

of the possible danger that may lurk behind it? Yet it has been said "the strongest man, who, in the confidence of sturdy health, courts the sternest activities of life, and rejoices in the hardihood of constant labor, may still have lurking behind his vitals a disease that dooms him to sudden collapse."

This apothegm is no more true of a single individual than of a nation comprising within it millions of individuals. The human race has learned from experience that it must always be prepared for exigencies, and that the adage, "in time of peace prepare yourself for war," is no longer metaphorically considered.

When we cast our eyes to the different parts of Europe, we behold, that in their efforts to strengthen and preserve their respective governments, and keep them from the encroachments of others, large armies and navies are maintained and the strength of each government is signified by its military power. But our condition and position are different, we are not hemmed in by narrow bounds or threatened by ambitious neighbors, and besides, as a nation that is destined to set an example before all the other nations in the world, let us hope that the time has come, at least for our land, when the sword may be laid away to rest and the spider spin his web, unmolested over the cannon's mouth.

But have we no other powers to fear? If we have, what is their nature, and what must we do to prevent their ingress?

To the student of American government, the danger that surrounds our institutions will readily appear.

Before attempting to make an exposition of the case, let me ask, what is government and what are its functions?

Government has been defined as being merely an instrument of society, when men are united in groups, there arises from their union the necessity of action on behalf of the group. That part which attends to the business of the whole is called Government. A good government is one in which as much as possible is left to the laws and as little as possible to the will of the governors. Thus it is plainly evident