did not attract attention; not because the cities were better governed, but rather because, on the whole, the subject of their government was not considered as especially important.

In the second place, while this problem was growing in importance, and while the part the cities were to occupy in the economic, industrial, and political life of the country was becoming more and more a decisive one, at the same time the great political problem as to whether it was possible to extend the realm of free government over a country as vast as ours, and maintain practically the same law and the same freedom in one part as in another, was looming up in ever increasing proportion. While the question as to whether the Declaration of Independence was to mean anything in the life of the American people was an open one,—so long as we had to fight for such fundamental principles as these, it is not surprising that very little attention was given to local questions. But now the time has come when we must give to these questions the same careful consideration and the same energy which has been devoted to the solution of general political problems.

In the misgovernment of cities lies the root of national corruption. At the present time our cities dominate our national affairs to a marvelous extent. The political leaders of the day have received their training in the management of city politics; and until our municipalities have been placed in the keeping of honest, faithful servants, there can be but little hope of any material elevation in the tone of national politics. The administration of national affairs is never any better than the men who direct them; and for that reason, there can be no general reform in the political methods of the country until the individual cities and communities see to it that their local affairs are conducted with the same purity of motive and the same business-like integrity and economy that characterize the conduct of private business.

But someone says, how shall this be done? We must cast aside from city government all political management. The interference of national parties should never be tolerated in any community. Only too often, voting is a choice between two evils. The weak point is at the primary elections. It is here that your influence is needed. No one who is familiar with ward politicians need ask why. The business men and the professional men in our cities and large towns should drop their theories and their speculations for the time being, and attend the primary elections. If one must stay away from either, it is by all means more appropriate that he should absent himself from the regular election and not vote for the candidate nominated than that he should stay away from the primary election where he may insist upon the selection of good men.

Dr. Holmes says that at one time in the history of the world the people became very anxious to find out whether there was a man in the moon. Philosophers pondered over it; scientists discussed it; and everywhere it became the subject of profound deliberation. Finally, one old man made this happy suggestion: "Let us appoint a day and an hour, and at that time, let everybody in the world shout as loudly as possible; and we will make such a thundering amount of noise that if there is a man in the moon he must certainly hear and respond." "This is the very thing," everybody said; and they prepared to test the efficiency of their lung power. The day approached; the hour approached; the minute approached. Here was a man who said, "I am only one among so many; I will listen." Another man said, "I am only one among so many; I will listen." Another man over there said, "I am only one among so many; I will listen." And so every man thought he was only one among so many and that he would listen. And Dr. Holmes tells us that the most profound silence that ever reigned upon the earth prevailed at that time. It is very much like this with our American cities. Every man is waiting for his brother to take the first step. There is a duty for each one of us to perform. We must decide to do our share and to do it well, whether our fellow citizen does his or not; we must work for the city that might be and that ought to be.

Men must have something to believe in, to be loyal to, to fight for. It is always the ideal that inspires heroism and devotion. All great and worthy work is done under the inspiration of ideals. The sculptor is looking not at the things that are seen, but at the things that are unseen, when he calls the angel from the marble block. The musician is listening to the voices that were never heard on land or sea when he indites the symphony. The architect beholds the temple in the air before he builds it upon the earth.

We have a national ideal. The proudest American has some conception of it. It was the nation that might be, and the nation that ought to be, that kindled the ardors of Revolutionary patriotism; that Sam Adams and Patrick Henry plead for, and that Washington fought for. It was the nation that ought to be