

peal to sectional interests or biased opinions, public aid is almost impossible. Even the statesman has found that unless he can maintain sufficient influence to insure the confidence of his constituents, he is powerless to reform or reconstruct.

The political history of our country remains unwritten. True, we find sufficient material in the newspaper and the journal, but it partakes too much of a prejudiced nature.

The parties that have from time to time shaped the policy of the government, have found it agreeable to themselves to bury their disgraces and defeats, and laud their victories and success. These are the elements of the commonwealth that represent the nation abroad. If a foreign critic can appreciate the institutions of an American, he speaks of our government as under the control of a particular party. The principals of that party are to him an ideal of what the American Government must be. Its laws, its decrees, and its decisions are to him the standard of our credit. With the cry of oppression he has forebodings of our danger.

At home, we, true to our name, tend still farther. That politician who utters the boldest denunciations against his opponent, leaves the greatest impression upon the public ear. Once, perhaps he has feasted upon fluctuating legislation and now clamors loudly for its return. But far beneath the din of the so-called political parties will always be found one as immovable as the Republic itself. Though silent in its address, it speaks by example. Though it sounds no trumpet to summon its politicians for consultation, yet its plans are made known to its adherents; for reason in her quiet way carries from hamlet to hamlet the designs of dangerous

opposition. With no platform to assert its dogmas, with no herald to announce its advent, or its actions, it engages the attention of men who are not yet bound soul and body to the wild declaimer of "rights and wrongs." And while the two great parties wrangle for public plunder, it is this silent party, this silent ballot, that suddenly throws consternation among all ranks. It is this silent voice that puzzles the politician. He cannot call it to his aid, neither can he treat it as his opponent.

With the welfare of society at large dependent upon political associations and beliefs, it is a perplexing situation for the young man about to accept the responsibility of citizenship. To avoid them all is impossible. He must select the one best suited to the occasion and the public demands.

The two great parties of to-day have little issue at stake. The thoughts of the Rebellion may fire the hearts of a few who were wronged. But the young man of to-day cannot view the Rebellion and and its causes in the same light as its heroes review them.

He can never share their prejudice. He cannot unite in their politics. The two parties fouded upon the issue that led to the Rebellion, they have little claim upon the present generation.

The silent party is consequently increasing in numbers and its influence more telling upon national affairs. And the time is not far distant, when this element must assume sufficient strength and skill to direct the ship of state free from the shoals of sectional strife. If not, these constant strifes will take the line of national boundaries.

EUGENE.