helping to build up great states.

Of course such a character must take an earnest interest in public affairs. It was not the interest of the man who sees opportunities for personal advantage and private gain in public life, or even of the man who has a proper ambition to hold public office because he feels that he can thus render service to the community, for he never filled or sought any official position. It was the interest of a man who regarded a business life as the path of personal duty, but whose mind could never be engrossed even with the highest enterprises of business; who always felt that he was, first of all, a citizen, and owed the duty of a good citizen to the state; who sought to secure the adoption of progressive policies by his party, and the election of only those candidates who were worthy of an honest man's support—even if that rule required him to leave his party; who was, in short, as high-minded and conscientious in the role of a citizen as in that of the unspotted business man.

Mr. Forbes' great services to his state and his nation were rendered a full generation ago, when he was the wise adviser and the efficient assistant of John A. Andrew in Massachusetts and of Abraham Lincoln at Washington during the civil war. The written history of that period unhappily does scant justice to the tremendous services which this patriot rendered the cause of the Union, for the best part of it was not done under the public eye or "written up" for the newspapers. The latest exhibition of his conscientious devotion to what he deemed the right was when in 1884 he turned from the party which he had served so long with such affection, because that party had lowered its standard in its nomination for the presidency.

Mr. Hoar, like Mr. Forbes, came out of a New England family in which sons are reared to have convictions, and are pretty sure to live up to those convictions when they become men. Born the year before the civil war broke out, carefully educated in academy, college, and law school, devoted to the profession upon which he entered in 1887, he early threw himself into the struggle for better government, in which the lamented William E. Russell was just then becoming the leader. Bred a republican, he had abandoned that party in 1884, when duty seemed to demand the

change, and he was ready in 1886 for the forlorn hope of a canvass for the democracy in a legislative district which was overwhelmingly republican. Four years later he ran for congress on the same ticket in a still larger district, which was supposed to belong to the republicans, and was elected. At Washington he was as independent as at home, fighting free silver and other follies in his own party as earnestly as he had opposed the high-tariff policy of the other party. After a single term as congressman, he resumed the practice of his profession, and he accepted the United States district-attorneyship for Massachusetts a few years later rather because he thought he could do good service for the public in employing his talents in such an essentially legal position than because he had become infected with a love of office for itself. The recent war again diverted him from his law practice. He could not honorably enlist as a soldier, because of his obligations to his family, but he felt constrained to throw himself, with all the energy of his nature, into the work of relieving Massachusetts soldiers in the field, and in the prosecution of this unselfish work in hospitals he caught the disease which ended his life.

The infirmities of age had withdrawn Mr. Forbes from the activities of life, but his interest in them remained keen to the end. Mr. Hoar was in the very heart of those activities, with every prospect of twenty-five or thirty years of steadily widening influence. The veteran had performed his work, while the young man seemed but just started upon his, and his loss appears irreparable.

John M. Forbes and Sherman Hoar are fine types of the real patriot. The perpetuity of our institutions depends upon a succession of such men. The only consolation of their almost simultaneous death is the evidence which the young man's career affords that the nation still continues to breed men of this type.

Editor Every
Evening: In your
issue of today I

A VOICE FROM THE DEAD. read your grave and earnest proclamation of "The Need and Duty of the Hour," to which I find my name appended, together with those of a large number of my worthy and respected fellow-citizens.

Although this gave me my first knowledge of the paper in question, yet I share much of the general views expressed, and am not disposed to withhold my approval. But, in my opinion, it lacks essential point and finality, because it does not indicate the true cause of present depression and want of confidence in the public mind—which so paralyzes business enterprise and casts the shadow of uncertainty and distrust over all industrial operations.

It is manifestly the uncertain condi-

tion of the currency of the country, the relations of congress thereto, and the threat, scarcely veiled in its language, and boldly avowed by many of the advocates of the "Teller" resolution, of the right of congress to at will substitute silver for the gold standard and measure of value for all contracts.

It is this threat which casts its baleful shadow over all business transactions, prevents daily labor from securing its just reward, and impairs that sense of settled security which is the very bed-rock of every honest human effort to advance civilization—and this depressing and distressful condition of affairs will continue until the sober second thought of an honest nation—instructed by intelligent reflection and guided by an instinctive sense of self-preservation—shall lead them (as they will) to reject positively and finally the counsels of wild and passionate ignorance and misinformed ambition, which if they prevailed could only end in anarchy and widespread misery.

Congress cannot too soon or too clearly comprehend the profound importance of this issue, upon which every citizen must take and maintain a responsibility that cannot be escaped.

While I am glad to attest my belief in the existence of those solid and excellent qualities your paper attributes to this community in which my life has been passed, and where I expect it to close, yet I want my fellow-citizens to look the truth in the face—to declare it openly, and to stand by it persistently. *And the truth is that to congress was delegated the power to "coin money" and "regulate the value thereof." But not to create the value thereof; but to "regulate" the value of our own coins and of foreign coins as well. To "create values" is not a political or governmental power—to attempt to delegate it would be impious and absurd—and all such efforts would prove as futile as history everywhere has proven them to be. The illusions of alchemy are not better attested than the illusions which have led to the attempts to advance the commercial value of silver for the past twenty years by congressional legislation, in the face of which it has steadily declined.*

In my judgment, "the need and duty of the hour," therefore, is to cause this simple, essential, historical truth to be clearly comprehended by our countrymen in every occupation and walk of life—and the profound importance to the happiness and welfare of each individual to have such a question calmly and clearly comprehended and passed above the heats and passions of personal or party ambition and to entrust it to the conscience, courage and self-respect of our fellow-countrymen; and this will be a true test of the wisdom and capacities of popular self government.

T. F. BAYARD.

Wilmington, Feb. 3, 1898.