

**A TRUE
REPUBLIC**

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A true republic by Albert Stickney

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"God said, I am tired of kings,
I suffer them no more;
Up to my ear the morning brings
The outrage of the poor.

* * * *

"I will have never a noble;
No lineage counted great;
Fishers and choppers and ploughmen
Shall constitute a State."—EMERSON.

"But a democratic nation may be imagined, organized differently from the American people. Is it, then, impossible to conceive a government really established upon the will of the majority, but in which the majority, repressing its natural instinct of equality, should consent, with a view to the order and stability of the State, to invest a family or an individual with all the attributes of executive power? Might not a democratic society be imagined in which the forces of the nation would be more centralized than they are in the United States; where the people would exercise a less direct and less irresistible influence upon public affairs, and yet every citizen, invested with certain rights, would participate, within his sphere, in the conduct of the government?"—DE TOCQUEVILLE.

NOTE.

THIS book is not the work of a scholar. It concerns matters which lie outside of my profession, and which I have never studied with thoroughness. To its writing I have been able to give only such time from day to day as could be taken from professional practice. It is not what I wish I might make it; no doubt it has many faults of which I have no knowledge or suspicion.

But it is written for a purpose. Its purpose must be the excuse for its existence.

The people of the United States have a new and great problem to solve. That they will solve it I make no doubt.

The immense growth of party which we have had in this country is something new in history. I do not think its evils have been duly weighed; nor do I think its causes have been carefully studied. It has been too readily assumed that political parties are desirable things in the State. We speak of the abuses of party government. Is it certain that party government now has its uses?

Party and party rule, as they now exist with us, are, as I believe, great evils—evils which naturally and certainly result from certain features in our political system.

In private life we find in every profession and employment many men who do their work as well as they know how. We have at times such men in public life; but, as a rule, our public men do their work, not as well as they know how, but only as well as the interests of party will allow them. Many of those men have good intentions, but they are bound

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A TRUE REPUBLIC.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

WE have been living under the Constitution of the United States now nearly one hundred years, and in that time we have done a great work. We have cleared a wilderness, filled it with thriving cities and villages, and covered it with railroads and mills. We have, in the main, a free and law-abiding people. We have become one of the great nations of the earth.

Many men, too, think that we have a nearly perfect form of government, that here at last a true Republic has reached a ripe growth.

Yet we nearly all agree that the daily working of this government is not what we wish. Men in all parts of the country say much of Civil Service Reform. It means one thing—that whatever they may think as to the theory of our government, it does not in practice give satisfactory results.

We ought to have in our public affairs, as we should all agree, our very best men, and the very best work that they know how to give us. Nothing less than that will serve our needs. It is not enough for us to have merely ordinary men and ordinary work. And these best men and