

potism arose, and with it what a state of desolation our eyes behold! The monuments of the arts, the fabric of genius and skill and the creation of science, have been prostrated in the dust. The places where Demosthenes and Cicero spoke, where Homer and Virgil sang, and where Plato and Aristotle taught, are now exhibited as mementoes of the perishable nature of human glory. Oh, let us not contemplate such a terrible fate for our beloved America. Still something must be done for the conservation of our republic, and what should it be? Surely no stone fortifications with a large army to defend our cities, or a disciplined navy with destructive iron clads to protect our sea coasts, because our foes are impervious to the heaviest artillery. For the protection and defence of our country we must build fortifications around our institutions with the letter of the law, and say to the invader, not by the point of the bayonet, but by the point of law, so far and no farther.

As it was pointed out that the real government is the people, and as the safety of a nation lies in the character of its citizens, we have a right, which the Constitution of the United States explicitly guarantees to us, to say who the people should be that are to constitute our government, and what qualifications they should possess to be entitled to suffrage. While it is to be admitted that the Immigration laws of this country, however great the restrictions put upon them within the last few years, are loosely constructed, and open a wide avenue for the influx of an undesirable class of immigrants, the prohibition of which would undoubtedly lessen the danger with which this country is surrounded, yet, I shall not discuss this phase of the question, as it involves a number of great constitutional points.

The remedy that suggests itself to my mind is, I believe of far greater importance than the one mentioned. I believe that our Naturalization laws ought to be amended as to require an educational qualification for suffrage. Let the ballot be conditional upon a certain amount of knowledge. A man before being entitled to suffrage should have at least, a knowledge of the essential parts of the Constitution to which