

of many sound judgments were lodged, our experience, though short, is amply sufficient to vindicate the policy. The judges elected have been 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 in some cases that incompetent or unworthy men shall attain positions upon the bench for which they are unqualified, but is this risk more to be dreaded than a system of life-tenure subject to an appointing power, liable to be influenced by the same partizan considerations? I do not hesitate to express my conviction that, in our progress thus far under the new system, all the circumstances properly weighed, the wisdom of the convention on this point has been abundantly sustained.

All that is necessary to render an elective judiciary, under the present limitations, infinitely superior to the old system, is a proper degree of vigilance and caution on the part of the people. The happiness and interests of the community are too seriously dependant on a sound and faithful administration of the laws to permit a laxity of principle for any length of time, in the election of judges. A high standard should be set up and irrevocably observed in their selection. Not only unquestionable capacity and legal acquirements, but pure moral attributes, should be regarded as essentially requisite in the candidate to insure the favor of the people. It is labor lost to enact good laws if they be not strictly enforced; and the influence of example in the ministers of the law is always potent for good or evil.

Those who vaguely predicted the most serious confusion, and consequent injury to private and public interests, from the changes which were contemplated in the various departments of public business, have been fortunately disappointed in their unfounded anticipations; and I feel confident that all the objections urged against the constitution can be entirely removed, or at least rendered inapplicable, by prompt and decided acts of legislation. The people have sanctioned the work in good faith and accepted it as their organic law; they have a right to demand at the hands of those delegated for the purpose, the enactment of such laws as will give to it perfection as nearly as human wisdom is capable. To that end I recognize my responsibility, and in conjunction with the legislative branch of the government, in whose patriotism and ability I have sincere confidence, I am prepared to lend my hearty co-operation.

In connection with no subject demanding the attention of our people and the fostering care of the State, do I feel a greater interest than that of education. Our beautiful but complicated system of government is based upon the intelligence and virtue of the masses. Enslavement of mind is necessarily the result of ignorance. Vices, which the rigors of the law cannot correct, may be prevented by the elevating and ennobling influence of intellectual and moral cultivation. Under a monarchy ignorance may be tolerated, but the very genius of our institutions scorns it as its