

effort that has been made to strike it down! I say Christians, because the churches have jurisdiction only over their own members—those without will be judged by the civil and military tribunals of the country.

Political governments are organizations ordained of God for the punishment of evil-doers and for the praise of them that do well, and are to be faithfully and religiously obeyed as such. And no one can have any reasonable apology for raising his arm to strike them down, unless they fail of these great ends. Then, and then only, may they be abated as public nuisances. But in a representative democracy, like that of the United States, with a written constitution, which makes provision for any change or amendment, which experience or advancing civilization may require, the better to adapt it to the great ends of free government; and where the rulers are elected for short terms by the people, and then returned to their constituents, to give an account of their stewardship, I can not conceive of any defect in the constitution that could not be better remedied in a constitutional way; nor of any wrong or oppression by the temporary rulers, that could not be better redressed by an appeal to the people through the ballot-box than by an appeal to arms. An insurrection in such a case is attempted suicide—is an insurrection of the people against themselves—a rebellion of the minority against the majority, in utter disregard of the great