

electing a still larger number of their own officers, and thus increased greatly their direct interest and responsibility in the ordinary affairs of Government; it has thrown open the prison doors to the honest and helpless debtor and bid him go free; it has cast around the Legislature wholesome restrictions to guard against extravagance in the expenditure of public money and the creation of public debt; it has established sound precautions and wise penalties against an unwholesome exercise of the right of suffrage; it has deprived the Legislative branch of the Government [elected for other purposes and without direct instructions from the public voice] of all power to alter or abridge any constitutional provision; it has done these and many other things, to which the public heart as well as the public judgment has cordially responded, and yet much is left for energetic legislation to accomplish. The assembled wisdom of that body, the Reform Convention, one which shed a rich lustre upon the bright character of our State through the giant minds it numbered, could not give to the New Constitution that vitality which it required by subsequent legislation. They left their work - not perfect - but well done. That the new Constitution in itself as it came from their hands, was a triumphant redemption in the main of the pledges of the reformers and deserved the emphatic confirmation it received through the ballot by few if any are now prepared to deny; but the Legislature, which has since its adoption, been engaged in the preparation of the necessary measures to give it force, though they have accomplished much, have not yet done all that is required. In relation to the elective judiciary whose the strong doubts of many sound judgments were lodged, our experience though short is amply sufficient to vindicate the policy. The judges elected have been such such, as a body, as will do no discredit to the system or the people, and will contrast most favorably with those of our sister States. It may be the misfortune of some cases that incompetent or