

POLITICAL DISHONESTY

"It is easier to ruin a kingdom than to set up a green-grocers stall." Wm. HAZLETT

[This sermon is by the great American Preacher of another day---Henry Ward Beecher. It is most timely today. ED.]

Political dishonesty breeds dishonesty of every kind.

It is possible for good men to permit single sins to co-exist with general integrity, where the evil is indulged through ignorance. Once, undoubted Christians were slave-traders. They might be, while un-enlightened; but not in our times.

A state of mind which will intend one fraud will, upon occasions, intend a thousand.

He that upon one emergency will lie, will be supplied with emergencies. He that will perjure himself to save a friend will do it, in a desperate juncture, to save himself. The highest Wisdom has informed us that he that is unjust in the least, is unjust also in much.

Circumstances may withdraw a politician from temptation to any but political dishonesty; but, under, temptation, a dishonest politician would be a dishonest cashier---would be dishonest anywhere---in anything.

The fury which destroys an opponent's character would stop at nothing, if barriers were thrown down. That which is true of the leaders in politics is true of subordinates.

Political dishonesty in voters runs into general dishonesty, as the rotten speck taints the whole apple.

A community whose politics is conducted by a perpetual breach of honesty on both sides, will be tainted by immorality throughout.

Men will play the same game in their private affairs that they have learned to play in public matters. The guile, the crafty vigilance, the dishonest advantage, the cunning sharpness, the tricks and traps and sly evasions, the equivocal promises, and un-equivocal neglect of them, which characterize political action, will equally characterize private action...

The mind has no kitchen to do its dirty work in, while the parlor remains clean.

Dishonesty is an atmosphere; if it comes into one apartment, it penetrates into every one.

Whoever will lie in politics will lie in traffic. Whoever will slander in politics, will slander in personal squabbles. A professor of religion who is a dishonest politician is a dishonest Christian...His creed is a perpetual index of his hypocrisy.

