

When a mass of matter was expanded by heat, it would become so large that force of attraction was overbalanced by the centrifugal force or velocity, and huge fragments would then fly off and become planets. All these changes took place slowly and not at once. So I reasoned and theorized in my lectures. My law practice was quite extensive for about six years after being admitted to the Suffolk bar. Then I had a long spell of sickness and was advised by physicians to change my business. So I went to making directories. But I have always done some law, and court business every year, and have had good success.

How the world has treated me may be partially gathered from what has already been said; but I may be allowed to give my opinion of the world, as well as their estimation of myself. It has been often said to me by intimate friends, that nobody understands my true character, or judges me by the proper standard. I am not an assuming, positive, self-sufficient person, but try to be and appear democratic, common and modest,—one of the masses, with no special inspiration or destiny. In fact I wish to *be* rather than to *seem*. Thousands of people say, "how do you do Mr. Dudley," when they meet me, although I have not the least idea who they are. They are not afraid to salute me.

I am ever trying to impart what I know to others, and am not reserved, but communicative. I usually aim, in conversation, to give people credit for their knowledge, with some little sprinkling of my sentiments and arguments, which they never before understood. But the old stereotyped creeds are sometimes awfully surprised at my bold syllogisms.

I never go to caucuses or preliminary meetings. However, if an office of honor and usefulness had been offered to me, which did not require very great labor, I might have accepted it. It is every one's duty to do good in his lifetime, in some way, either in official or self-imposed work. My plan has been to speak and write freely on all great topics, religious, political, scientific and literary. "I will not flatter, fawn, nor crouch, nor wink at what high-mounted power or wealth demands; I have a nobler aim to which my soul aspires." This was my earliest motto. Nobody can buy me or bribe me, and they thoroughly know that before talking with me five minutes. So I have not been set up for some boss' instrument to work politically for his selfish interest against the rights of others.

Every class seeks legislation, as well as other advantages, for itself. The secret combinations and even the sects, societies and parties, all more or less, struggle for selfish ends, and ignore the rights of outsiders. I have always been an outsider. My father was a free and accepted mason, and master of a lodge, but I do not belong to any secret society whatever. What use has that sort of people for me?

If I were a mason, the masons would rely on me. I might be